



# Bennekerry N.S. Newsletter



April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

Our most recent newsletter was published just less than a month ago, but as there have been plenty of newsworthy happenings since then, we have decided to publish another one in time for Easter.

**Comhbhrón:** It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Mr. John Browne, a long- time friend and supporter of Bennekerry N.S. John served as Principal in our school from 1962-1989, at which time he left to take up his duties as a T.D. representing the Carlow/Kilkenny constituency. He was a great servant to the school and the community and worked tirelessly to improve conditions for those living in the locality. His influence on the lives of those who attended Bennekerry N.S. during his tenure was immense and he will be remembered for his enthusiasm, energy and good humour. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Nancy, his daughters Grealdine, Carmel and Deirdre, his son Fergal and his extended family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

**Polasaithe na Scoile:** Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment have been updated with a few minor adjustments. Staff, parent representatives and pupils were asked for their contributions and the Board of Management completed the required annual review checklist at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The Notification regarding this review has been given to the PA, the patron and all school personnel and it has also been posted on the website. The updated version of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment have also been posted and a hard copy is on display in the front hallway of the school. If anything comes to your attention at any point which you feel should be added to the Risk Assessment, please contact the school. A "Protected Disclosures in the Workplace Policy" was also ratified by the BOM at a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April. This too has been posted to the website.

**Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht:** Staff and pupils are generally vigilant about spotting and reporting anything that might be considered a safety hazard. Parents who notice any such dangers should bring their concerns to the school management so that steps can be taken to minimise the risk of accidents occurring.

**Rince Gaelach:** Several of our pupils took part in an Irish Dancing Feis organised by the Dargan School of Dance and they brought home a host of trophies and medals. Among the prize-winners were **Emma Doyle, Róisín Brennan, Jack Mc Donald, Ava Maher, Grace Kelly, Brooke Rea, Ella Fanning, Lara Fanning, Christine Cassidy, Daisy Cooney, Faye Dalton, Maiyah O Dwyer, Alannah O'Dwyer, Sarah O'Dwyer, Sara Donegan, Elsa Breen, Louise Carpenter, Ruth Campion, Grace Kieran, Emily Barrett, Nóinín Breen, Gwen Walsh, Anya Li, Eva Whelan, Jill Gordon, Grace Kehoe and Kate Wall**

**Ceol:** Our brass musicians have been chosen to take part in a very exciting joint project with Music Generation Carlow, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the Irish National Opera entitled "Popera". Three other schools are also involved. Each school will be working initially with Andrew Synnott, INO, to develop and work on the chorus of the composed opera and then each will also work on an individual contribution. This will be done in partnership with our MGC tutor, Gavin Barr. Gavin will then work on improving the composition over the following few weeks. The project will culminate in a performance in the GB Shaw Theatre. The date for this is yet to be confirmed but we expect to know shortly and will pass this information on as soon as we have it. A special word of thanks to Gavin whose enthusiasm and love of music is infectious, and also to Mrs. Byrne, Ms. Kenny and Mrs. Bowe who help out with the music lessons each week.

**Cúrsaí Spórt:** **Lorcan Kelly, Marie Cranny, Shane McCarthy** and **Áine Fallon** were chosen to represent Bennekerry N.S. at the county selection competition recently. All played well and enjoyed the experience, but we were delighted when we received word that, based on her performance at the trials, Marie Cranny has been selected to play in the INTO Mini 7s in Croke Park this summer! This is a huge honour for our school, her family, her club and her county. Well done Marie!

**Taekwon Do:** **Nicole Murphy** 1<sup>st</sup> Class, won two bronze medals in U-10s Yellow belt section of the ITF Ireland Cup competition for Taekwon Do which was held in Cork at the end of March. Congratulations Nicole.

**Karate:** Mason Finn, Senior Infants, won two gold medals and a bronze medal at a competition in Antrim in March and his brother MJ also won a gold medal. In a separate competition in Cork, Hannah Hennessy also won gold.

**Leadóg:** Kate Walsh, Kerry Duffin, Ben Cioladis, Eoghan Brennan, Ewan Breen, Sam McHugh and Laura Broderick have been participating in the Leinster Primary School Tennis League. Their first games were on home turf in Carlow Lawn Tennis Club against Carlow National School. They then travelled to Castleknock where they won all their matches, defeating teams from Termonfeckin, Donacarney and Drogheda. On Friday last, they were back in action in Carlow where they played against St. Mary's National School, Donnybrook. As a result of their very strong performances, the team has topped the table. They are now through to the League Final in Greystones on 30th May. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh.

**Spar FAI 5-a-side Soccer:** Five teams from the school, three boys' teams and two girls' teams, braved the elements to take part in the Spar FAI 5-a-side soccer tournament in Tullow on 4<sup>th</sup> April. The teams had mixed fortunes on the day but gained valuable experience. We were delighted when one of the girls' teams qualified for the county finals which will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Representing the school were **Joe Bermingham, Elliot Hutchinson, Lorcan Kelly, Alex Gordan, George Cassidy, Seán Breen, Charlie Deacy, Shane McCarthy, Marc Mulhall, Oran O'Boyle, Fionn O'Toole, Aidan Ryan, Seán O'Neill, Darragh Murray, Éabha Mc Connon, Chloe Ryan, Katie Bowe, Sophia Nolan, Kate Walsh, Amy Nolan, Dylan Mc Grath, Riaghan Murphy, Ben Cioladis, Daniel Dolan, David Lynch and Owen O'Neill.** Those who qualified for the finals are **Kate Culleton, Áine Fallon, Marie Cranny, Róisín Kennedy, Hannah Hennessy, Samantha Hennessy, Anna Crosby and Clodagh Mahon.** Go n-éirí libh a chailíní.

**Peil:** It's great to have Martin Hosey back with us again for our School/Club link sessions. Martin will take both the Senior Infants and First Classes over the next six weeks.

**Iománaíocht agus Camogíocht:** Following on from our fantastic win in the Cumann na mBunscol hurling competition last year in our inaugural year of participation, we decided to enter a camogie team as well this year. Both teams are full of enthusiasm and they had their first games yesterday against Gaelscoil Ceatharlach. Both teams worked hard throughout the matches and had comprehensive wins over their opponents. There will be other games over the coming weeks. A special word of thanks goes to Ms. Tomlinson who co-ordinates the sports programme in the school, and Ms. Murphy who helps her with the training.

#### **Cluichí Poiblí:**

As was the case in our last newsletter, there have been so many successes over the past few weeks in Community Games, we can only list the county winners or beyond. Once again, I hope I am not missing anybody.

**U-12 Solo Recitation:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Róisín Brennan** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Joshua Crosby**

**U-14 Solo Recitation:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Anna Crosby** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Allanah O'Dwyer**

**U-12 Solo Music:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Sammy Ho**

**U-14 Solo Music:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Sarah Keenan**

**U-12 Solo Singing:** 4<sup>th</sup> Place **Alex O'Rourke**

**U-14 Girls Art:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Kate Webb** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Kate Walsh** 4<sup>th</sup> Place **Eva Long**

**U-14 Boys Art:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Eoghan Brennan**

**U-12 Cross Country:** 4<sup>th</sup> Place **Síofra Harvey** 5<sup>th</sup> Place **Sarah Whelan**

**U-14 Cross Country:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Anna Crosby**

**U-13 Gymnastics:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Tara O'Neill** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Eva Long**

**U-11 Gymnastics:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Emma O'Neill** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Chloe Holohan**

**Askea U-12 Soccer :** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Askea with **Ewan Breen, Tommy Cooney, Darren Byrne, Callum Dolan, Dylan Farrell, Peter Lynch, Callum Martin, Kyle Martin and Jamie Cooney** from Bennekerry N.S.

**U-10 Draughts:** (beat Wexford to move to Leinster finals) **Eddie Keenan, Páidí Breen, Joshua Crosby, Danny Donegan and Michael Breen.**

**U-12 Draughts:** (also beat Wexford to progress to Leinster finals) **Mark Buggy, Cormac McConnon and John O'Neill.**

**Tionscnamh Stair:** **Sean Breen**, 6<sup>th</sup> Class, completed a very interesting project on Bushertown House and was awarded a prize by Carlow Historical Society for his efforts. Maith thú a Sheáin.

**Comórtas Ceol:** Congratulations to **Sammy Ho** who won a third-place medal in the U-12 piano section at Carlow School of Music annual awards.

**Táipéis:** Our school Draughts Team of **Seán Breen, Marie Cranny, Conor Buggy and Mark Buggy** finished in a very creditable 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Irish Primary School Draughts League on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>. **Chloe Ryan and Páidí Breen** also played at the competition and performed well, Chloe in particular as she won all her games.

**SPHE:** All classes are coming to the end of the designated time-period for completing the Stay Safe Programme or the more sensitive section of the RSE programme, whichever applies to the particular class as explained in our letter in January. On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April the pupils in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes were visited by Ger Brick who gave enlightening talks on Internet Safety and Cyber-Bullying. Pupils were informed about the importance of respectful communication, privacy settings and passwords and the dangers of passing on personal information among other things. On the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> April Ger gave a talk for parents which included information on Parental Controls, what to watch for in the case of Cyber-Bullying and the importance of controlling gaming time and content. Feedback from those who were present was very positive. Crime Prevention Office, Garda Peter McConnon was also present and he highlighted the dangers associated with misuse of Information Technology and acknowledged that it is vital that parents are aware of how their children are engaging with on-line apps and games.

The material Ger presented to parents is available for viewing at [www.inetsafetytalk.com/parentinfo](http://www.inetsafetytalk.com/parentinfo). Staff and parents should use username **parentinfo** and password of **inetsafety55** to access the page and presentation. To protect the content of this material, the files are password protected with a password of inetsafety55. Ger has requested that the information be used by parents for their own personal use and the information contained is not to be distributed or published to social media. If you were unable to attend on 4<sup>th</sup> April, I strongly urge you to engage with the materials Ger has provided. If you were present, I am absolutely confident that you will do so!!

**Treodóireacht:** Our school grounds were recently mapped by Orienteering Ireland. This project was funded by the Board of Management. Included with the mapping is software which enables us to set up different orienteering courses in the grounds. The pupils must follow the maps to find a series of markers and controls. Ms. Lyttleton has completed training in this area and is generously sharing her skills with the rest of the staff. Her class have already used the maps and enjoyed the experience greatly. We look forward to using the materials with all our classes in the future as we further the children's education in a fun and active manner.

**Bratach Scoile Gníomhaí:** As part of the Active Schools initiative, the Active School Committee gathered data on all the different sporting activities that our pupils are involved in in the local area. Ms. Tomlinson then graphed the results and they are on display in the front hall. Our hope is that it may encourage less active pupils to take note of the variety of activities which are available and they may perhaps take up an active past-time. 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class were privileged to have a visit from Eric O'Donovan, newly crowned Irish Champion Professional boxer this week. Along with showing off his prized belts, Eric spoke to the pupils about the importance of being active, eating healthily, taking pride in yourself, making good choices, celebrating success without putting others down and maintaining general well-being. He is an extraordinary young man and it was wonderful to hear his message of positivity.

**Reiligiún:** Pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> class will receive the Sacrament of Penance on April 11<sup>th</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be on a retreat in Mount St. Anne's that day as part of their preparation for Confirmation. They will have confessions during the Ceremony of Light which takes place on 30<sup>th</sup> April in St. Mary's Church Bennekerry at 8pm.

**Scrúduithe Éisteachta agus Físe:** Hearing and Vision tests for the Junior Infant classes will take place in the school hall on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Scoileanna Glasa:** This academic year and next we will be working on our theme of Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste. Earlier in the year children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class were given the opportunity to apply to become a member of our Green Schools Committee. We had a terrific response and the following children were selected as members; **Rebecca O Reilly** and **Neil Connolly-Devoy** (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), **Milly Rice** and **Jim Foley** (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), **Lily O' Connor** and **Michaela Deenadayalan** (4<sup>th</sup> Class), **Dylan Farrell** and **Chloe Ryan** (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and **Elliot Hutchinson** and **Katie Bowe** (6<sup>th</sup> Class). All senior classes are partaking in a weekly litter duty rota in the school grounds and each class currently composts fruit peelings and pencil shavings daily. We also have recycling bins for paper and card in every classroom. We encourage all children to bring a reusable water bottle to school and to work with us in reducing single use plastics in our school. We ask you as parents to ensure that your child has a reusable bottle for school each day. We would appreciate your support, as it is one of our targets to significantly reduce the amount of single use plastics in school and single use water bottles are unfortunately still quite prevalent. Fifth and sixth class members of the Green Schools Committee recently worked together to write a letter to the Parents Association. They requested that reusable plastic cups and mugs would be purchased for use at school celebrations such as Communion and Confirmation. This would eliminate the need to buy single use coffee cups and plastic cups. The Parents Association kindly agreed to our request and we see this as a step in the right direction for our school. We are delighted to have our Parents Association on board and thank them for their support. Please remember that you can send your used batteries into school and when we collect enough we will arrange to have them recycled by WEE.

We have also invited Mura Tierney from Goal to deliver a drama-based workshop to our 4<sup>th</sup> classes which will highlight the plight of the people in Ethiopia and South Sudan. This will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Turasanna Scoile:** Our school tours are all booked and will take place between Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Further details will be given by class teachers closer to the time.

**Éide Scoile:** While most pupils are adhering well to our school uniform, there are some issues with tracksuit bottoms. Remember that pupils should be wearing **plain navy tracksuit bottoms**, no large logos or stripes and leggings are not permitted. The Easter holidays may be a good opportunity to purchase new tracksuits if needs be.

**Hospice Fundraiser:** Co. Carlow Hospice is launching its annual Sunflower Competition for Primary Schools. Each child may purchase a packet of sunflower seeds from their teacher for 50 cent. They are to be planted and cared for over the summer months and there will be prizes for the tallest sunflowers in September. If your child wishes to take part, he/she should bring the money to his/her teacher on or before Fri. 3rd May. The seeds will then be ordered and distributed. All funds raised will go to Co. Carlow Hospice.

**Ranganna Ealaíne:** A new set of 7 art classes will begin after Easter and will end on June 19th. These classes take place from 2-3pm for the Infant classes and 3-4pm for 1<sup>st</sup> Class upwards every Wednesday afternoon in Seomra 3. If your child is interested in taking part, please contact Jean directly at 086 8686783.

**Growth Mindsets:** By now our pupils should be well aware of the possibility of “growing your brain” and are familiar with growth mindset ideals. Should you wish to refresh yourselves on the prompts that the pupils were given each week, they are featured on our website. To summarise the content of our lessons we have booked a performance for the pupils entitled “NED’s Mindset Mission!” Through this performance the students will learn

- The **Power of Yet** – If you’re not good at something, it just means you’re not good at it yet
- How to **spark courage** in others
- How to keep **learning and growing**, even when they think they already know something

NED’s Mindset Mission is an interactive, 45-minute all-school performance which uses storytelling, puppetry, illusions and yoyo tricks to take the students on an entertaining journey with the character NED. He follows clues, meets memorable characters and learns valuable lessons.

Generally, there would be a considerable charge for this performance, but the group have agreed to put it on for free. Instead, on the day of the show, the performer will bring a selection of NED messaged items – primarily yo-yo’s like the ones used during the performance. These will be available for families to purchase for 5-10 school days following the performance which will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> June. There is no pressure on any family to buy as there is no minimum sale requirement; what we collect is what is accepted as payment for the show.

**Bags2School:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to our collection of unwanted clothing and especially to the parents who made themselves available to take in the bags at the appointed times. It has been suggested that many people may have more time for a clear-out over the Easter holidays and therefore it has been decided to have additional collection dates as follows.

**Thursday and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 3:15-4pm**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 11am-12 noon**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 12 noon -12:45pm**

**Crannchur na Cásca:** A steady stream of completed raffle cards have been arriving at the school daily and we really appreciate the effort that everyone has made to fill them. Many parents also volunteered to sell lines outside Rath’s and SuperValu over two weekends and several extra cards were sold in this way. Any cards, sold or unsold, that have not yet been returned should be brought in to the school tomorrow as the draw will take place in the school hall on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April before the pupils finish for the day at 12 noon. The Infants may be collected from 11:40am to help alleviate traffic congestion. If you wish to collect siblings of infants at this time, please put a note in your child’s journal and the class teacher will allow them to join their younger siblings at their classroom. The results of the Easter Draw will be published on our website. In the meanwhile, we wish you all a very Happy Easter.



Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh.