



Our Lady's Grove Primary School

22nd March 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of the second term, I wish to fill you in on all that has taken place in the school over the past two months.

Confirmation 2018

Congratulations to the boys and girls in 6th class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, 9th March. It was a beautiful ceremony officiated by Monsignor Callan. Our thanks to the boys and girls in 5th class who formed the choir conducted by Mrs. Hussey, to the Parent Association for decorating the tables and hosting a wonderful reception in our Halla, to the children and their teachers for the lovely artwork displayed on the walls, to the administration and staff who printed and made the booklets and to Tomas for being at everyone's beck and call.

Lego Workshops

Elaine Bowden and Bricks4kidz were with us in early February. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hour-long workshops, and, on the Friday, there was an exhibition featuring the models made at each class level. We sincerely thank the PA for funding these workshops enhancing the learning opportunities for the children.

Intercultural Week

It had been a while since we celebrated Intercultural Week. Ms. Mc Dowell along with other members of staff staged a wonderful week and coincided with the Winter Olympics. There were recipe books, a very popular bake off and family stories shared throughout the week. Thank you to parents who visited the classrooms sharing personal stories about their countries of origin. It was brilliant to see so many visitors. It is never too late.... if there are parents who would like to visit their child's class and present some aspect of their life or job, be sure to get in touch with the class teacher.

Coicís na Gaeilge

Bhí an béim ar an teanga ó bhéal agus bhí na páistí go hiontach ag déanamh sár-iarracht bheith ag labhairt as Gaeilge. Bhí teaspeántais rince agus ceoil, ceolchoirm agus céilí againn. Chuir rang a 4 drámaíocht iontach ar súil. Míle buíochas do Ms. Mc Bride agus na múinteoirí go léir. Más féidir le tuismitheoirí beagán Gaeilge a labhairt le bhur bpáistí, bheadh sé sin an cabhrúla linn, chun an teanga a chur chun cinn.

Debating Final

Well it looks as if "Homework does have a place in 21st century school life" and we congratulate the proposition and the opposition teams for a fantastic evening of debating last Wednesday night. Well done to all of the children who were part of the Debating Club since September and a sincere word of thanks to Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. O' Brien for running this very popular club that is free of charge every Tuesday after school.

Soccer Success

The PA entered the Boys' Soccer Team into the Dublin Schools' Soccer Blitz. The boys played their games on the wettest day of the year and got through to the Dublin final in April. The boys were commended for their excellent sportsmanship and the manner in which they represented the school.

Hockey Champions

Well done to the girls in 6th class who claimed the prize on Tuesday 20th March in The Leinster Primary Schools Hockey Final on the sunniest day of the year! We wish you many more hockey successes as you transition into the different secondary schools.

4th and 5th Class Choir

Mrs. Hussey continues to take the 4th and 5th classes for choir practice on a weekly basis as part of the music curriculum and in preparation for the return of the National Children's Choir once again next September. Thank you Colette for giving generously of your time.

Literacy Lift Off

Literacy Lift Off is a reading initiative that is taking place in the two Senior Infant classes between now and the summer. Visiting room 4, I was immediately impressed by the four teachers who were engaging with small groups of children as they rotated through five stations. The level of enjoyment the children take from their reading activities was a sight to behold. Our hope is that we will continue to embed this practice of an intensive, reading intervention into the Primary Language Curriculum for Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd classes over the next few years.

New Policies

Over the past few months, Members of the BOM and the PA have been drafting a new Critical Incident Management Plan. A team is now in place, the members of which will meet a couple of times during the year to ensure preparedness in managing a critical incident in our school or within our community. In compliance with Children First Guidelines 2017, our Child Safeguarding Statement 2018 is now on our website, followed shortly by the school's Risk Assessment for 2018.

As part of our child protection procedures

- Parents/adults enter the school through the reception/office area only
- Parents/adults should not enter the school through the main door
- The main entrance is for children only
- Parents/adults are required to check in at reception and wear a visitor ID while in the school
- Parents/adults who wish to use the bathroom facilities during school hours must sign in at reception

We very much appreciate your understanding and support in this matter. Our priority is to reduce any risk of harm to children by identifying all adults who enter the building.

Science

Our two 4th classes were invited to Jesus and Mary College to celebrate their 'Science Fest'. The children got the chance to view various projects carried out by the current Transition Year students for the festival. As part of their visit the children were given the wonderful opportunity to visit the science labs and carry out some experiments. An exciting, informative morning was had by all! During Engineer's Week two engineers from Jacob's Engineering gave a presentation on the work of engineer's to both classes as part of the STEPS programme. After the presentation the children carried out an experiment called 'The Marshmallow Challenge'. Their challenge was to create a sturdy structure using pasta and marshmallows.

Heritage in School's Visitors

As part of the Heritage in School's Programme, the children in 5th and 6th classes enjoyed a workshop on World War 1, which was given by historian Aidan Dockery. With clipboards in hand, our two 4th classes participated in a guided History Trail of Dundrum. Our guide was historian, Tomas Maher.

Helpful Hints for the Smooth Running of the School

- Playdate notes must be written and given to the teacher in advance. **Do not send an email**
- Absence letters are given to the teacher upon returning to school. No requirement to inform the office unless the illness is contagious. **Do not send an email**
- Children leaving school early must give a written note to the class teacher in advance
- Parents/adults entering the building for any reason including the bathroom facility must sign in and wear a visitor ID
- Children are reminded not to press the buzzer on any of the doors to allow adults to enter or children to leave without Jacinta's or Sylvia's knowledge.

School will close at Midday on this Friday, 23rd March and re-open on Monday, 9th April.
Beannachtaí na Cáisce oraibh go léir

Anne Kernan
Principal