

TERM 1: SPORTS

Volleyball: Volleyball has been a huge hit in the senior yard this year. Some students from Ms. Flaherty's 6th Class have been teaching Mrs. Leneghan's 4th Class the fundamentals of the game, gearing up for the upcoming competition in February.

GAA: GAA has had an excellent start this year. Ms. O'Reilly, Mr. Watson and Mr. Flood held after-school training sessions for 4th to 6th Class. Brierhill performed well in the mini-7s competition, and the hurling team made it to finals day. The camogie team also did exceptionally well, with many 4th Class students rising to the challenge. John Cooney from the Castlegar Development Team has been taking the junior classes for hurling/ camogie every Monday.

Athletics: This term, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Classes participated in a cross-country athletics competition. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event, with some even securing 1st and 2nd place finishes, advancing to the finals! 5th and 6th Class students ran 1200 meters, while 3rd and 4th Class students ran 800 meters - a fantastic achievement.

Swimming: 5th and 6th Class had swimming lessons in Leisureland, Salthill. This provided a valuable opportunity for the students to develop their swimming skills, which are essential for safety and well-being. The children really enjoyed the lessons, and swimming will continue next term for other classes.

Soccer: 6th Class participated in a soccer tournament organized by GTI. The girls' team won their final, bringing home silverware, while the boys' team finished as runners-up.

Tag Rugby: This year, we held a tag rugby tournament at Galwegians RFC. We had two training sessions with a coach from the Connacht Rugby Development Team, who taught us the basics of the game to prepare for the tournament. All 5th and 6th Class students took part in the training, though trying out for the tournament was optional. Three teams participated, and everyone had a fantastic time.

By: Paddy, Ella, and Oisín



GET TO KNOW: MR. CROWE, 5th CLASS TEACHER

Why did you apply for this job in Brierhill NS?

I wanted a job in Galway and I heard great things about Brierhill NS.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I had really good teachers when I was younger and I wanted to be just like them.

Have you taught any other schools before Brierhill NS?

A school in Dublin for 18 years and a school in Offaly last year, which equals 20 years of teaching.

Where are you from?

The outskirts of Mountbellew.

What's your favourite book/film/show?

My favourite book and film is *The Lord of The Rings* and my favourite show is *The Sopranos*.

By Aodhán and Norbert

HOW TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS IN 8 OTHER LANGUAGES!

Romanian - Crăciun Fericit!	Swedish - God Jul!
Polish - Wesolych Świąt!	Lithuanian- Linksmų Kalėdų
Irish - Nollaig Shona!	Spanish- Feliz Navidad
Hindi- शुभ बड़ा दिन (śubh barā din)	Slovak- Veselé Vianoce

IRISH ROWER: KATIE O' BRIEN

Katie represents Ireland in the PR2 W1x category and the PR2 Mix2x. She started rowing with Galway Rowing Club with the aim of reaching the Paralympics. She previously rowed for UCD Rowing Club while studying Veterinary Medicine there.

What's your favourite things about rowing?

I'm really good at it! I like the peace and tranquillity on the water. I'm in my own zone.

What was your favourite race?

2022 World Championship. My whole family and my best friend came to see me race.

How do you handle nerves?

I just try to remember that I am ready to race. I look back over my training diary and my race plan and have a chat with my coach.



BOSTON SCIENTIFIC

30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMPETITION

Zara in 1st class, won the top prize of €5000 in Boston Scientific's 30-year anniversary competition. Zara's winning entry was included in an anniversary time capsule, which was launched at Boston Scientific on December 10th. We are incredibly proud of Zara. The prize money will be used to fund upgrades to our school yard.



SEANFHOCAL: Múineann gá seift- Necessity is the mother of invention

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the festive season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. Christmas is a time for reflection, gratitude, and connection, and I feel truly fortunate to be part of a school community that exemplifies these values every day.

This year has been filled with growth, achievements, and cherished moments, and none of this would be possible without your continued support. Your involvement, encouragement, and partnership play a vital role in shaping the success and well-being of our students. As you celebrate this holiday season, I hope you find time to create special memories with your loved ones, enjoy the beauty of the season, and recharge for the year ahead.

On behalf of our staff, I wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming your children back in the new term with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Warm regards,
Andrew O' Sullivan

PARENTS ASSOCIATION 24/25

The school would like to issue a huge 'Thank you' to our Parents' Association. We're incredibly lucky to have such dedicated and supportive parents on board. The PA has been busy fundraising over the past 12 months, raising just under €10,000. This money was earmarked to upgrade our three school yards. Over this term a school committee has been working hard to finalise a new plan for our yards, and have been trialling some new games and equipment. Our students will be surveyed after Christmas to get their thoughts on these changes. Once complete, work will start on upgrading the facilities early in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

This festive season, Brierhill NS has once again shown its incredible generosity by participating in the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, with a total of **102 boxes** being donated!

These beautifully packed shoe boxes, filled with toys, toiletries, and essentials, will be sent to children in **Burundi**—a country in need of compassion and support. Thanks to the kindness of our school community, these boxes will bring joy and smiles to many children this Christmas. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students, families, and staff who contributed to this wonderful cause. Your efforts have made a meaningful difference in the lives of children who will experience the joy of Christmas, thanks to your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. We are so proud of our school community's commitment to spreading Christmas cheer!

GOAL JERSEY DAY

We are delighted to share that Brierhill NS took part in the **Goal Jersey Day 2024** and raised an incredible €1,024 for this worthy cause! On 11th October, students and staff showed their support for Goal, an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to tackling poverty, by wearing their favourite jerseys. The day was filled with fun and team spirit as everyone came together to raise funds for those in need around the world.

The generous contributions from our school community will go a long way in supporting Goal's vital work in providing life-changing

REVIEW: THE LATE LATE TOYSHOW 2024

This year's Late Late Toy Show theme was *Home Alone*. The magical theme blasted off at Dublin Airport, where they realized they had forgotten Kevin! Spotlight Stage School opened the show with a magnificent dance number, and they were outstanding! Children from all over the country showcased some of this year's popular toys. Special guests included Irish singer Jazzy, Irish aeronautical engineer Dr. Norah Patten, Irish Olympians Sharlene Mawdsley and Phil Healy, and Irish rugby legend Johnny Sexton. A tribute was paid to Saoirse Ruane, a 12-year-old girl who passed away from cancer earlier this year. She stole the hearts of the nation back in 2020. As this year's spectacular show drew to a close, host Patrick Kielty announced that viewers had donated over €4 million, bringing the total raised by the fund in the last four years to over €25 million. Toy Show rating: 8/10.

By Ella and Jasmine

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

- **Parents Association School Disco:**
- **17th December**
- **Christmas holidays:**
- **20th December**
- **School re-opens:**
- **6th January 2025**
- **School closed:**
- **27th January**

JULIET

Best of luck to Juliet Cresham- SNA, as she embarks on an exciting new chapter of her career. Juliet's contributions to Brierhill NS have been invaluable, and her dedication, hard work, and positive attitude have made a lasting impact on both the students and her colleagues. Juliet will be greatly missed, but we know she'll continue to inspire and do amazing things in her new role.

JUNIOR NEWS

Junior Infants- Ms. O' Reilly: For the month of November, JI learned all about the farm/farmer's market. For play time, they set up a farmers market, made some farm jigsaw puzzles, played with the small world farm set, cut and stick farm activities and built some farms using blocks and Lego. They made smoothies using loads of healthy fruit. They had an ice-cream party as a reward for collecting 2000 Dojo points. They are looking forward to the theme of Christmas/Post Office for December. They will be busy working as elves, wrapping and making presents!

Senior Infants: SI had a very busy month in November, learning all about "The Café". They set up a Café in their classroom and had great fun taking reservations, taking orders, serving food and they even had an ice-cream parlour in the Café!

They began the month of November learning about procedural writing. They made funny biscuit faces and practised this new genre of writing by writing step by step instructions on how they made these biscuits. They were delicious! They learned all about the Inuit people and how they survive in a cold climate. They studied penguins and they even did an experiment to see how their blubber keeps them warm. Their new theme for December is "The Post Office" and "Christmas", and are waiting patiently for their Elf to arrive.

1st Class: 1st Class have been learning about the different types of homes that people can live in. They have been comparing old homes and more modern homes. Some pupils have asked their grandparents about the types of homes they grew up in and shared this information with the class. They have been taking part in a Zoom 'Come Farm With Me' series learning about how broccoli is grown and how some types of farms operate. We are very proud of all our hard work this term.

2nd Class- Ms. Maloney: 2nd Class were lucky enough to get to go to the Baboró International Arts Festival for Children. They went to see a show called Grown-ups in the Blackbox Theatre. They loved it! They enjoyed taking part in Maths Week back in October. They played even more maths games than usual that week and they went on a Maths Trail with 6th Class. They have loved creating some beautiful pieces of art in term one. In more recent news, much to Ms. Maloney's despair, two elves arrived from The North Pole. Their names are Taylor and Candy Cane. They arrived in two hot air balloons and delivered a message from Santa. The message said we are not going to get written homework for the rest of 2024!

By Aimee and Molly

SENIOR NEWS

3rd Class- Ms. O'Donovan: 3rd Class welcomed Irish storyteller Niall De Búrca for a special visit. Niall, a renowned storyteller from Galway, captivated the students with his enchanting tales. Inspired by his stories, the students are now eager to create their own imaginative narratives.

4th Class- Ms. Leneghan: 4th Class participated in the Concern Debate. They made it through two rounds, both times beating 6th class teams from other schools in Galway. An amazing achievement. The next round will take place after Christmas. Best of luck!

5th Class- Ms. Hayes and Mr. Crowe: 5th Class participated in the Happy Maths Program by TU Dublin School of Computer Science for 6 consecutive weeks. The aim of the program is to reduce anxiety around maths through digital game based learning.

6th Class- Mr. Watson: As part of the Baboró International Arts Festival, 6th Class went to the Black Box Theatre and enjoyed a show called The Pale Baron which explored themes of climate change and immigration.

6th Class- Ms. Flaherty: Ms. Flaherty's class has launched the Yard Buddy Program. Yard Buddies can be easily recognized by their bright high-visibility jackets and lanyards. Their role is to assist in resolving disputes and addressing issues among students. This term, Ms. Flaherty's 6th Class have dedicated a lot of time, energy and creativity to producing the December edition of the *Brierhill Buzz*. They've spent the past few weeks collaborating, writing, editing and having a great time working together.

By Jean and Fiona

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: INDIA

India is a country that occupies the greatest part of South Asia. It is made up of 28 states and eight union territories and it's national capital is New Delhi. It's government is a constitutional republic that represents a highly diverse population consisting of thousands of ethnic groups, religions and languages. India became the worlds most populous country in 2023, according to estimates by the United Nations. Hindi is the most widely spoken language in India. Narendra Modi is the current Prime Minister of India.

CHRISTMAS IN INDIA

In regions like Goa, Christmas is marked by vibrant celebrations, including church processions, dances, and carolling. Many people engage in charity, visiting orphanages and hospitals to give gifts. Cities like Mumbai and Delhi also see festive events, decorations, and shopping offers. Despite being a minority religion, Christmas is widely recognized in India, with a blend of religious and secular celebrations enjoyed by people from all backgrounds.

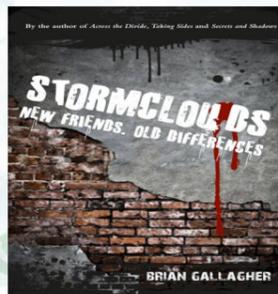
By Diya

BOOK REVIEW: STORM CLOUDS AUTHOR: BRIAN GALLAGHER

"Storm Clouds" is set in Ireland during The Troubles (1960s-1998), a time of violent conflict, mainly between Protestant loyalists, who wanted Northern Ireland to stay part of the UK, and Catholic nationalists, who wanted to unite with the Republic of Ireland. The story revolves around four children: twins Dylan and Emma, and their friends Sammy and Maeve. Maeve, a Catholic, doesn't trust Sammy, a loyalist. The twins are American. Over time, Maeve and Sammy begin to trust each other after spending a lot of time together. The real question is: will they survive the war, or will tragedy strike?

I gave this book 8 out of 10 stars because I loved the plot and the twists. It lost 2 stars because the middle of the story could have been more eventful, but I thought the beginning and the ending were brilliant.

By Brano



THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

The Christmas cracker was invented by Tom Smith in 1847.

Originally called "Cosaques", they became popular when Smith added the "snap" and small gifts inside.

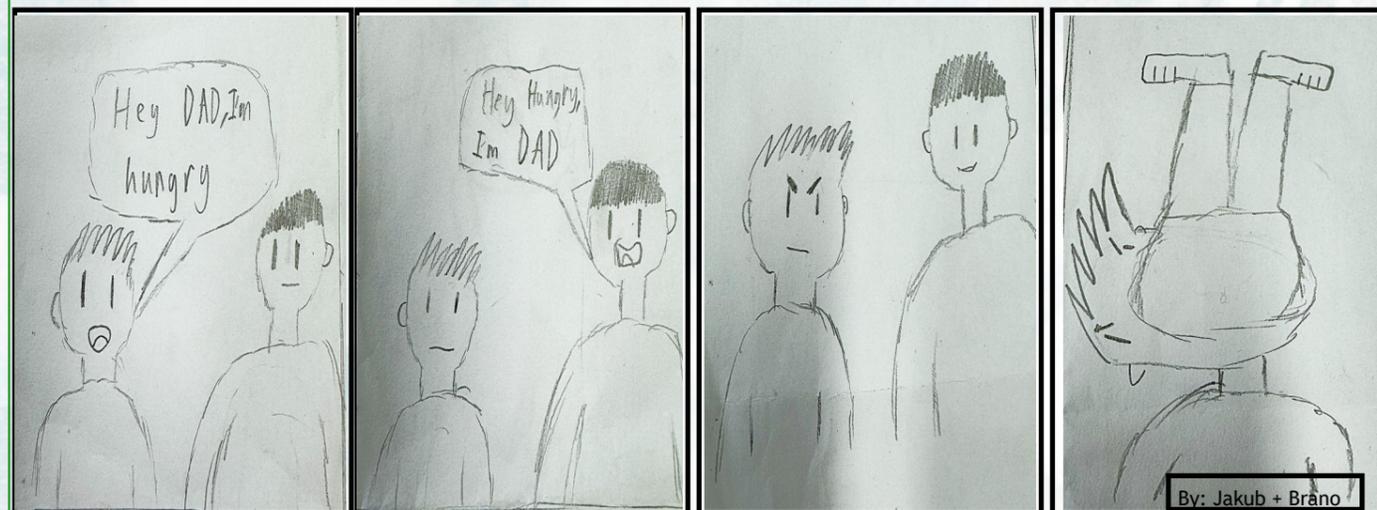


Over time, the crackers evolved into the festive, decorative items we know today.

The Christmas cracker remains a symbol of fun and festivity, adding a touch of magic and humour to Christmas celebrations around the world.

By: Aron and Anish

THE COMIC CORNER



ALL ABOUT JAPAN

Around 80% of Japan's four main islands are mountainous. The highest population density is along the coast, where approximately 127 million people live. Tokyo, the capital, is the world's largest city with 37 million residents. Other major coastal cities include Kyoto (the former capital), Osaka, Sapporo, Nagoya, Yokohama, Kobe, and Hiroshima.

Up until about 150 years ago, highly trained warriors called samurai were a powerful part of the ruling class of Japan.

Japanese people love gadgets. From babysitting robots to electric neck warmers, many of the high tech items that we enjoy in our own homes are likely to have been developed by a Japanese company.

By Mark

CHRISTMAS EVE SNACK TRAY

You will need:

- One cereal box
- One cup
- Two small containers
- One bowl
- A roll of Sellotape
- Tinfoil
- Scissors
- A pen

Method:

1. First, outline the bowl on your cereal box.
2. Next, outline your cup on the cereal box.
3. Then, outline your two small containers.
4. Next, use your scissors to cut out the holes.
You may need adult to help!
5. Cover the box with tinfoil.
6. Next, make the holes through the tinfoil.
7. Next, add your cup and bowl.
8. Finally, add some snacks of your choice.
9. Enjoy your snack tray!

By: Luke



A LUMP OF COAL

By Neha

Christmas time is finally here
so now it's time for joy and cheer.
Santa Claus is coming soon,
he's gonna be watching me and you.

All my friends are writing their lists,
hoping they'll get lots of gifts.
I just hope I don't get coal,
'Cause mom said I've been really bold.

When I went downstairs on Christmas Day,
anger stirred inside me like a hurricane.
All I got was some dusty coal,
even when I tried to be as good as gold.

Next year I'll try and be much better,
I'll mention this heavily in my letter.
Kind and nice will be my goal,
so I don't end up with a lump of coal.

