

St. Brigid's Boys' School

Summer Newsletter 2019

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It is hard to believe the end of another school year has come! The 2018/2019 school year has flown by, a fun filled year, jam packed with numerous trips, sporting events and exciting educational initiatives for all. Our Junior Infants are no longer new, they are well settled in St. Brigid's after a great first year in school and ready to be the big boys in Senior Infants next year! It is time to say goodbye to our wonderful 6th class boys, who have enjoyed eight years in St Brigid's. They have been a pleasure to teach, have enjoyed a wonderful last year with Ms. Cadogan and Mr. Duignan and been excellent ambassadors for our school. At the time of going to print they are busy practicing for their graduation ceremony which is eagerly anticipated by all. It is a lovely occasion for the boys, their families and school staff. We wish them all the best of luck in their exciting new journey as they go their separate ways to start secondary school in September!

Please read on to hear about all of the exciting things that have been happening in St. Brigid's since our Christmas Newsletter.

School events and initiatives

This year we introduced **monthly assemblies** in St. Brigid's. At the end of each month we hold a monthly assembly for the boys in both the junior and senior end of the school. It is a platform where classes get a chance to perform a dance, song, poem or piece of work in front of their peers. We celebrate successes, improvements and discuss the great work that groups and individuals have engaged in. It has proved very popular with both pupils and teachers who eagerly await the monthly gathering!

Ms. McAdam and Ms. Lynch tackled **debating** with their classes this year. All of the boys demonstrated their debating skills for parents in Term 2. Each boy had an active role to play, whether they were speaking for or against the motion, time or score keeping, adjudicating or chairing the debate. The standard of public speaking was superb in both classes.

Over the course of the year, we have welcomed a number of speakers in to talk to the various classes in the school. 1st class were delighted to welcome two visitors from the Beacon Hospital who spoke about the importance of hand hygiene.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed putting their hands under the UV Light Inspection Cabinet which showed them how well they had washed their hands! Senior Infants and 3rd class welcomed a speaker from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) who spoke to them about sustainable energy, recycling and our environment.



We were delighted to be selected to attend the inaugural **Science Blast** event in the RDS on the 6th of March. With their teachers, Ms. McAdam, Ms. Grogan, Mr. Devine and Ms. Quinn the boys prepared and presented experiments to a team of judges and primary school pupils from all over the country. From electricity to forces, to photosynthesis the boys wowed us all with their creativity and knowledge of science. All projects were highly commended by the judges on the day. A fantastic day out was had by all. Not only did the boys excel at presenting our own project but they were entertained by a myriad of different scientific shows and displays throughout the day. Well done to the boys and their teachers!



Numerous classes in the school have engaged in the **Incredible Edibles Growing Challenge** since the end of February. We have planted and grown strawberries, carrots, lettuce, chives, turnips, carrots and potatoes, as well as a host of other herbs in conjunction with Barry our caretaker, who has been keeping a watchful on them and applying his green fingers when necessary. We plan to harvest this coming week and have a soup feast!



Seachtain na Gaeilge took place during the month of March. As always, the staff and pupils fully embraced it. There were lots of fun activities for all to enjoy. The highlight was our Breakfast Band run by Pat O'Connor, our tin whistle teacher. The boys playing a range of musical instruments performed some fantastic Irish songs for us all after weeks of preparation!



Many thanks to all the parents who supported our **Annual Book Fair**. This year we collected a record €7,025. The school receives 60% commission on this which will be spent restocking the class libraries. It is great to see so many boys purchasing and reading books. On the subject of books, **Cabinteely Library** is an excellent resource in the heart of our community and some of our classes have been lucky enough to engage with it this year. The boys in Mr. Duignan's class took part in an exciting international artistic collaboration with a school from Belgium. The boys created images and wrote poetry on the theme of The Phoenix. These images were then taken to Belgium where Mr. Regnier's class carved them into lino prints, translated the poems into French and compiled the

Ms. Quinn's 3rd class engaged with the 'Summer Stars' reading initiative. Author and Illustrator Alan Nolan entertained the boys with extracts from his latest book 'Sam Hannigan and the last Dodo'. The boys got their summer reading off to a great start by signing up for the Summer Stars reading challenge and taking home some books from the library. We would encourage all boys to make use of Cabinteely Library over the summer. As a school we hope to avail of it more next year!

Ms Mc Adam's 4th class hosted the annual **Whole School Science Fair** in the hall on the 10th of May. The Fair comprised of a series of experiments and projects from Junior Infants to 6th class. There were experiments on density, magnetic car races, drinks that stain our teeth, invisible Coke, foods and sugar, 'egg'cellent eggs, live stick insects and many, many more. The boys in 4th class worked tirelessly throughout the day, manning stations, chaperoning younger groups, offering information, as well as helping to prepare the set-up and cleaning of the hall before and after the event. The day was a wonderful success and would not have run so smoothly without the input and effort of each boy in Ms. McAdam's class.



The 1st and 2nd classes are thoroughly enjoying their year of **swimming** in Castle Park. Swimming finished up with a swimming gala where each boy was presented with a medal. The progress they have made is commendable. We would like to thank the parent volunteers for attending swimming with us each week. I would like to remind the parents of Senior Infant boys that your sons will be attending swimming

It would be very helpful if you could take them swimming over the summer months to get them used to being in the water, improve their confidence and increase their independence for dressing and undressing. This greatly benefits them in September and ensures they get the maximum benefit from the lessons.

Mr. Duignan's 6th class are currently busy recording an album containing a selection of songs they had learned during the year. Using the new suite of i-pads, recently acquired by the school, the boys worked extensively in the GarageBand to develop their album entitled 'So Long'! Ms Cadogan's class are engaged in producing a play summarising a history of the world from the dawn of time to the current day and tackling the theme of intolerance.

In May we held a **coffee morning and cake sale** for a very special little boy in Junior Infants, Cian O'Mahony. With your very generous help, we managed to raise €4,533 which will go a long way to helping Cian get his Canine Companion!

Active Schools Week was a great success. Throughout the week, the boys participated in numerous games and activities. Every day, the Active Flag Committee set up stations and games in the three yards and it was fantastic to see continuous activity in these areas. Most classes engaged in some indoor activity too. GoNoodle, an online physical activity programme, was popular and many classes did 10@10. The daily run was also a part of many groups' routine. Additionally, 6th class participated in a table tennis competition and Pilates class with Edel Duffy, 3rd and 4th class had a rugby session with a Leinster coach and the infants continued with GAA with Johnny Magee. The highlighted of the week was undoubtedly the Pound session with Ms Kenny. POUND is the world's first cardio jam session inspired by the energizing, infectious, sweat-dripping fun of playing the drums. All classes from Junior Infants to sixth took part and thoroughly enjoyed the unique workout.



The activity was not just limited to school hours. There was an obvious increase in the number of boys walking and cycling to school and many teachers prescribed physical activity as homework for the week. Many thanks to the active school committee for organising such a fantastic week!

Over the last two years, St Brigid's has been pursuing the **Active Flag**. We have placed great emphasis on creating an active environment where the boys gain an understanding and appreciation of physical activity and all its benefits. We hope to be awarded the flag before the end of the year for all our efforts.

Round of Applause

Well done to the St. Brigid's **Credit Union Quiz Teams**. Under the expert guidance of Ms Sheehy and Mr Sheanon, our junior and senior teams have performed outstandingly in the competition. Our junior team consisting of James Hand, Sidhesh Siva, Callum Barrett and Alex Browne came 2nd in the Credit Union Quiz and went on to represent Core Credit Union in the CUDA quiz in March. Our senior team consisting of Scott Sweetman, Jack Coone, Matthew Kearney and Conor Quinn came in 4th place in their category narrowly missing out on progressing to the next stage. Well done to all the boys!



Matthew Kearney represented the school in the **Eason's Spelling Bee** this year! We had some winners in the **Art Competition** run by St. Joseph's Shankill and sponsored by Explorium and Lidl. Well done to Oisín Coyne, Bobby Berkery and Paul McEnroe who received prizes in their categories! They also enjoyed an afternoon in Explorium for a presentation! Luke Wang was presented with a certificate for his contribution to the Texaco Art Competition! Congratulations to Liam Treacy who was awarded a prize for his beautiful handwriting in the **INTO Handwriting Competition!**

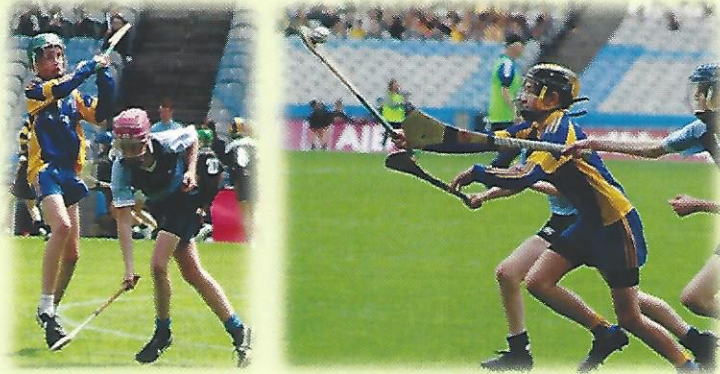
School Sports

Eleven 6th class boys attended the second running of the **Athletics for Primary Schools Indoor Event**. The day was a great success with medals won in shot put, long jump, sprints and relays. St Brigid's narrowly missed out on the team title with the winning school finishing one point ahead after all seven events.

Boys from 4th, 5th and 6th class took part in a cross country run in **St. Enda's Park** in Rathfarnham. With over 50 boys running from St. Brigid's it was a fantastic day for all! In May, all classes from 3rd to 6th participated in a **Daily Mile Run** organised by the Dún Laoghaire Sports Partnership in Marley Park. This initiative aimed to promote physical activity in a fun, non-competitive environment. The boys had a great day out.

Boys from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th represented St Brigid's admirably in **Santry** this year. Medals were won in hurdles, shot put, long jump and relays. Over 30 boys participated over two days. Many thanks to Ms. McAdam and Mr. Coleman for their dedicated work with the schools' cross country and athletics teams.

It was a great year for **hurling** in St. Brigid's this year thanks to Mr. Sheanon, Mr. Ó hÓgáin, Mr. Melia and Ms. Grogan. The Junior Hurling team, consisting of boys from 4th and 5th class, competed admirably in all five of their games, winning two and narrowly losing out in three games. There were also lots of enthusiastic hurlers from third class who joined the training sessions on Fridays.



Our Senior Hurling team of 5th and 6th class boys were very successful in their campaign and reached the Cumann na mBunscol finals in Croke Park again this year. They engaged in an exciting and fast paced game against St. Michael's and displayed excellent team work and skill. The result didn't go our way but it did nothing to dampen the spirits of the team and supporters who were very proud to play in Croke Park. The future is bright for St. Brigid's hurling!

On Thursday 30th May, St. Brigid's entered two teams in an inaugural 7-a-side 6th Class **Gaelic Football** tournament in Cuala, organised by Mr. Sheanon. 160 boys from 12 schools competed in the one-day event, in Dalkey. Congratulations to our boys who participated in the tournament and won the Division 2 final against Harold Glasthule.

The **St. Brigid's soccer team** had a good year, narrowly missing the chance to advance in Division 1C with many spirited displays. With many 5th class boys involved, they will be looking to improve and advance further next year. Many thanks to Mr. Devine, Mr Coleman and Mr Melia for all their help with the soccer team this year.

In May four boys from 6th class represented St Brigid's in a **golf tournament** after some coaching from Ms. Somers and Ms. Fay! James, Charlie, Patrick and Matthew had a wonderful day at The Castle Golf Club in Rathfarnham. They all played some super golf and then had lunch with the captain and lady captain. Well done boys!



Religious Celebrations

Catholic Schools Week took place in early February. This year the boys became very involved in the various activities. A school Mass was held on the 1st of February to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. This was a lovely occasion with boys from all classes taking part.

We celebrated Grandparent's Day as part of Catholic School's Week again this year. It was a fantastic day for all involved with Grandparents of our Junior Infant boys travelling from near and far to visit us. This has proved to be a very popular event among grandparents, pupils, parents and teachers alike! Many thanks to our Junior Infant team for hosting this event, to all our parent volunteers, and of course to the Grandparents for taking the time to come and visit us!



A big congratulations to the boys in 2nd and 6th class who celebrated sacraments this year. Many thanks to the boys and their teachers, Ms. Buckley, Ms. Sheehy, Ms. Cadogan and Mr. Duignan for all their hard work in preparing for these wonderful occasions. Both days were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Voluntary Contributions

Sincere thanks to all families for the wonderful support we have received this year in the form of Voluntary Contributions. This contribution funds many of the activities and resources we can provide to the boys in the school. A new collection will be opened in September for the 2019/2020 school year.

Uniforms

Our new school tracksuit top will be available in all sizes in August 2019. Some of our current Junior Infants have been modelling the new one for the past few weeks and they look very smart! Boys may still wear the current tracksuit top for the 2019-2020 year and very limited stock of this top will be available in the school at a reduced price. Uniforms will be on sale in the school for 1-2 days prior to school reopening. These dates will be emailed to you in August.

Parent Volunteers

I would like to thank our team of parent volunteers who have been on call throughout the year to offer lifts, assist on school trips, tours, swimming, sacramental preparation and much more! We welcome parental involvement in the school and are very grateful to all parents who have completed the Garda Vetting process through the school. We encourage all parents to complete the process, even if you can only assist once in the school year. It is a great help to us and prevents the same parents from always being called upon. Forms are available in the office.

Looking ahead to 2019 2020 School Year

School reopens on Thursday 29th August for Senior Infants to 6th class. Our new Junior Infants will start school on Friday 30th August. We look forward to welcoming them to St. Brigid's.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break. We hope the boys and staff enjoy a well-deserved rest after all their hard work this year. Looking forward to seeing you all at the end of August and best wishes to our 6th class boys as