

ST PATRICK'S SNS NEWLETTER



As always, the halls of St Patrick's have been a hive of activity since we came back in August, with lots of going on to keep us all busy. We've been learning some new Lámh words every week to help the children to develop new skills and to help the school become a more inclusive and diverse place for all our students and staff. We have already had some beautiful whole school and class assemblies to showcase the talents of all the children in our community, with many more to come. Last year was a very successful year for the different school sports teams, and it is great to see those teams gettingt back out training for this years championships (even if the weather has been unkind at times), we wish them all the success again this year. The introduction of a new set of Chromebooks, as well as efforts to improve WiFi connectivity, have helped to further develop the digital technology that is available to make learning even more enjoyable.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A message from Mr McGinty

It's hard to believe we're already at the midterm break in Term 2! Just a few quick updates and reminders for the rest of the year ahead!

- The Aladdin Calendar is updated regularly with events happening. It's already populated until the end of the year for events such as Active Week, School Tours, standardised testing but keep an eye on it for school matches and sporting events as they get scheduled in Term 2 and Term 3.
- Thank you to our Parents' Association for all the support and help they are giving throughout the year. In particular for organising our annual Quiz Night this term in aid of PE and IT resources for students!
- Thank you to Nora Finnegan and Skerries Library! We have a new timetable drawn up and classes will be able to regularly call into our fantastic new library in Skerries to encourage literacy skills and use of the library as students get older.
- On literacy - a reminder that all classes cover class novels over the course of the year. Some novels are 'set novels' that all classes are covering at that level and some are variable and are different between levels. 3rds and 4ths have 1 'set' novel for this year and 5ths and 6ths have two 'set' novels for this year.
- We're looking forward to the Grandparents of 4th class students visiting us on Thursday! Always a great event each year and well done to our 4th class students for all the work that has gone into projects and the event on the day.
- Our Choir once again excelled and showed off their skills at the Laudette Festival in January, well done to the choir and Ms. Kelly.
- Our school went through a Whole School Evaluation in November. Once the report has been published it will be sent onto parents. Having seen the report already, it is a fantastic report and well done to students, staff, our Parents' Association and Board of Management, all of whom contributed to the fantastic report.
- A reminder that most of our school policies can be accessed via the school website (particularly the ones pertaining to parents) and that enrolment for new students can also be accessed via our school website.

Hopefully we get better weather for the rest of Term 2 as Fingal Leagues, Cuman na mBunscoil, Race meet ups and outdoor trips begin in Term 2!

Thank you,

Kind Regards,

Oisín McGinty



Wellness Wednesday



We're excited to introduce Wellness Wednesdays, a new initiative designed to support student well-being and promote balance both at school and at home.

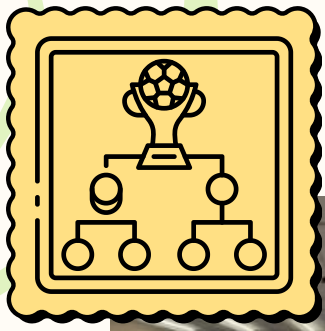
On the first Wednesday of every month, students will not be assigned any written homework. Instead, they'll be encouraged to take part in a wellness activity of their choice. Students may select an activity from a provided choice board or create one of their own that supports their physical, emotional, or mental well-being.

Wellness Wednesdays are about slowing down, reflecting, and building healthy habits. Activities might include spending time outdoors, practicing mindfulness, engaging in creative projects, helping at home, or simply taking time to rest and recharge.

We also encourage our staff to join in by choosing a wellness activity to enjoy during the school day, helping to model the importance of self-care for our students. Many classes will take time during Morning Meetings to reflect and share their experiences following Wellness Wednesday.

We look forward to seeing how this initiative supports our school community and helps foster a positive, healthy learning environment for everyone.





5th Class Lunchtime League



The 5th class lunchtime leagues were drawn to a close with two epic finals before the Christmas break. The girls league saw Team 6 (St Patrick's Athletic) victorious in a nail biting finish while, Team 1 (Cork City) won it, in the boys league.

The standard of football on display was excellent and the sportsmanship seen throughout the games was of a very high standard.

The finals were followed by a medal presentation, in which Dundalk Town's Harry Groome presented winners with their medals and individual awards. Harry comes off the back of a fantastic season which saw him win the First Division and win a Men's Division One Players' Team of the Season Award. 5th and 6th class children were given a chance to see some of Harry's medals and even lift the First Division trophy. We would like to say a big thank you to Harry and we wish him the best of luck this season.

Mr Doran would like to thank all the players and in particular the officials who did a fantastic job throughout the league. The 6th class leagues are now up and running. We can wait to see who will come out on top.



Chess Club

by Una Canavan
Ms. Keane's 6th Class

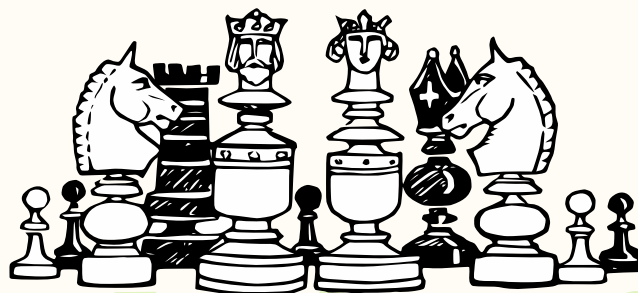


I go to Chess Club in my school and I did it for 7 weeks in Term 1 before Christmas. It takes place after school on a Monday and it is really fun.

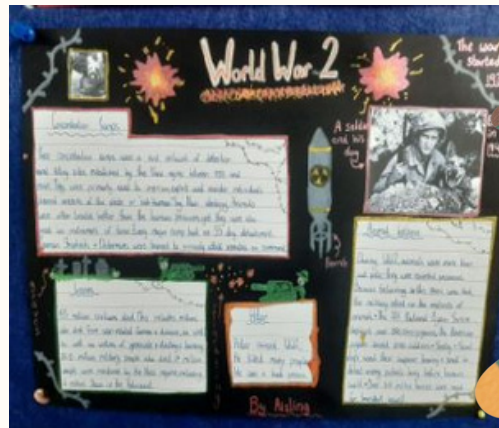
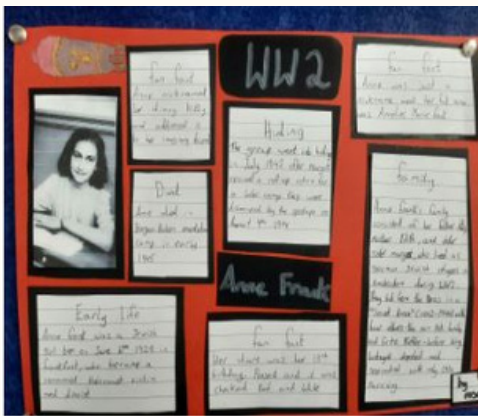
In Ms. Tuite's classroom we play physical chess with real boards and pieces, and in Ms. Keane's classroom we play chess on the Chromebooks. Usually, 4th, 5th and 6th class students play chess in Ms. Tuite's room first and I'm in 6th class so that's the classroom I go to first. At the same time the 3rd class students play chess on the Chromebooks in Ms. Keane's class.

Halfway through the Chess Club hour the classes would swap so that the 4th, 5th and 6th class students are on Chromebooks and the 3rd class students play chess on the chess boards.

The Chess Club takes place between 2:30-3:30. I've already learned lots of new moves and how to think ahead. Chess club is really good because it helps my brain and I like playing with my friends. I really enjoy Chess Club.

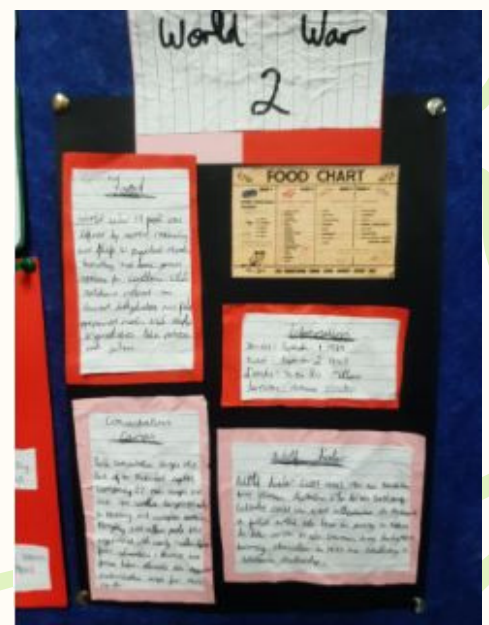


WW2 - Ms Beggs' 6th Class



In Ms Beggs' class, we have been learning about World War II over the last few weeks. We read 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne. This helped us understand what life was like during the war through the eyes of two boys, one German and one Jewish. We also used our Chromebooks to research and create our own projects. Everyone picked a different topic, such as Hitler, Anne Frank, concentration camps or even the role of animals during the war.

We also made artwork inspired by the Blitz and created our own World War II propaganda posters. We learned lots of



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - Ms Keane's 6th Class

Hello, I'm Alex from Ms. Keane's 6th Class in St. Patricks SNS.

What I am writing about:

In our class for the past 2-3 weeks we have been reading the book "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" as a class. It is a very good book and I recommend it to future 6th class students or maybe even 5th class.

Ms. Keane {My teacher} thought of the wonderful idea to do Diaries on The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas as Bruno. In these so called diaries, we [Our class] are acting in the first person as Bruno. He is the main character in the story. The first person means we use the words "I, me and my, etc., etc."

This is the book.

Its author is John Boyne.

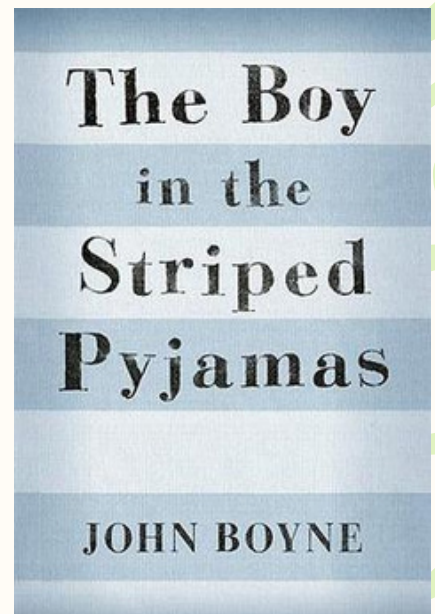
The book was written in only 2 and a half days.

The idea for the book came to

John Tuesday April 27th then he wrote non stop till Friday at 12:00 o'clock sharp!

- The movie came out in 2008
- It was directed by Mark Herman
- The movie was based on John Boyne's novel in 2006
- It was filmed in Hungary with a budget of 12.5 million euros

I hope you enjoyed my report on our class reading in 6th class.



Project: The Brazilian Giant Otter

by Sara O'Kane
Mr Doran's Class

Basic facts:

Common name: Giant Otter.

Scientific name: Pternura brasiliensis.

Type: Mammals.

Size: Up to six feet.

Weight: 75 Pounds.



How fast can giant sea otters swim?

Giant sea otters are incredibly fast swimmers, reaching top speeds up of around 8.7 to 9 miles per hour (14 to 14.4 kph), using their powerful, rudder- like tails and webbed feet for propulsion.

What do giant sea otters eat?

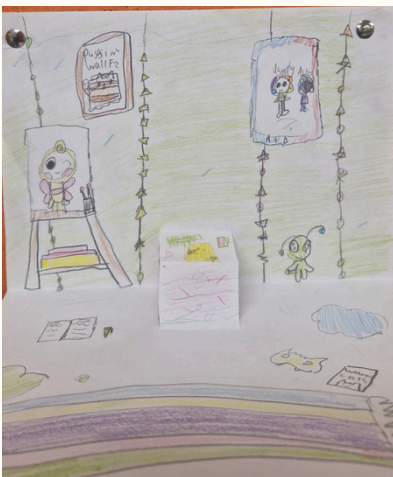
Giant otters are carnivores that primarily eat fish, like catfish and perch, but their diet also includes crustaceans (crabs, prawns), snakes, frogs and even small caimans.



Vincent Van Gough - Ms Osborne's Class



We have been learning about Vincent Van Gough, We read about his early life and his work. We took a close look at the artist's paintings and spoke about what made each one special. Then, we all shared our favorite pieces with the class and explained what we liked most about them. The children recreated their own 'Starry Night' using oil pastels or paints. We also created a diorama of our dream bedroom, inspired by ' Bedroom at Arles'.



Space - Ms Mackey's 5th class



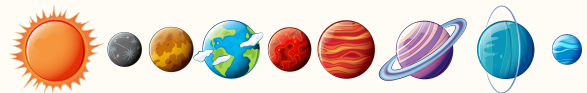
This month we have been learning about space! The space race was about a race between the USA (America) and the USSR (Russia). The USA won by getting men on the moon first. The men on the moon were Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Michael Collins was there too but never actually got on the moon.



We have also been doing astronaut art. It is fun, creative and interesting. We drew a picture of an astronaut falling through space. It kind of has the optical illusion look to it.

[funfact!]

It takes 28 days for the moon to go round the earth! These are our planet models showing how the earth rotates and orbits the sun while the moon goes around the earth. Our models show the movement!



By Rachel and Elise,
thank you for reading!



Chess in 5th Class

By Anabelle Warnock, Ms. Montcalm's class

What we have done in chess!

Every second week a man called Paul comes in and teaches us all about chess. We have learned lots from the first day.

What we have learned!

We have learned a lot about chess pieces. Paul is very good at teaching us. Some of us knew about chess and some of us didn't know anything about chess. We also learned about what way the chess pieces moved. I think everybody has at least an idea about chess, the way the pieces move and what the pieces are called.



Our tournament!

We have a tournament going on in our class. Every Tuesday we play chess. We have a leaderboard. It says who you have to play against. Once you set the table up you play. Whoever wins gets one point if you tie you get half of a point and finally if you lose you sadly don't get a point. At the end of the



tournament whoever has the most points wins. We have been doing the tournament for around 6 weeks. If you finish and there are still people playing their match you really quietly play a friendly match. Everyone

really enjoys having Paul and has learnt a lot about chess from him. We only have Paul every second week and the other weeks our teacher fills in for Paul. We have learned so much. Half of us started not having a clue and half of us knew a lot about chess and had played it before. We play a different person every Tuesday. Our school has a big box of chess mats and the pieces.



How we decide who everyone plays!

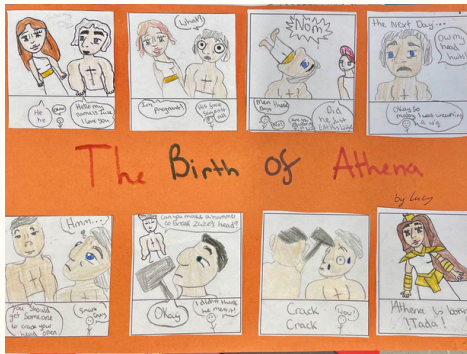
We decide by how many points everyone has. If somebody has 2 and somebody else also has 2 then you play each other. If you don't have the same points as anyone you go with whoever is closest to you. Once somebody wins you can't touch the board and Paul or our teacher makes sure it's accurate. Once it gets checked your points get updated. Before we play our game Paul or our teacher talks to us and makes sure we can remember everything before starting the game. Things like what way the pieces move, what the pieces are called and what way you set the board up.



Greek Mythology

By Shay Ahern, Ms. Montcalm's class

This term my class has been learning a about Greek mythology. My personal favourite part about Greek mythology was the comics we were doing. I did mine about Ares the god of war. The story was about the Trojan war, I had a lot of fun doing mine. We got to draw pictures step by step showing the way our story went.

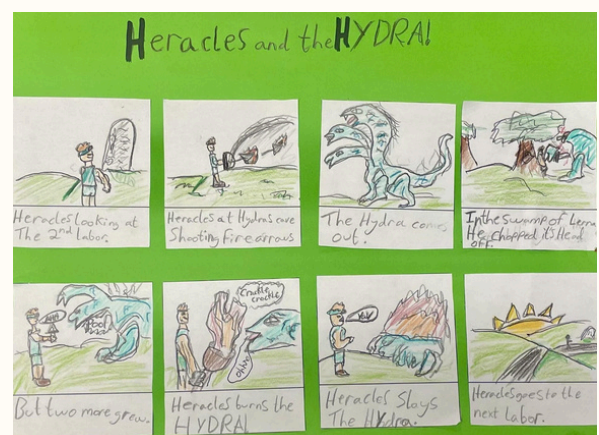


Next up we did Percy Jackson. It is a story about a boy whose father was secretly Poseidon. He was set out on a journey to find Zeus's lightning bolt that Zeus accused Poseidon of stealing. At one point he figured out that Hades had stolen the lightning bolt. So that's what his journey is about,

taking the lightning bolt from Hades and giving it back to Zeus so there wouldn't be war between the gods. In our most recent part, Percy chopped off Medusa's head and sent it to Mt.Olympus. After that Percy, Annabeth and his friend Satyr Grover went to camp in a forest. That is the part I am at right now. Percy Jackson is a very interesting and exciting story.

I recommend reading it.

Those are some of my favorite parts about Greek mythology that we have learned. This is a very fun and interesting subject, and I recommend researching/learning about it.

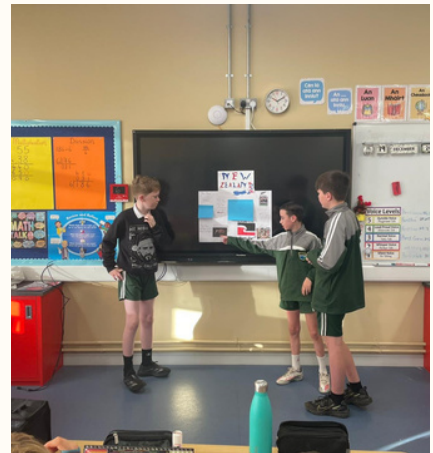
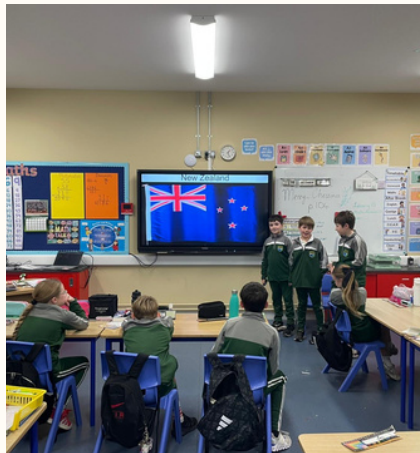


Our class - Ms Flannery's 4th class

In term1, we had our own Chess League in which we all displayed the skills we had learned over 6 weeks of chess coaching



We learned a lot about New Zealand and presented group projects we did to the class. Some groups chose poster-styles projects while others collaborated on digital presentations.



We are really enjoying developing our GAA skills in hurling this term each Friday. It's so much fun!

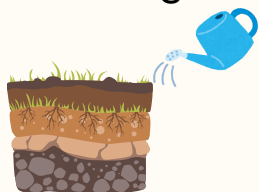


Ms MacKenna/Ms Colgan's 4th class



It's been a busy 5 and a bit months in rang a ceathair! Here are some snippets of what we've been up to.

We carried out a science experiment to look at how water moves through different soil samples which we gathered from around the school grounds.



We did a deep dive into An Gorta Mór. We took inspiration from the picture book 'The Story of The Great Irish Famine' by David Rooney and created our own charcoal drawings.

Ms MacKenna/Ms Colgan's 4th class

In December we made some clay Christmas decorations and painted them. We brought them home to hang on our Christmas trees.



We did a unit of work on New Zealand and even had a New Zealander in to answer all our questions - a big thanks to Ruby's dad for coming into the class and answering questions about the Maori, rugby, ice cream, sheep and lots more!

