



# Parent Association Newsletter

## ST PATRICK'S LORETO BRAY

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### The Sleepy Shepherd

In December, our class performed the play 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. Diarmuid was a fluffy sheep and Caolan was a shepherd! All our mums and dads came to see us on our special day. Our favourite song was 'Wake Up'. It was so much fun and we hope everyone enjoyed it!

By Caolan O' Connor and  
Diarmuid Mc Carty  
Senior Infants

### ***Chairperson's Summer Greetings***

#### Dear Parents / Guardians

As we count down the days to the summer holidays it is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my fellow committee members and to the wider parental body for all the help and support given during the last year.

The School Make-Over Day took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Once again the response from the parents was fantastic and this allowed us to complete an ambitious list of tasks. A more detailed description of the day and jobs undertaken is included in this newsletter.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June we planned to add a new feature to our annual sponsored walk by way of games on the basketball court. Unfortunately, the weather played havoc with our plans and due to the heavy rain fall we were unable to set up the games and the walk had to be postponed. The walk will take place, around the school grounds, before the end of term.

Instead of setting off on the walk, music and refreshments were served to the children in the school hall while the adults were welcomed into the tea rooms. A big thank you is extended to all children and parents came out on a wet Sunday to join in, what turned out to be a very enjoyable afternoon.

The second hand uniform takes place this year on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. This is traditionally a very successful day and enables parents to purchase good quality second hand uniforms at greatly reduced prices.

Once again this has been another busy term for the Parents' Association but we look forward to being as busy next year and to meeting with all of you again after the summer holidays.

I wish you all a restful, joyful and hopefully a sun filled summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you at the Parent Association AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

*Tracey Byrne*  
Chairperson

### **Cumann na mBunScoil**

Ar an 8ú Meitheamh, chuaigh Miss Blount, Anna agus 12 paistí go dtí Charlesland sna Clocha Liatha. D'fhágamar an scoil ag a naoi a chlog. Thosaigh an chéad rás ag a deich a clog. Ba é an chéad rás an relay. Tháinig mo fhoireann sa dara áit sa heat ach ní dheachamar go dtí an final. Ansin bhí na rás fada ar suíl. Rinne gach éinne ar fheabhas agus tháinig mé sa dara áit. Ansin thosaigh na rás gearr. Bhí gach éinne ar fheabhas. Thaithin an lá liom agus míle míle buíochas do Miss Blount agus Anna.

Le Sinéad O'Neill



## REVIEW - MAKEOVER DAY- MAY 2011

Arriving at 9:30, parents were all ready to start on the school railings. Out with the wire brushes and the day had begun well. The weather forecast for the make-over day was not good, but the promised showers never came and the sun came out at times to keep our spirits up.

Work started quickly on the basement clearout. A large skip was in place to take the rubbish from the large area beneath the PE hall. It is surprising how big the area is under the hall and with such a space it is very easy to generate ideas for making use of it. The team soon moved out all the old broken desks and tables, breaking them down to fit into the skip. They worked at such a pace that a second skip had to be ordered for delivery before lunch. This duly arrived and was filled to the brim by the end of the day. The area is now cleared out and ready for surveying and planning.

Two teams worked on the classrooms. Each team worked methodically through the rooms, painting walls skirting's, sills and doors. Thanks to the teachers, the rooms were well prepared with emptied shelves, walls cleared and everything neatly stacked in the centre of the room.

In the garden, hedges were trimmed back to clear pathways and the area beside the car park with the bench was cleared out and much

of the scrub cleared away making more room for people to sit and enjoy the bench and its view.

Carol arrives with a very welcome lunch, once laid out and ready the troops assembled for a fine feed and some great banter. The craic was so good we nearly forgot to get back to work, but there was a job to finish if we were to succeed in our challenge.

Work on the railings continued and seemed like we would never finish. We had to send for more paint before the paint shop closed, to ensure that we would have enough paint to finish. As the work progressed, it became clear that the eagerness of the team was winning the day and before we knew it, brushes were being washed and the cleanup had begun.

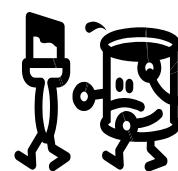
Two other jobs that were completed on the day were a new coat of paint on the front door and the strengthening of some shelves in the resource pre-fab.

While the numbers were a little down this year, with many other events on the same weekend, we need to express a big thank you to the 30 parents who gave up their day to come along on Saturday, working together to improve our school, while meeting other parents and having a bit of fun.

Until the next time,

a huge thank you,

David Henley



### "The Trip to the Zoo"

On Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2011, 3<sup>rd</sup> class went to Dublin Zoo. We left early in the morning and got a Tony Doyle bus to the Zoo. As soon as we got in, there was a tour lady and she showed us the squirrel monkeys. They were so cute, you just wanted to pick them up and bring them home! But then the guide told us that they were actually very vicious. She showed us another type of monkey and then she left. We got to walk around (in groups) with a parent. We saw the new baby giraffe and new baby gorilla. My favourite were the gorillas. The baby gorilla was so cute! He was clinging to his mum the whole time! After seeing lots of fabulous animals we went home (also on a Tony Doyle bus.) It was definitely my favourite school trip ever!

By Ellen Devlin

**Summer**  
**Summer is here to stay,**  
**All the children are on holiday,**  
**Eyes sparkle with delight!**  
**The sun is shining oh, so bright.**  
**Everyone screams and shouts,**  
**Hurry, hurry, out, out, OUT!!!**

**By Jennifer Wang**



# OUR SCHOOL TOUR

We went on our school tour on the 27<sup>th</sup> May to UCD College. We had great fun and did a lot of sporty activities. The sun was shining brightly and our group of giggling girls were singing loudly all the way to UCD.

When we got to UCD our helper Eleanor showed us to our locker room. We left our bags and then we were off. We went into a large hall, where they were strapping nervous children into huge hamster balls.

First our group went to the rock climbing walls - they were over thirty metres high! Nearly everyone made it to the top and it was a great experience. Next we went to the wobbly ladders that were impossible to climb but lots of fun! After that we sat on the steps outside in the sun and ate our yummy lunches.

Soon it was our turn to go on the massive hamster balls. We went in pairs and strapped ourselves in tight as we went rolling down the hill, screaming all the way. Some of the teachers had a go too! Then we played a game of human football. Go reds go! The competitions continued in the bouncy castle obstacle course race, which was really fun. It was a great day out! Our last school tour in St. Patricks. Just one of many happy memories that we have from our time in this wonderful school!

By Lauren Kelly & Kate Butler

# My Confirmation

I made my Confirmation on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. It was in Holy Redeemer in Bray. The Archbishop anointed me with Oil of Chrism. Our school St. Patrick's made our Confirmation with the boys' school beside us, St. Cronans. My sister Izzy was my sponsor and my parents came as well. I took part in the liturgical movement which I enjoyed. After the church I went outside and took pictures and then I went into the Little Flower Hall and I stayed there for a while to talk to everyone. My Confirmation day was great!!!

By Lisa Owens



## Spelling is Not for Everyone

**Some people are excellent at spelling**

**Some people are OK.**

**Some people need a couple more days**

**Everyone is different**

**And someday I'll be the one**

**To get a shiny star on my test**

**But for now I'll stick to being OK.**

By Lauren Nugent Rang a Cúig



## The Visit - Barack Obama - Is Feidir Linn!

By - Laura Reynolds

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1961. He became the 1<sup>st</sup> African-American president on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 he left his home in Chicago Illinois and moved to the White House with his daughters Malia and Sasha and his wife Michelle, who is known as the First Lady. They got married in 1992. The Whitehouse is in Washington DC. He is a Democrat. He studied in Occidental college for two years after leaving high school. When he was only two, his parents Ann Dunham and Barack Obama split up. Barack has a sister named Maya.

Today, the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the 44<sup>th</sup> president visited Ireland. His Air Force One aeroplane landed in Dublin airport at 9.30am on this very historical day. Earlier on his bullet-proof car was flown in. Mary McAleese, the Irish President met him at Áras an Uachtaráin. Tonight he will be making his speech in College Green, as Bill Clinton did in 1995. In Ms. Morrogh's classroom here in St. Patrick's, we watched live as his plane landed, thanks to our interactive whiteboard.

Barack has an eighth cousin Henry (Henry 8<sup>th</sup>) who is Irish. Barack Obama said America and Ireland are connected and there has always been a bit of Irish in America.

## 2nd Class Articles



### Anne Frank

We learned a lot about Anne Frank. She was a German Jew. She lived in Germany but Hitler didn't like Jews. So the Frank family had to move to Amsterdam. After a while they had to live in an attic. Anne wrote a diary all about when they lived there. Now we are writing a diary too. I like writing in my diary.

Amy Butler



### **Junior Achievement**

**We learned about voting. We voted for a mayor based on his or her policies. We had to make a decision by brainstorming the possibilities. We voted for the mayor by secret ballot. Mayor Number 1 won.**

**Sophie Blennerhassett**

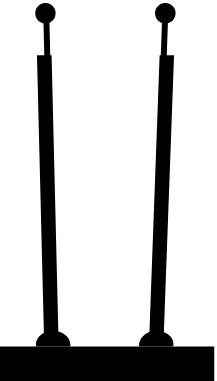


### **Our Brush with Electricity!**

We did some science experiments using static electricity. We combed our hair really quickly to build up static electricity. Then we put it beside a tap with running water. The water bent slightly. It was amazing. We also stuck a balloon to a wall by rubbing our hair with the balloon lots and lots of times.

We made salt and pepper jump too. To do this we rubbed a pen in our hair lots of times. Then we held the pen over the salt and pepper. And..... it jumped!

**Rachel Horan and Sophie Blennerhassett**



### **SPACE**

The first thing to go up to space was a dog. Now people go up to space. Ugly rockets go up to space from America. I wish that when I grow up I could have a dog that could come up to space with me. We would both have pink space suits.

I want to learn so much about it. There are 8 planets in our solar system. Mars is a red planet with 2 moons. Neptune is the stormiest planet.

I love to watch the shooting stars.

**Chloe Kirby**



## Our Class Trip to Tick Tock Farm

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Miss. Billingtons and Ms. Cunnane/Mc Kay's class went to Tick Tock Farm. We were so excited that we got on the wrong bus which was going to the zoo with 3<sup>rd</sup> class! Odhran and I were partners and we sat on the bus together. We were really excited.

When we got there we had some lunch – lots of sweets and coca cola worms! After our lunch we went on the go carts – we were super cool drivers! We stopped the traffic at the top of the hill to stop people getting hurt.

There was a rabbit room where we could put the rabbits into trolleys! Our favourite rabbit was a small black fluffy rabbit. We named him Blackie!

We milked the fake cow and we ran around the track where lots of tractors were chasing us. The lady farmer organized races for us. We didn't win!



The playground was fun and had lots of sand in it. We played on the see-saw and the swings.

There were all kinds of animals on the farm – sheep, cows, goats, horses and 2 big fat smelly pigs! We fed the animals and brushed the horse's hair.

We were so tired on the bus home, we fell asleep. We had a brilliant time and we would love to go again.

**By Callum Tully and Odhran Meade**  
**Senior Infants (Miss Billington)**

## Winter Call

A stillness lingers in the air  
Tall trees once proud are standing bare,  
Frosted fields lie empty free  
Not a creature around to see.

Spread out on ground like white soot,  
It's soft and crumples under foot.  
This vast blanket of falling white  
Is all the children's sheer delight.

Sparkling ice shining bright  
Glinting in the soft moonlight,  
Wind is swirling round and round  
Hushing all the winter sounds.

Softly humming,  
Slowly coming,  
It looms upon us all  
That this is the final winter call...

Lauren Kelly

## Our Choir Experience

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March all the fourth and fifth classes participated in the National Children's Choir in Tallaght Basketball Arena. Four girls from each class were then chosen to sing in the National Concert Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. We were joined by girls and boys from all over the country.

We had many rehearsals in school and in the Tallaght Basketball Arena. We also had one final rehearsal in the National Concert Hall, before the final performance. The concert was at 7:30pm. As we waited backstage we were nervous and we were going over the songs in our head. Our nerves disappeared as we entered the stage and saw our parents in the audience. Ray Darcy was our compere and he made the show even more enjoyable. We even got to do the Traditional Children's Choir Mexican Wave. The show was very enjoyable. Our conductor's name was Mairead Deiseach. She was very kind and helpful throughout the show and we think she is a very talented singer and musician. We had the RTE National Symphony orchestra accompanying us, they were great!! We were very happy to get picked for the National Concert Hall and we wish good luck to all the children who get the chance to participate in the future!!

By:Eimear Martin, Aoife Clancy, Catherine Farrell & Sorcha Mc Mahon.

## UNIFORM SURVEY - RESULTS

In March 2011 the Committee of the Parents' Association undertook a survey of parents' opinions regarding the current St Patrick's school uniform. As you can see from the Figures below we received an overwhelming response from families within the school. 78% of families responded and we are most grateful for their time and comments.

The majority of parents were satisfied with the current school uniform and below is the feedback we received, based on the original survey we circulated to parents. Should you have any further queries on this survey please do not hesitate to contact a Parent Association committee member.

### Control Figures

Number of children in the school	765
Number of children for whom completed survey returned	555
Surveys returned as a % of total number of children in the school	73%
Total number of families in the school	635
Number of families who completed survey	493
Percentage of families who completed survey	78%

### Uniform Survey Results, based on the original questionnaire:-

#### Satisfied with all elements of the school uniform

YES      **52%**      NO      **48%**

If you are not satisfied, please tick the elements of the uniform with which you are dissatisfied. (note – percentages representative of dissatisfaction levels)

	GIRLS	BOYS
Pinafore	10%	Jumper see next topic
Cardigan	2%	Trousers see next topic
Shirt	2%	Shirt 2%
Tie	3%	Tie 3%
Kilt, 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	see next topic	School Track-suit see next topic
Wine Jumper, 5 <sup>th</sup>	see next topic	
Navy Jumper, 6 <sup>th</sup>	see next topic	
Navy Tie, 6 <sup>th</sup>	see next topic	
School Tracksuit	10%	
School Shorts	5%	

### Where you are not satisfied, what alternatives do you suggest?

There were not many specific alternatives suggested within the survey results, however please find below a list of the comments you made:

Comment / Alternative Suggestions	% Response
Cost of Uniform. NB: Particularly Track-suit	17%
No change of uniform in 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	11%
Quality of tracksuit is poor - Washes badly; fades	10%
Skirt instead of pinafore	10%
Quality of uniform - Particularly the pinafore	9%
Wear school tracksuit as a school uniform	8%
High Street option	6%
Supplier related issues	5%
Non logo shorts & tracksuit	3%
Wear tracksuit more often & during winter	3%
Jumper instead of cardigan	2%
Slow re ordering process	2%
Polo shirt instead of shirt/blouse	2%
Trousers for girls in cold weather	2%
White Shirt	2%
Buttons on pinafore a problem	1%
Badge or different tie for 6th class	1%
More enforcement of uniform	1%
Neck of jumper/tracksuit too tight	1%

### Would you be in favour of a compulsory school coat with crest?

YES      **30%**      NO      **70%**

### Are you satisfied with current uniform/tracksuit suppliers?

YES      **52%**      NO      **48%**

Please see "letter from Principal" for further developments as a result of this questionnaire.

# Principal's Letter

Dear Parents,

At the end of a very busy term and as the school year draws to a close, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed so richly to school life in St. Patrick's. So much of what we do in school is dependant on the support we receive from parents and we deeply appreciate how readily you offer that support in a variety of different ways.

On behalf of the children, staff, parents and Board of Management of St. Patrick's, I would like to sincerely thank Tracey Byrne (Chairperson) and all of the members of the Parents' Committee for all that they have achieved this year and the many projects they have undertaken. They all give so generously and willingly of their time and talents. We are indebted to them for all the work they do on behalf of the school. It was most unfortunate that bad weather forced the cancellation of the Carol Service and the disruption to the Sponsored Walk but hopefully we will have better luck in that regard next year.

Two very important projects undertaken by the Parents' Committee this year were the review of the Parent Association Constitution and the School Uniform Survey. An amended constitution will be proposed at the Parent Association AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October and I congratulate the Committee on the development of such a forward-thinking and inclusive document. With regard to the Uniform Survey, the Committee was overwhelmed by the extent of the response and it was encouraging to see that a majority are satisfied with all elements of the school uniform.

The results of the survey are available on the school's website, and in this edition of the newsletter. You will note that there were only two areas of concern identified that were statistically significant. The first related to high street availability of elements of the uniform and it

should be noted that the only elements of uniform that are not available in high street stockists are the pinafore, kilt and school tracksuit. The second issue related to the change of jumper from 5<sup>th</sup> into 6<sup>th</sup> Class with a number of parents suggesting that one jumper for the two classes would be preferable. This issue was considered by the Board of Management and, while the Board recognised the context in which the concern was raised, it decided that there would be no change for this year as the concern was raised by a minority of parents. The Board is happy to revisit this issue in the future should it be necessary.

At this stage, every family should have received its copy of the holiday list for 2011/12 and the booklists are on their way shortly. In respect of the holiday list, it is important to note that greater flexibility has been built in to the standardised year to allow schools to compensate for prolonged enforced closures due to bad weather. As a consequence, it is possible that the mid-term break in February could be shortened from 5 days to 2 days and/or that the school could be open on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Easter Week. Such measures would be considered by the Board of Management in the event of the school having to close for prolonged periods during the coming winter and it is important for you, as parents, to note that these specific holiday periods may be subject to change.

Finally, I hope all of the children thoroughly enjoy their last few weeks of term but particularly our 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls and our Senior Infant boys who will be leaving us at the end of June. We will be sad to see them leave but we wish them every happiness in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Brian O'Doherty  
Principal

## NATIONAL CHILDRENS CHOIR

This year 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes all participated in the National Children's Choir and spent a lot of time learning and rehearsing our 16 songs. It was hard learning all those words but good fun.

We sang lots of songs both in Irish and English. Our teachers taught us all of the songs and our class sang the seconds part which was really tricky sometimes. It sounded great when we all sang together though! Our conductor's name was Mairead. She was very nice.

We went on lots of practices and every time we learnt something new. We all performed in the National Basketball Arena on the 29th March for our parents.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 23 girls from our school went to the

National Concert Hall to represent the school in the National Children's choir. There were 350 children from all over Ireland taking part.

In the Concert Hall we had a practice on the morning of the concert and we were amazed at the size of the hall. It was like being a super star up there on the stage with all the lights on us. We had an orchestra accompanying us and we tried to get the drummers autograph! Some teachers came to see us on the night and we kept waving at our teacher Ms. Travers.

Our favourite was 'Earth Song' by Michael Jackson. It sounded wonderful singing everything in such a big choir. We really enjoyed the experience!

**By:Zara Bongers O'Dwyer and Megan O'Doherty Roche**

