



Parent Association Newsletter

A Letter From The Chairperson

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope you enjoy our first newsletter of the 2019/2020 school year. A warm welcome to all the Junior Infant families and new families who joined our St. Patrick's community in August and "welcome back" to our regular readers!

The AGM of the Parent Association was held in early October. Highlights included an outline of the successful fundraising of the committee last year and an insightful presentation from Mr O'Doherty on standardised testing results and the current financial situation.

In late October I was honoured to be nominated as Chair of the Parent's Association for the next two years, with Maeve McNamara as Vice Chair. The Treasurer, Catherine Kelly, and Secretary, Amanda Breen, remain in office for another year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fiona Murphy and Keith Parker for their fantastic work, time and effort over the last two years as Chair and Vice Chair. They took us to Hell and Back not just once, but twice!! I am delighted to say that they are both remaining on the committee.

You will have received the reference guide to headlice before mid-term break. Hopefully, by working together we can minimise the spread and reduce the stress. Well done to Fiona Murphy and Maeve McNamara for their research and publication of this very useful guide.

Christmas Colours Day: will take place on Thursday 19 December. Santa and his elves visit the children in their classes with a small treat and afterwards the children get to watch a Christmas film. The children are invited to wear Christmas colours on this day. A big thank you to the Student Council who help us run this fun day in the school.

Every year we put together hampers to be raffled, one for each class group from 1st to 6th and two for both the Junior and Senior Infant classes given their numbers. The draw for the hampers takes place on Christmas Colours Day.

We ask for a €2 donation per family or a €1 donation per child on this day. The money will be used to buy supplies for a Dignity Pack production line. We have had two excellent production line packing days in April 2018 and February 2019 and we look forward to another great day in the new year.

Cake sale: the annual cake sale will be held on a date to be decided in early 2020 before the Easter break.

Book drive: in January we will invite you to donate books to the school that your children have read and that are still in excellent condition. We will then identify books from those donated that can be used to reinvigorate the stock of books both in the school and classroom libraries. A letter will be sent home in the new year which will give you a better idea of the types of books we are looking for, so, in the meantime, please don't send those old books to the recycling centre!

Facebook Group: if you are on Facebook, and aren't already a member, we invite you to join our page St Patrick's Bray Parent Association. This will keep you up to date with what is happening in the school throughout the year.

Finally, all that is left to do is to wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year on behalf of all the Parents' Committee.

Best Wishes

Majell Ryan

Chairperson



Happy Christmas



First Class Acrostic Poems
Mrs Cunnane/ Mrs Mc Cormack



Christmas candle
Holly with berries
Reindeer flying
Icicle hanging
Santa is coming
Tree is decorated
Mary loves her baby
Angels up high
Snowman is white

Lily Crimmins Messett

Christmas cards
Holly is green
Reindeer running
Icy icicle
Santa's sleigh
Turkey cooking
Mince pies ready
Amazing angels
Snowy snowmen

Aoife Kenny

Christmas cheer
Happy holidays
Rudolph running
Icicles hanging
Snowflakes falling
Touch the turkey
Mince pies ready
Angels up high
Stockings up

Kya Rei Kenny



Christmas cheer
Happy holidays
Reindeer flying
Icy skating
Santa's sleigh
Trees are decorated
Merry Christmas
Angels up high
Shepherds in the fields

Emily Doyle

Training Days for the Newly Elected Student Council
By Aisling O'Keeffe and Ella Lawless

On Wednesday 23rd of October the six Sixth Class student council representatives went on a training day to The Talbot Hotel in Stillorgan. We were accompanied by Ms.Flanagan, Ms.Davenport and pupils from other Loreto schools. First, we played a couple of ice breaker games. After a quick break we were ready for our first presentation by a speaker from the National Anti-Bullying & Resource Centre. The presentation was about anti-bullying and it was really, really interesting. Overall it was an amazing day



On the 27th of November all of the student council team got together for a training day in school. First we talked about how to hold a meeting, then we played some team building games. After that we had a presentation from Ms. Murrough about the roles of the Student Council. While we listened to the presentation Ms.Dunne was taking our pictures for the student council notice board.

We can't wait to get started on the fun things the year has in store for us!

A Letter From The Principal

Dear Parents,

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas!” There’s hardly a classroom in the school where you won’t find a “sleepy shepherd”, a whoops-a-daisy angel” or an over-worked innkeeper. Primary schools are very special places to be at this time of the year. It has been a really busy first term with the new Student Council, Green School Committee and Parents’ Committee being formed not to mention the formation of the new Board of Management and the ongoing, excellent work of the Health Promoting School Committee.

Sincere congratulations to Emma Duffy (6th Class) who has been appointed Chairperson of the Student Council. We wish Emma and all the members of the council every success in their work during the year. We also assure them of our support as they endeavour to represent the views and ideas of their fellow students. Theirs is a most important voice in the school and we look forward to consulting with them (and you) on a range of issues in the New Year.

The Parents’ Committee continues to thrive which is testimony to people’s willingness to get involved. The new committee is chaired by Majell Ryan Vandamme and Majell is ably assisted by her Vice-Chair, Maeve McNamara. I wish them and all the members of the committee well for the coming year and I look forward to working closely with them on behalf of the school community. I would also like to thank our outgoing Chair, Fiona Murphy, and Vice-Chair, Keith Parker for all their hard work and I congratulate them on a hugely successful two years at the helm.

I hope to see many of you in the coming days, if you are attending one of the Nativity plays. No matter how excited you are about attending them, it doesn’t even come close to the excitement being witnessed in our Infant classes as they rehearse for their big day! You have a treat in store. As I say each year, it is a very special time in the lives of children and it is a privilege for us to share in their joy and excitement.

With every good wish for a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year,

Yours sincerely,
Brian O’Doherty
Principal



The Spirit of Advent

by Rachel Lynch
(Ms Lenehans 4th Class)

Advent is here,
The seasons are changing,
Snow is upon us,
And the loved ones I’m remembering.

I am grateful for trees,
I am grateful for life,
I am grateful for everything that has a positive
side.

I am excited for Advent,
To meet my family,
And spend time with the ones,
That really matter to me.

Christmas

by Leah Mooney McGrath
(Ms Lenehans 4th Class)

Christmas, Christmas, Christmas is coming.
Christmas is not about presents and all,
It is about love, joy and most importantly, friends
and family.

Mistletoe, Christmas trees, lights and tinsel.
I love Christmas because I get to sit by the fire
with my family.
I love life and you should too and don’t forget,
There are some homeless people out there.
Go and make their Christmas night.

Ho Ho Ho!

Science Week
Mrs Mc Cormack/ Mrs Cunnane
First Class

Science is fun.

We tried some activities in school. I like Science because it is different.

I made a boat and got 69 pea passengers in it. We also tested toy cars on different surfaces to see how fast they would travel. It didn't matter when the boat sank.

We also made paper helicopters.

Lizzy Fitzgibbon

Science is the best.

I loved when we did paper helicopters. I only got one pea in my boat and then it sank.

There is no right or wrong in Science. We tested toy cars on lots of surfaces.

I think everyone should do Science. I am always sad when it ends.

Sorcha Vandamme

Science is amazing.

It was cool when we made the paper helicopters.

My favourite thing that we learned is that it doesn't matter if things go right or wrong. The only thing is that it was fun for you.

I love Science in school.

Alexa Phillips

Science is fun.

It doesn't matter if it doesn't turn out right or wrong. It's ok. Don't worry.

It might be messy but messy is fun. If it get's messy you can wear an apron and goggles. Science and discovering are great fun.

Go on, give it a go.

Finley Walsh

Last week we did Science in school.

We tried to make boats but mine sank.

I love Science because you never know what you are making when you are making it or how it will work out.

After when you go to bed you dream of Science.

Anna Grassetti

SCIENCE IS FUN
GO ON, GIVE IT A GO!



◇ Our Field Trip to Novara Terrace

◇
On Wednesday 23rd October Ms Dunleavy's third class went on a field trip to Novara Terrace.

Each of us had a partner to work with on a sheet. We had to answer questions about the houses like 'Are all the houses the same?' Me and my partner Robyn answered 'no' because some of the houses had porches and some didn't. Some houses had panelled doors. All the houses had sash windows.

We sketched the knocker on house no.3. There were lots of chimney pots on each house because a pretty long time ago in each room there was a fire. Not many of the houses had bay windows. The houses on the Terrace were built in 1870.

By Zara Zhang, Rang a trí.

What Goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?

Santa Claus walking backwards

GOAL Changemakers Award

Ms. Dunleavy's third class is taking part in the GOAL Changemakers Award.

We would like to tell you about some of the goals that we are focusing on.

- ◇ **No poverty,**
- ◇ **Reduced inequalities,**
- ◇ **Responsible production and consumption**
- ◇ **Life below water.**

No poverty means that that everyone has enough money to buy food, houses and clothes. Reduced inequality means that everyone is treated equally and gets equal opportunities in the world. Responsible consumption and production means that you don't buy food or clothes or toys that you don't need.

Lots of people have ideas for our entry for the GOAL Changemakers Award. Ellie suggested concentrating on wrapping paper. We should stop using metallic wrapping paper at Christmas. We could use a brown paper bag, cut off the handles and decorate it with stickers, markers, glitter and anything you can find.

Maybe if the class have a Kris Kindle instead of presents, we could make one global goal for the person we get. On the day we could exchange goals and when we get our goals, we have to figure out what they mean.

Ciara thinks we should concentrate on 'Don't buy too much that you won't eat' . When you are giving someone, a present write a letter about not buying stuff you don't need. If you have any food leftover give it to your pet or to your friend's pet.

By Katelyn Kelly Dowling, Zoe Brennan Tkacx, Ellie Gillmore and Ciara Costello, Rang a Trí



Susie and the Story Shredder

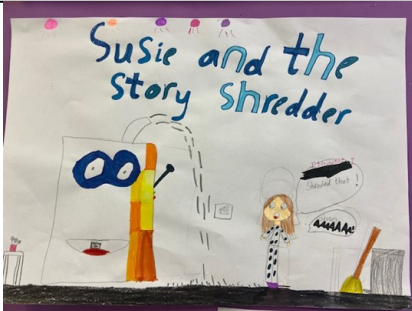
A trip to the Mermaid Theatre

by Second Class

Now - A quick summary of the play

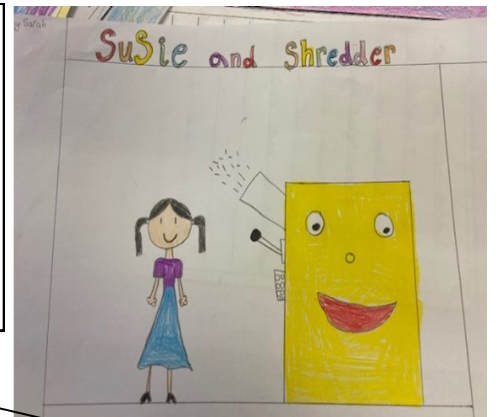
Once upon a time there was a king called King Levi. One day, King Levi sat down and he tried to think of a story to write. He couldn't, so instead he decided to ban stories from his Kingdom. The stories were delivered to a girl called Susie. She shredded the stories. One day when she was finished shredding the stories, one of the books came back out of the Shredder. Susie was surprised. She thought she had shredded it! She picked up the story - she didn't have her gloves on. And nothing happened! But she was scared as King Levi said 'If you touch a book your hands turn green and your brain gets fuzzy.' So she put it in the bin ...but the book came back out. She read the book and it was great! She told King Levi that books are great and he did not like the idea at all, but in the end he did!! And they all lived happily ever after!

By Ania and Izzy



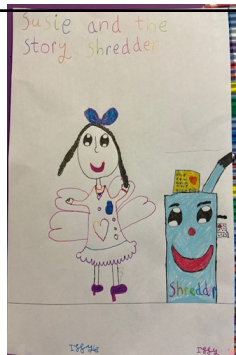
I loved when Susie was picking a coat, but they were all the same! I loved when Shredder accidentally talked. But my absolute favourite was when Shredder said 'Be Bop!'

By Cara



My favourite part of Susie and the Story Shredder was when Susie kept saying 'I'm gonna be late!' I really loved the show because it was very funny and I was really entertained.

By Lucie



My favourite bit was when King Levi brushed the crumbs off himself when Susie said there was a cookie thief. It was so funny because King Levi was scared he would get caught.

By Laila

It was really funny when Susie ran around the audience. King Levi banned books and he got all the audience to stand up and say the promise.

By Éabha



I liked the part when Susie started reading the books. I was surprised when Shredder started blowing bubbles. I didn't like the Shrink Ray.

By Sophie

I thought the Mermaid was awesome! I loved the show.

By Andreea

Election Day

By Éabha Parker and Emma Brady

On Thursday October 16th all three classes from 4th, 5th and 6th class got the opportunity to go down to the basement and vote for the new representatives from there class for the Student Council.

Every class had a time slot to go down to the basement and vote during the day. We all excitedly walked down sharing our thoughts eagerly! When we got down to the basement we all lined up and three 6th Class clerks stamped our ballot papers to make it official. One by one we cast our votes at either one of the polling stations. Everyone's vote was completely private and confidential. Overall I think everyone enjoyed voting and it was a great day!

The votes were counted and a few days later the election results were announced. We want to say a huge well done to all the candidates who put themselves forward and congratulate the eighteen girls who were elected.

The Student Council Member 2019-2020 are:

Hannah Dawson Shana O'Dowd	Emma Duffy Darcie McCarry	Ella Lawless Aisling O'Keefe
Éabha Parker Maryjo Mandras	Zoe Byrne Mia Byrne	Goda Sliogeryte Katie Tucker
Abi Duggan Ellen Wu	Aimée Leigh Greene Byrne Eimear Laffan Downes	Emma Brady Layla Williams



Our Writing

This year we did a lot of persuasive writing. I think the best piece we did was writing a letter to Mr. O'Doherty to persuade him to let us have a fun lesson on Friday 20th October. This was our student teacher's last day. It took a lot of hard work but it paid off because Mr. O'Doherty said yes!

Another piece of writing was our Halloween poetry competition. Our winner was Eimear Laffan Downes.

Aimee Leigh Greene Byrne; Alyson Walsh [Ms. Lyons 4th Class]

Jersey Day

Jersey Day was on 11/10/'19. Most of the people in my class wore a jersey.

A week before Jersey Day the leaders from all the tables went around the whole school to tell all the classes about it.

I really liked Jersey Day because it was a lot of fun!

**Gabrielle Doyle; Charlotte Hayde
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]**

Shoe Boxes 2019

I really enjoyed it because you are helping other children in need. Most of the time we are worrying about ourselves when there are other kids who barely have anything. The shoeboxes are run by Team Hope. We are very lucky and should appreciate our things more. A few days before they took the shoe boxes there were so many shoe boxes in our class!

**Evie Seavers; Lily Morton Fleming
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]**

Art

We did a lot of Art. My favourite ones were the Halloween blending stencil picture, the Clay Monster and creating our Art Folders. My favourite type of Art is Painting. It's very fun mixing different coloured paints together and making it into other colours.

One day we made monsters out of clay. After that everyone in the class had to think of a creative backstory for their monsters. Then we painted the monsters and sketched a background, then painted over it. We went to the top of the classroom and told everyone about their monster and its backstory.

**Nancy Wang; Taylor McDonagh Feehan
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]**

Halloween Dress Up 2019

Halloween Dress up was my favourite event that has happened this year. I saw a lot of amazing costumes this time round. Even some teachers dressed up. There was great Halloween art on doors too! Well done to everyone.

I was a black cat but instead of having cat ears and a cat tail I had a devil tail and devil ears. It looked really cool.

**Heidi Doran; Emily Smyth
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]**

Glendalough Tree Day

We went to Glendalough for Tree Day. It was lots of fun. I would love to do it again. We were split into groups and then we set off for the Treasure Hunt. I will have to admit, it did get quite challenging at times, but we finally finished. I highly recommend Glendalough for your next trip.

We learned about trees through signs. There were facts about trees and we all learned so much about trees and we made houses out of sticks.

**Ava Fagan; Eily Chambers Keating;
Michealla Gibbons**





Student Council

In some classes some people want to be in the Student Council. If you are in the election you should vote for yourself because if you don't you probably won't get in. You only have one vote. Never just vote for your best friend. The Student Council election is a lot of work. The Student Council arrange most of the events in the school.

In our class Eimear and Aimee got in to the Student Council.

If you want to be in the Student Council you have to work as a team and listen to other people's opinions and ideas and not bully.

Eimear L. Downes; Ellen Sun
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]

Our Student Teacher

Miss Donohoe was teaching us a few months ago. She was a kind and nice student teacher. She did loads of things with us like persuasive writing. I remember she wanted to teach us the do, re me thing so she taught us a song and we all remembered it just like she wanted us to. Miss Donohoe was dressed as Little Red Riding Hood on Halloween Dress up Day. Her cape was small but we didn't mind.

Rebecca Bunda; Róisín Cunneen
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]

Listening to Music

My class has done Listening to Music twice. On the second time we did it we had a competition. We all liked the piece of music that we chose. Listening to Music is something that everyone loves.

The music was nice to listen to and tell you about the world and we need to stop using plastic and cutting down trees.

Saoirse Rogers; Eva Yu
[Ms. Lyons 4th Class]

Christmas On the Streets

by **Lilia Cassoni** (Ms Lenehans 4th Class)

This Christmas people are sad and need some love and care. But they don't have anyone and that's not fair.

We might think we're unlucky because we don't get any snow, but I just want you to know...

We are lucky and we should be grateful for what we do have... because they don't have a home and that's very sad.

We have presents and treats and wreaths galore. They don't even have one treat because they are poor.

We have a rooftop and even a door. They have a sleeping bag down on the floor.

We have a warm house and food on the table. We think we're just normal but they think we're angels.

So this Christmas, if you see someone in need, don't let them plead on their hands and knees. Buy them a sandwich and a cup of tea.

Advent

by
Lily Mae Blake
(Ms Lenehans 4th Class)

Christmas is coming,
time to put up the wreath...
purple, purple, pink, purple and white.
I am grateful for my friends and family and my
dog Pepper too!

Advent is a time for giving, not taking.

Advent is Latin for 'coming'.

What's that? Yes, Christmas is coming!

This year I would like to give to others who need
the love and joy this Christmas!



Tree Day in Glendalough

On the 2nd of October 4th Class went to Glendalough to take part in Tree Day. We took part in lots of activities including a native Irish tree hunt, acorn and spoon race, guessing the age of a tree, stick jigsaws and building a tree. We wrote some poems on our return. Here is a little flavour!



Trees in Glendalough by Megan Collins

Leaves falling to the ground all different colours,
Scarlett, copper, golden and amber,
The waterfalls make a beautiful sound
Flowing, splashing and spilling.
The sun was shining brightly,
Ducks were swimming in the lake,
Birds singing in the trees,
Trees' bark was rough and hard,
Berries on the trees were bright red.
The acorns were being eaten by squirrels,
Conkers on the ground.
Nature is wonderful!



Tree Day Poem by Ella Louise Kelly

We went on an adventurous day yesterday,
It was fun and it was exciting,
The trees were all sorts of different colours
Like red, green and brown.
It was a beautiful day out near the mountains,
The mountains were big and tall,
The bus ride was quick and fun,
The lakes were pretty and long.
And...
My boots got really wet because I jumped
in a puddle!

Tree Day by Aisling Haines

Finding clues around Glendalough,
Lots of fun games,
Big muddy puddles,
Rough tree barks,
Yummy hot chocolate,
Long nature walks,
Leaves swirling round and round,
Rabbit holes everywhere,
Scarlett, orange and yellow leaves,
It was full of quiet and peace.



Tree Hunt by Éabha O'Dowd

Trees dancing in the wind,
Red, yellow brown leaves falling,
Long spikey frosty grass,
The lake shimmering in the sun,
Delicious hot food and drinks,
Red and brown berries on the trees,
Rabbits, deer and badgers in the wood.
Still, quiet and calm.
Fun games to play,
Noisy waterfalls rushing down rocks,
Deciduous and evergreen trees,
Rough bark, smooth rocks,
Tree hunts are lots of fun.



Health Promoting School

This year the HPS team has organised a lot of fun activities and events.

The HPS focuses on healthy eating, physical health as well as mental health and wellbeing. Be Well Week was a great hit with 6th Class and throughout the school. During Be Well Week we did Bootcamp with Dave Brien who is a parent on our HPS team. It was brilliant! We did mindfulness sessions over the intercom. It was a very special week for 6th as it is our last year in St. Patrick's. Everybody loved it!

We can't forget about the Gratitude Tree we are making this year. Classes get a chance to think about things they are grateful for and then they read it out over the intercom. It is written on a Christmas decoration and hung on the Gratitude Tree for everyone to see. We are grateful for this school and can't wait for the rest of the year!

By Niamh Canavan, HPS Student Co-ordinator, 6th Class.

Be Well Week

Be Well Week was in October this year.

Moving Monday was the first day. We had Bootcamp with Dave and dance breaks throughout the day. Everyone loved it and had a lot of fun. Next day was Training Tuesday when we tried to be really active and then Water Wednesday / Walk on Wednesday. We all tried to walk to school or some of the way and there were multiple water breaks throughout the day.

The last two days were Thinking Thursday when we did meditations and Fruit Friday when the whole school tried bringing lots of different types of fruit to school. Overall everyone really enjoyed the week and would love to do it again in the future.

By Jennifer Mathew, HPS Team, 6th Class

Be Well Week

The week was fun and exciting. I enjoyed Drop Everything And Dance and Bootcamp the most. The Bootcamp was super intensive and everyone's legs and arms were like jelly afterwards. The mindfulness on Thinking Thursday was very relaxing and refreshing. We all enjoyed being active and healthy during Be Well Week

By Siofra Vandamme, 5th Class

Be Well Week

Be Well Week was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed doing active homework and the mindfulness sessions. It was a great experience and it helped the school to stay healthy. The Bootcamp got our blood pumping and mind working. It was our last Be Well Week in St. Patrick's Primary School and we really enjoyed it. The HPS did a really good job of organising it.

By Emma Duffy, Elma Islamovic and Cadhla Evans, 6th Class

Check out the HPS website: <https://stpatricksbrayhps.weebly.com>



Happy Christmas