

Bennekerry N.S. Newsletter

November 6th 2019

Lá Spraio Teaghlaigh: After a very shaky start weather-wise, the sun graced us with its presence and added hugely to the wonderful atmosphere at the Family Fun Day which was organised by the Parents' Association on Sunday 21st September. There were many exciting activities on offer from high energy football games, races and penalty kicks to more creative activities such as face painting and decorating gingerbread men. Broad smiles and happy eyes were very much in evidence and we wish to thank sincerely the organising committee, led by Bríd Kavanagh, and all the volunteers who helped to make the day such a success. It was especially pleasant to see so many past pupils present and even more heartening to see many of them helping out at the various stands and activities. While community spirit was the real winner on the day, an added bonus was the €2800 which was raised after all expenses were cleared. This money will be put to good use to provide extra resources for the pupils in the school. The PA met on Monday 4th November and have many other ideas for fun activities and fundraising. We will keep you updated as each event comes closer.

Bailiúchán Éadaí: If you cleared out your closets over the Halloween break, please consider donating your unwanted clothing, textiles or mobile phones to the school. Collection dates are.....

Thursday 7th November: 3.15pm – 4.00pm

Friday 8th November: 9.30am – 10.00am and 3.15pm – 4.00pm

Saturday 9th November: 11.00 – 12.00 noon

Sunday 10th November: 12.00 noon – 12.45pm

This collection will help provide funds for the school and also the National Council for the Blind. These collections are very much in keeping with our Green School ideals, as we hope each item of clothing will find a new home where it will be reused or recycled, thus cutting down on the need for the manufacture of new materials.

An Bord Bainistíochta: Following the counting of votes which took place on 24th October, Colleen Scully and Paud O'Dwyer have been selected as the parent nominees to the Board of Management for the next four years. Officers from the Parents' Association were on hand to help with the opening of the envelopes and to act as witnesses. The very large number of votes cast is a testament to the calibre of candidates who were good enough to put themselves forward. We wish to thank all four candidates for their interest and look forward to working with the new board to ensure that Bennekerry N.S. continues to blossom as an institute for education and a safe space where our pupils can grow and learn.

Leanbh Mic agus Leanbh Iníne: Congratulations to Ms. Kátriona O'Connor and her husband Paul on the birth of their new baby Páidí, a little brother for Seán and Lily, and also Sara and Pádraig Byrne who welcomed baby Alice into their family just before the Halloween break. We welcome Ms. Róisín Laningan and Ms. Amy Collins to our school as Ms. O'Connor and Mrs. Byrne will be taking some time off to look after the new-borns. Congratulations also to both new teachers on their recent graduations.

Siúlóid na Samhana: The weather wasn't quite so kind on Friday 25th October, and we were forced to hold our annual "witch walk" indoors. The senior pupils lined the corridors upstairs and the junior pupils walked through so that everybody had a chance to see all the colourful and creative costumes. Those who did not wish to dress in Halloween costumes had the option of wearing a jersey of their own choosing. Many pupils made generous donations and the €413.02 which was collected will go to Goal. The 4th-6th classes were particularly anxious to support this organisation, as Mura Tierney from Goal visited the school on Oct. 16th/17th to facilitate workshops on the plight of the people of Ethiopia and Sudan. She highlighted the work Goal is doing to try to improve the situation.

Other Halloween activities throughout the school included traditional Halloween games and pumpkin carving and painting.

Spraichest an Fhómhair: Three teams made up of 6th class pupils took part in the Féile an Fhómhair bilingual table quiz. All acquitted themselves very well and we were delighted when one of our teams finished in first place and brought home a lovely trophy, as well as individual prizes for themselves. The members of the winning team were **Brooke Rea, Hannah Hennessy, Rhys McCanny** and **Eoghan Brennan** while **Kevin McGinn, Laura Broderick, Ewan Breen** and **Elle Doyle** finished in 4th place and **Laila Hutchinson, Tommy Cooney, Tara O'Neill** and **David McDonnell** finished in a very creditable 6th place. Comhghairdeas díbh go léir.

Comórtas Ealaíne: **Tara Webb** (4th class) was once again amongst the winners in her category in the Féile an Fhómhair art competition. Tara was also a 3rd place winner in the Tullow Show schools Art competition, while **Millie Nolan** (4th class) took home the 1st place prize in this competition. Past pupils **Seán Breen** and **Rehan Deenadaylan** won 1st and 3rd place prizes for handwriting while **Katie Doyle**, who was also in 6th class last year, was awarded 1st place in the poetry category.

Lus na Gréine Ard: Sisters **Ali** and **Mia Donoghue** (5th and 2nd class), under the expert guidance of their Grandad, tended and cared for their sunflowers so well over the summer months that one reached a staggering 205cm tall. This was enough to finish in third place in the Co. Carlow competition and they received a plaque and voucher for Eason from the Friends of Co. Carlow Hospice as a prize. **Gwen Walsh** (2nd class) also grew a very tall sunflower but unfortunately it was just not quite tall enough to win a prize.

Cúrsaí Spóirt:

Comórtas Cumann Na mBunscol: We started our Cumann na mBunscol campaign in early September. The girls had the busier schedule, playing Gael Scoil, Ballon N.S, Queen of the Universe, Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál and Tullow Girls. They finished second in the league as they were beaten by a very strong Ballon team. It would be the latter they would face in the final under light in Netwatch Training Centre, Fenagh. In wet and slippery conditions, they knew they had it all to do with Ballon tipped as favourites to lift the cup. The girls got off to a strong start and got stuck in from the throw in. Playing against the wind, **Laila Hutchinson, Chloe Holohan** and captain **Chloe Ryan**, were tough in defence and came out with much needed possession. **Anna Mulhall** and **Keira Doyle** caught and carried balls into our spritely forwards led by **Emily Kelly, Sarah Keenan** and **Paige Challoner**. The second half saw us score some superb goals and points to see off a tough Ballon side. Experience on the night told and the girls were deserving winners of the 3-in-a-row!

As well as the girls mentioned above, the panel included **Kate Fennelly, Ava Lynch, Tara Webb, Tara O'Neill, Kerry Duffin, Síofra McMahon, Laura Broderick, Joanne Cranny, Emma Doyle, Fallon Cotter, Brooke Rea, Ella Fanning, Síofra Harvey, Alex O'Rourke, Elle Doyle, Róisín Brennan, Sofia Granjo, Millie Nolan, Ali Donoghue** and **Sarah Whelan**.

The boys league saw them take on the Gael Scoil and Ballon N.S. They topped their group and drew Tullow boys in the semi-final. A win in this game brought them to the final for the second year in a row. After the girls' performances, the boys had a lot to live up to. Playing St. Brigids from Bagenalstown, they were evenly matched and a close game ensued. Against the wind, **Mark Buggy** and **Seamus Bible** got on the score sheet, with **Ewan Breen** and **Dylan Farrell** cutting out countless attacks. Although ahead on the scoreboard at half time, they had to put in a big 20 minutes. Bagenalstown's momentum got going and with only five minutes to play, were ahead by 2 points. The boys never gave up and when **Eoin Ryan** won a free, he hit it low and hard. The resulting ball bobbed around the goal mouth until **Peter Lynch** and his wonder foot, kicked it into the bottom corner! Winning the resulting kick out, Bennekerry held on for a heart stopping win! Other valuable members of the panel were **Ryan Gordon, Kyle Broderick, Sam McHugh, Callum O'Brien Murphy, Tommy Cooney, Luke Campion, Jack Keating, Rhys McCanny, Eoghan Brennan, James Carpenter, David McDonald, Ryan Quill, Adam Shannon, Cathal Flynn, Dara Hayden, Darren Byrne, John Hendricken, Bobby Harmon, Zac Nolan John O'Neill** and **Ray Alberan**.

Much credit is due to teachers Ms. Deirdre Tomlinson, Ms. Marie Claire Murphy and our past colleague, Mr. Eddie Corcoran who guided and mentored both teams.

Peil: Our boys also took part in a blitz in Graiguecullen on October 9th. These games were very enjoyable and proved to be just the preparation needed to bring our lads up to the level of sharpness required to get us over the line against the very fit and skilled team from St. Brigid's, Muine Bheag. Thanks go to Mr. Bolton and Mr. Nolan in Graiguecullen for organizing the event.

With the future of sport in the school clearly in focus, our 1st and 2nd classes are honing their skills at present under the watchful eye of Martin Hosey as part of the school/club link. Martin has been very much involved with introducing our younger pupils to the joys of playing team sports over the past few years and we feel sure that Bennekerry school's growing reputation as a force to be reckoned with on the sporting field is boosted further by his good work and the support of the club.

C.L.G. Cnoc Árda: Palatine GAA club, while disappointed to have lost the Senior county final, have been enjoying considerable success at underage level. Some of their most recent achievements include winning the U-13 Division 3 County Final, reaching the U-13 Division 1 County Final, overall winners of the U-11 Garda Tournament, winners of the U-11 Division 3 final and the U-9 team have had several reasons to celebrate as they were outright winners of the Tinryland Tournament and the Garda Tournament in Tullow. We are delighted to note that Palatine has been awarded Healthy Club status as we have been working hard to promote a healthy lifestyle here in the school through our SSE initiatives. Having "Healthy Living" as a prominent goal in the broader community adds greatly to the positive light in which such ideals are portrayed and provides good example for our young people while also strengthening community bonds. Well done to all players, trainers, mentors and leaders within the club.

Lúthchleasaíocht: Our pupils once again performed really well at the annual Primary Schools Cross Country competition. We had some superb individual successes and a great haul of team medals. Special mention to **Cormac McConnon** who stormed home in 1st place in the 5th class boys' race. Other great individual performances were from **Emma O'Neill** who finished in 6th place, **Nathan Walsh** 10th place and **Gavin McDermott** 12th place in the 4th class races, **Sinéad Bowe** 3rd, **Tara Webb** 10th and **Mark Buggy** 6th in the 5th class races and **Laila Hutchinson** 6th in the 6th class girls' race. The team of **Emma O'Neill, Aisling Connolly, Sofia Cioladis** and **Grace Kelly** finished in 3rd place in the 4th class category for girls while the 4th class boys team made up of **Nathan Walsh, Gavin McDermott, Charlie McHugh** and **Niall Egan** finished in 2nd place. We did exceptionally well in the 5th class races, with teams finishing in top spot in both the boys' and girls' races. These teams were made up of **Cormac Mc Connon, Mark Buggy, John O'Neill, John Hendricken, Sinéad Bowe, Tara Webb, Chloe Holohan** and **Síofra Harvey**. The team of **Laila Hutchinson, Tara O'Neill, Emma Doyle** and **Chloe Ryan** finished in 3rd place in the 6th class girls' category.

At the recent County Carlow Cross Country competition, **Alex Broderick** (3rd class) finished in 2nd place in the U11 race and helped his team, which included **Paidí Breen** (4th class) to win gold. His younger sister, **Ava Broderick** (2nd class) finished in 2nd place in the U9 category and **Daisy Cooney** (2nd class) put in a terrific performance to finish in 6th place. This was enough to ensure that their team finished in 1st place in the U-9 race and were awarded gold medals.

Karate: Well done to **Seán Mc Nally** (3rd class) who won a gold, silver and bronze medal for Karate in an international competition in the Dolmen Hotel on 6th October. **Mason Finn** (1st class) won a silver medal in the Christopher Nugent Memorial Cup competition on Saturday 2nd November.

Sraithchomórtas an Fhómhair: This years Autumn League saw 115 students participate in our lunchtime league. There were many outstanding team displays and top of the table clashes that saw plenty of games go down to the wire! The girls' final was contested by The Roscommon Rattlesnakes, captained by **Chloe Ryan** and The Tyrone Toucans captained by **Anna Mulhall**. It was a tightly contested game, but two fine goals saw Roscommon win on a score line of 2.01 to 0.02. The boys' final was contested by the Sligo Scorpions, captained by **Dylan Farrell** and the Offaly Orca's captained by **Conor Buggy**. This was a tremendously tight match with the full-time score totalling 2.02 apiece. A kick-off was announced and after several rounds, **Kevin McGinn** kicked the winning point in sudden death to see Sligo Scorpions crowned champions! Thanks go to Ms. Deirdre Tomlinson and Ms. Marie-Claire Murphy for their help in organising and refereeing the games.

Na Múinteoirí in Aghaidh na Daltaí: On October 25th the annual Teachers vs. Pupils football match took place. Despite slightly depleted numbers, the teachers rose to the occasion and managed to maintain their undefeated record. A more complete report on the match is available on our “Twitter” account.

Spikeball: Past pupils Sasha Sheehan and Katie Ffrench, along with their friend Abbie Woods, have been busy coaching our 6th classes in the skills of Spikeball over the past few weeks. The pupils are enjoying the sessions and are very much looking forward to the tournament in St. Leo’s College on November 14th.

Foirm Rollaithe: Enrolment forms are arriving on a daily basis. **If there are younger siblings of present pupils who intend to start school in September 2020, it is imperative that we are made aware of this and that the relevant form is returned to the school before this Friday, November 8th. If you know of others in who wish to enrol and may not be aware of the closing date, please advise them to get in touch immediately.**

Cártaí Nollag: The pupils were busy designing Christmas cards before the Halloween break and the fruits of their efforts were sent home to you yesterday in the printed format. If you wish to purchase these cards, your order must be placed on the official order form. The form should be returned, with the money included, to your child’s class teacher before or on Friday 8th November. You do not need to return the sample card. Whether or not to buy is entirely a personal choice and there is no compulsion on anyone to do so. We remind pupils also that exchanging of Christmas cards is not permitted. Good wishes can be passed on in person and if pupils wish to, they are encouraged to make a single card for their classmates which can be displayed in the classroom. In this way, we cut down on usage of paper and card and we also ensure that no child feels left out.

Scoileanna Glasa: We recently celebrated **Climate Action Week**. We challenged the children to educate themselves on the work of Greta Thunberg and reminded them of the importance of the basics such as turning off the lights and disposing of rubbish carefully. We are delighted to see that the vast majority of our pupils have re-usable drinking bottles. Keep up the good work. Thanks especially to **Dylan Farrell** from sixth class who read out the Monday Green Schools Message over the intercom every week during the month of October. Thanks to those who donated unwanted lego to the school. This lego will be boxed and will be available for creative construction in classrooms at designated times. The 3rd classes proved just how useful bits and pieces that could easily have ended up in the rubbish bin can be, as they reused and recycled odds and ends to create a wonderful Halloween display which was much admired outside Seomraí 9 agus 10. If you wish to see it for yourself, log on to the school “twitter” account and you should be able to find it there. As I have said before, “twitter” is a wonderful way of keeping up to date with happenings within the school. As part of our efforts to reduce waste, this is the last newsletter which will be printed as a hard copy for all families. From now on, newsletters will be published on our website and pupils will be informed of this fact. If you have difficulty accessing the newsletters online, please ask at the office and we will print a copy for you.

Ceol: Our Brass Development Programme is proving very popular and runs each Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4pm. There are fifteen 5th class and fourteen 6th class pupils taking part. Opportunities for pupils to participate in choir lessons were given during the month of October. If your child wishes to continue with choir for the rest of the year, he/she will need to commit and should make serious efforts to be present for every session, to take instruction from Mrs. Brolly and do his/her best to work as part of the team. Choir fees of €25 will be collected over the next few weeks from choir members

Turasanna Scoile: Our 6th classes enjoyed a wonderful performance of “Blood Brothers” in Presentation College Carlow. We were delighted to see so many of our past pupils involved in the production and are pleased that the interest in the arts which was cultivated here in Bennekerry continues to flourish in their lives. The 1st classes will visit the GB Shaw Theatre on 28th November for a performance entitled “Susie and the Story Shredder”.

Snámh: 2nd class (Seomra 8) and 4th class (Seomra 12) will start their 8-week block of swimming lessons on Wednesday 13th November.

Táiplís: Well done to the ten children who participated in draughts lessons for 2nd class which was run by Mairéad Breen over the last six weeks. It culminated in a very exciting tournament with lots of medals awarded. Hopefully their interest in draughts will continue to grow and grow! Pupils involved were **John Keenan, Billy Holloway, Rían Carroll, Patrick Cranny, Nuadha Stynes, Conor Whelan, Ella Dowling, Meave Browne, Mia Keating** and **Beth Morrissey**.

Taillí: We greatly appreciate the payments we have received so far for various school activities and requisites. Prompt payments help ensure the smooth running of our school. However, we are mindful that some families may be experiencing financial difficulties and it is our wish that no child should be excluded from any activity because of a lack of funding. If you are worried about payments for any school related activity or after school activity within the school, please contact the principal in confidence.

Ullmhúchán do na Sacraimintí : Fr. Little and Fr. Dillon met with parents of the pupils who hope to make their First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year and outlined the programme of preparation and important dates to remember. The Enrolment Ceremony for First Holy Communion will take place on Wednesday 6th November at 8pm and the Enrolment Ceremony for Confirmation will be on Thursday 14th November at 8pm.

SELFIE: Thanks to those who completed the SELFIE survey online. The results of this survey will help inform us as we formulate our Digital Learning Plan. We have recently purchased two new Digital Smart Boards as some of our original Interactive Whiteboards had come to the end of their functioning lives and our BOM are a constant support in providing the school with the most up to date equipment and facilities so as to improve learning opportunities for our pupils. We hope to make further ICT purchases in the near future.

Bronntanais Nollag: We are once again overwhelmed by the generosity of the families in Bennekerry N.S. as they reach out to people who are less well off than themselves. A steady stream of beautifully wrapped shoeboxes are arriving daily filled with wonderful gifts for children in other parts of the world. This is such a lovely gesture as one of these boxes may be the only gift a child will receive this Christmas. To bring such joy into the life of another is indeed a special thing. The closing date for receipt of the shoeboxes is Friday 8th November.

Cruinnithe Tuismitheoirí/Múinteoirí: Parent/Teacher meetings for 1st-6th class will take place on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st November. Notification of specific times and dates will be given to the pupils shortly. If one of these dates suits you better than the other, please put a note to this effect in your child's Homework Journal. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss his/her academic progress and social and emotional development. Meetings for the Infant classes are expected to take place on the 11th and 13th of February. If you have any concerns and wish to speak to your child's teacher before then, please ring Deirdre in the office and she will arrange a time which is mutually suitable. Remember that the teachers generally spend the morning time preparing for class and, once the bell rings, they must be available to collect their classes from the yard. It is difficult for them to talk to parents at this time unless prior arrangements have been made.

Gaisgígh an Bhia/ Food Dudes: We are delighted to be included in the Food Dudes programme again this year. The programme which involves tasting, and hopefully finishing eating a variety of fruit and vegetables began for all classes on Thursday Oct. 17th. 2nd – 6th classes are given fruit and vegetables for 8 days and so finished on Monday 4th November, while the junior programme, which includes the Infant classes and 1st class, will continue until November 14th. The idea is that the children will repeatedly taste new foods and they will receive specific rewards for their participation. The aim of the programme is to foster good habits of eating more fruit and vegetables as part of their regular lives and parental support and encouragement will make a real and positive difference in this regard.

Nósanna Imeachta um Chosaint Leanaí do Scoileanna: At our latest meeting, the staff reviewed the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and also underwent training on Child Safeguarding Procedures.

Dúnadh Faoi Leith: There will be no school for pupils on January 23rd 2020 as the teaching staff will attend training on the implementation of the revised Primary Language Curriculum on this date.

Seachtain na Matamaitice: This year the children actively participated in Maths Week using a variety of daily Maths challenges. Pupils ventured outside on marvellous Maths trails, gathered information, drew graphs, completed puzzles, played Maths games, designed Maths posters and brought in plenty of riddles and Maths puzzles to challenge their classmates (and teachers!!) Maths is visible all around us. Challenge your child to see the Maths in their environment!

Aontas na Mac Léinn: Members of our Student Council for this year are

Chairperson: Eoghan Brennan *Vice Chairperson: Cormac McConnon*

Secretary: Caithlin O'Regan *Vice Secretary: Ryan Reilly*

PROs: **Brooke Rea and Hannah Hennessy** Vice PROs: **Paige Challoner and Mia Dalton**

4th Class representatives: Eddie Keenan, Grace O'Sullivan, Wren Stynes and Justin Carbery

3rd Class representatives: Ben Nolan, Lara Fanning, Ella Sieroksz and Alex Nolan

2nd Class representatives: Ava Broderick, Dylan Abbey, Pierce Powell and Callie Kavanagh

These pupils were consulted about the promotion of good manners within the school and they in turn consulted with their classmates seeking ideas. As a staff, we have certainly noticed a huge improvement in this area, and we have received lovely compliments in this regard from visitors to the school also. Coinnigí oraibh leis an dea-obair. As the year progresses, the Students' Council members will be called upon regularly to give views and opinions, to represent the school in various ways and to help with a variety of activities. We look forward to their input and hope the experience will prove to be fruitful for each one of them.

Manners we have focussed on so far this year are "Remember to say Please and Thank You", "Don't block the way - allow others to pass", "Give a helping hand", "Allow adults to pass through before you" and this week we are reminded that we should "Ask before taking anything" being particularly mindful to listen to the answer and to only take something if you are given permission to do so.

Comórtas Nádúra/Teagasc's Hedgerow Competition: If you are looking for a fun way to spend time with your children and also want to have a chance of winning a family pass to Dublin zoo, you might consider entering the Teagasc Hedgerow competition. We have posted the details on our website. Clues for identifying the wildlife and plants can be found on www.teagasc.ie/hedgerowweek19. This competition may encourage our pupils to get out and about for walks in the countryside and to take note of the wonders of our natural environment before the days become too dark and miserable and opportunities to do so are not as frequent. The closing date for the competition is November 21st and entries should be posted directly to Yvonne Maher, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow.

Dáta don Dialann: While Christmas is still some time away, the days and weeks seem to be passing faster and faster each year. If you have a child/children in any class between Junior Infants and 2nd class, you may want to make note of 18th December as the date designated for our Christmas performances. We generally begin with Junior Infants at 1:15pm, Senior Infants at 1:30pm, First class at 2pm and Second class at 2:30pm. If there are changes to this schedule, we will let you know closer to the time.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

_____ (Principal)