

**Erasmus visit.** The school recently hosted 16 European visitors from Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy and Finland as part of our “What’s APPening around our Europe” project. The focus of the project was for the participants and our staff to gain experience in using the Garageband App and in doing so experiencing the musical culture of each others traditions.

During the trip the visitors were welcomed at the school gates by flag waving younger children and then they visited all the classes in the school and Nursery meeting the children and facing a number of questions about their schools and countries. The children were surprised to hear that none of the schools wore uniforms and that they started much earlier than us for example 7-30am in Slovenia.

The visitors were treated to a fantastic Eurovision Song Competition, where each of the six older classes adopted a musical act from one of the countries and performing the hit songs in the native songs. Many thanks to all children and staff for their hard work and effort during this but a special word of thanks to M Dearbhla for the coordination of the event. Our choir and Traditional Group performed beautifully during the interval and again many thanks to the children and Mrs O’Sullivan (Trad Group) and M Dearbhla (Choir) for preparing the children.

In addition , they enjoyed home cooking from our own school kitchen, Traditional Irish Stew from McEntee’s and were hosted in Cross Square Hotel . They were treated to a night of entertainment in the Rangers Hall with Traditional music from past pupils O’Sullivan brothers (and sister) and friends from Mullaghbawn, Irish Dancing from past pupils the Murray sisters and other members of the Mona Ruddy Dance School, first lessons of Ceilidh Dancing and a fantastic Bodhran Workshop by Fergal.

With Gerry Moley in the drivers seat there were trips to the Giants Causeway and Carraig a Reide Rope Bridge, a Halloween Experience at Fitzpatrick’s Restaurant and visit to Armagh Planaterium (and a bit of shopping. Garageband workshops took place at school, Armagh (Amma Centre) and in Gweedore . In Donegal they also experienced opportunities to listen, sing and play more Traditional Tunes in the beautiful surroundings of Bun Beag. The visitors left at the weekend with the ICT skills enhanced and totally intrigued and enchanted by our country, our music and our children.

Many thanks to everyone in the school for their support during the visit. In addition to those mentioned above many thanks to Miss Hughes for organizing the events in Donegal and to the Amma Centre in Armagh for providing the Garageband Training. We now look forward to using the new ICT skills in our classrooms. We also hope to provide an opportunity for parents to enjoy the special Eurovision Song Contest in the weeks ahead.

|                                      |         |                             |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sacraments P4/R4</b>              |         |                             |
| Searmanas Cláraith/Enrolment Service | @630pm  | Mass in St Patrick’s Church |
| Cruinniú na dTuistí/ Parent Meeting  | @ 730pm | in St Joseph’s HS           |
| An Chéad Fhaoistín/ First Confession | @ 630pm | in St Patrick’s Church      |
| An Chéad Comaoineach R4              | @11am   | in St Patrick’s Church      |
| First Communion P4                   | @11am   | in St Patrick’s Church      |

|                                       |       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Sacraments P7/R7</b>               |       |                               |
| Seirbhís an tSolais/ Service of light | P7/R7 | @ 7pm in St Patrick’s Church  |
| Coíneartú/Confirmation                | P7/R7 | @ 11am in St Patrick’s Church |

Every Thursday Credit Union are in to collect savings. Make sure that your child is registered with the Credit Union first.

**Trips:** P1-P3 enjoyed an Autumn Walk in Slieve Gullion . R1-R3 have rescheduled for November.

P5 continue to learn strings with LEA Music Service

Year 6 and 7 continue their Monday lessons in Chinese Mandarin

Year 7 are in the middle of their 10 week Mindfulness Programme.

P5 have started their Roots of Empathy Project with Mrs O’Neill, and Ciara and baby Naoise Beagan

P4/R4 continue with their Relax Kids Programme.

Years 4-7 are involved in weekly PE lessons with Healthy Kidz programme

**Numeracy week :** Thank you to everyone who helped make the week so successful. Children had lots of fun learning about numbers in their own school environment and at home. Thank you to Mrs Donnelly for coordinating this.

**Book Fair .** Many thanks for supporting the Book fair gain in great numbers . Over £2500 was raised . this will help us purchase books and resources for the children. Many thank to Mrs O’Sullivan and her helpers.

**FOSA : Many thanks to the parents who have agreed to join the FOSA for the new school year. Their help is greatly appreciated. If you would still like to help please leave your name in the office. Thank you.**

*Shakespeare Comghairdeas to Rang 5/6 who performed Hamlet and Macbeth with children from Markethill PS in the Orchard Theatre Armagh yesterday. . Mile Buíochas to M Micheal, M Blathin and Orla who have been working tirelessly with the children over the past few months. Many thanks to all parents for your support in learning lines and encouragement, Great performances from everyone and comments last night included “dark, weird .wonderful”, “strong physicality on stage”, “clear body language” and “committed and generous cast”. Very proud of everyone – maith sibh gach duine*

**Gaelic Sports:** After school football for Year 4/5 will take a break from week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November until the Spring term. Karol McQuade , Ulster Council Coach will continue to take football for Year 6/7 after school on a Thursday until Christmas There will still be a couple of matches to play before the end of November for Years 6 and 7. Indoor competitions will also take place during the winter.

**Healthy Breaktimes :** A healthy sandwich with low fat spread, breadstick (not Nutella/jam etc) may be added to the options of fruit or vegetables as per Health Foods Agency.

**Nuts:** As we have children with nut allergies we are asking parents not to send in any nut based products. Thank you.

Dear Parents

A sincere thank you to all parents/carers who came along to the recent Teacher meetings .There was an excellent turnout and anyone who missed can still call the school and make an appointment through the office. Indeed , parents and carers can make an appointment at any stage to meet your child's teacher to discuss their progress. It should be remembered that teachers are busy teaching during the day it is best to send a message via email, homework diary or leave message in office and it will be passed on. Rang 1 appointments will be rescheduled in the near future.

The children enjoyed their spooky dressing up day and set off in good spirits for the mid term break at Hallowe'en

As the weather becomes more "challenging" please make sure that we have up to date mobile numbers and that all children wear coats

Following a local initiative children in local primary schools will receive a number of talks on various topics from the police. The first presentation will be on Road Safety. Many thanks to vast majority of parents who do not park on or near the yellow lines in front of school or reverse or park at the school gates. Much appreciated.

All dinner money to be paid up to date please. Money must be paid on a Monday for the previous week by putting in named envelope and placed in black box outside office.

Many thanks for your great support of our Scholastic Book Fair. Over £2700 was raised. Many thanks to Mrs O's Sullivan and her many helpers

Many thanks to Mrs Lambe (past teacher) who has put forward a Spelling Bee Cup. With a focus on spelling P7/R7 will begin their competition to see who is the school's best speller. Competitions for Years 6 and 5 will take place in the New Year.

In relation to school budgets a significant number of schools in N Ireland are suffering because of underfunding. The reality is that schools are receiving the same amount of funding that they received 7 years ago yet school outgoings such as salaries, pensions, running costs and resources continue to rise. Schools are looking for an **immediate increase of 7%** in funding to allow us to do our job in educating your children and future annual increase rises in funding in line with inflation. As these decisions will be made at Government level please convey this message to our politicians at any opportunity. Thank you

# Newsletter November 2017

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## **IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Return to school

Tue 7<sup>th</sup> R7 begin 5 week Art Workshop in Glencarron Nursing Home – organized by Dementia Awareness Group –Crossing Bridges

Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Dance Demonstration by Galaxy

Football for Year 6/7 After school

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Tag Rugby (6 week block) for Year 5 / Year 6 Boys (Camogie starts in New year for girls)

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Swimming for R5/6

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Galaxy Dance starts for 4 weeks for Years 1-3 (2pm -3pm) and Years 4-7 (3pm - 4pm) (Provided enough children enroll)

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Enrolment service for P4/R4 children and parents at 630pm Mass in St Patricks Church Crossmaglen

Mon 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Daily visit to P2 classes from Credit Union as part of Young enterprise Programme

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Road Safety Presentation by police

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Information meet for parents of R4/P4 children regarding the Sacraments led by Fr Dermot @7-30pm in St Josephs' HS . Please attend if possible. Thank you .

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Swimming for R5/6

### **December**

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> December - Autumn Meeting of Governors @ 5pm

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner in school- School finishes at 1.30 for all children

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> School Closed for children- Feast of Immaculate Conception

Dates for Christmas plays to follow

Christmas Holidays begin Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dec@11am with children returning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January

**Youth Club Discos:** Junior discos in the club for years 4-7 ,Thursdays from7pm-9pm for 30<sup>th</sup> November 21<sup>st</sup> December £3/€4.