

St Joseph's Primary School

Newsletter - May 2016



What's on!

May

- Mon 16th -Walk to School Week
Wed 18th -PTA Internet Safety Night for Parents 7pm
Fri 20th -9.30- 12.30 P7 Really Rubbish Orchestra
-P7 Olympic handball Mrs G 9.30-1.30 Leisureplex
Tues 24th -P4-7 May Mass
Wed 25th -Big School Clean up (Ulster Volunteers)
Thurs 26th -Big School Clean up (Ulster Volunteers)
Fri 27th -9.30- 12.30 P7 Really Rubbish Orchestra
Mon 30th -Exceptional Closure – school closed for pupils
Tues 31st -Dance Club finishes for Term 3

June

- Wed 1st -P7 Mr Slane – Financial Capability Workshop
-P5 Mrs Gartland–Linen Centre
Thurs 2nd -P5 Mrs Gartland–Linen Centre
-P5 Ms McAnerney Linen Centre
-P6 girls St Dominic's
Mon 6th -P3-P4 Minecraft Sessions (iPad)
Tues 7th -KS1 (P3&P4) Sports Day
Wed 8th -Foundation Stage (P1&P2) Sports Day
Thurs 9th -P7 Show – 'Beauty & the Beast'
Sat 11th -PTA summer Fun Day
Fri 17th -KS2 (P5-P7) Sports Day

All Sports Days are weather permitting!

Talent Competition

Back by popular demand!!

Our Pupil Council have organised a talent competition on 22nd June.

All money raised will go towards buying a new greenhouse.

More details to follow from the Pupil Council.

Parent's Questionnaire

As our Three Year School Development Plan comes to an end, we would ask you to complete the attached questionnaire and return before Monday 16th May. A box will remain in the foyer or they may be returned to the class teacher.

Children and staff will also complete the questionnaire.

Can anyone advise.....?

We would like to link up a camera and digital weather station from the science garden to the school computers. Would anyone know how to do this?

Please e-mail: nohare525@c2kni.net

School Grounds



Thank you so much to all our volunteers who helped with painting, gardening, power hosing, etc – you have helped us exceed our targets for our school grounds and helping our school look great.

On Saturday 7th May the Ulster Conservation Volunteers came to school working with parent volunteers making a bug hotel.

On 26th and 27th May we will continue our school groundwork. We will be clearing the area outside Primary One to make story circles and the area behind Cool Kids.

We are looking for 'white washers'. We hope to prepare the wall on the way to the canteen for a children's mural.

If anyone can help on these dates please turn-up.

Target

By 28th May we will:

- Have bug hotels, wild flower garden, bird houses and log piles in the Science Garden.
- Created an outdoor story area outside the mobiles for P1 and P2.
- Transformed our courtyard into a reading area for P1-P3 and a book club area for P6 and P7 pupils.

*Please bring your own tools.

*If any parent can provide a trailer that would be brilliant (dump run at the end of the day).

Primary One Induction Day

We welcome the new Primary One children on Tuesday 14th June. To facilitate this current Primary One children will finish at 11.30am.

Lost Property

Our yellow box has been emptied. Please check the box before items are put in our 'Cash for Clobber' box.



School Entrances

If you are accessing the school via the Queens Rd Entrance during the school day (8.55 - 4.30) please use the steps near the canteen (or ramp) and then TURN RIGHT, making your way to the office around the side of the building furthest from the carriageway and past the barrier in the staff car park.

The route most often used in the past (around past the P1 classrooms) takes visitors through a P1/2 outdoor play area and we would ask that this is avoided.

Eason Spelling Bee 2016

Congratulations to Leisha Johnston, P7, who was a runner-up in the Eason Spelling Bee 2016. Leisha won our in-house Spelling Bee in April and competed against over 20 finalists from other schools on 12th May in Templepatrick Primary School.

A fantastic achievement Leisha, Well Done!

Pottery Workshops

Wednesday 18th May is the last day this year for pottery workshops. They have been a fantastic learning experience for the children using clay to make 3D work.

Mobile Classrooms

We have had a number of instances recently of parents and grandparents dropping off lunches or picking up children early in P2 and entering the porch areas within the mobile classrooms when doing so.

These classrooms should be treated in the same way as the classrooms that are part of the main school building. If you need to leave something for a pupil in P2, or need to collect a pupil early - it is very important that this is

done through the office staff and NOT by going directly to the classroom.

Top of the lane entrance

Please remember that the Castle St entrance to the school grounds is a 'Staff Only' entrance and should not be used by parents at any stage during the school day.

Parking

Remember that parking on Castle St between the school entrance and the SERC is a 'Pay and Display' system. Traffic Wardens are often present in the mornings in particular and there is no guarantee of any leniency if you park without a ticket.

Staff are on Yard Duty on dry mornings so if you are dropping off a child between 8.45 - 8.55 then you can say goodbye at the top of the lane - this will develop independence in your child.

First Holy Communion:

Congratulations to our Primary 4 children who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 14th May in St Patrick's Church. A wonderful day was had by all.

The service was beautiful and the children were fantastic throughout.

Returning to the Parish Hall after Mass to celebrate together made the day even more special for the P4 children and their families. Thank you to all the PTA members and other parents who helped out in any way in the Parish Hall, both with the setting up on Friday night and serving the refreshments on Saturday after the service.

Some photographs of the day can be viewed on our website and the official photographs from the Tempest Photographer will be available soon.

PTA Update:

Small Change 4 A Big Difference Fortnight

Thanks to your support, the PTA raised a fantastic £451 during this fortnight.

The winning class was P2 Mrs Gould who collected £90.87 followed by Miss Clarke's P4 class with a total of £56.32

Mrs Gould's class are currently in discussions with the PTA to finalise their prize!!

PTA Quiz and Disco:

Thank you to all who attended or supported the PTA Quiz and Disco on Friday 6th May.

Everyone had a great night which was full of fun, music and dancing!

An amazing £500 profit was raised through ticket sales and the raffle on the night.

Buying a clue also proved to be very popular!!

Upcoming Events:

Summer Fun Day: Saturday 11th June

Further information to follow.

Once again we would like to thank all our parents for continuing to support the fundraising efforts of our PTA and investing in the future of your child's education.

'Wear Your Colours' Day

Our school is teaming up with Cumann na mbunscol, Antrim to raise funds for the NI Children's Hospice.

On Friday 27th May pupils can come to school dressed in their favourite colours (sporting or otherwise) and pay £1. All money raised will go towards The NI Children's Hospice.

Congratulations to Fionn Dobbin Irish Open Golf

Congratulations to Fionn Dobbin (P6) who recently entered and won a competition with the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open.

As a result Brian McIlroy (Rory McIlroy Foundation) and Des Smyth (Pro Golfer) brought the Irish Open Trophy to our school. P5-P7 pupils got to see the trophy and find out a little more about golf.

Fionn and his classmates also won a trip to the Irish Open Pro Am. They visited today (Wednesday 18th May) and we are sure they had a great time.

Healthy Lunches – Spot Checks

Congratulations to the children who were awarded a certificate and prizes for having a super healthy lunch. In April, Mrs Gartland and Mrs Trowlen carried out some spot checks in the canteen, so watch out as there are more to come!!! Well done to Nara Beggs (P2), Michael Radcliff (P2) Roisin Quinn (P3) Ruby Lavery (P2) Lucy McKibbon (P5) Jake Brady (P6) Amanpreet Kaur (P6) Dillon and Tabitha Shephard (P7) Orla Bunting (P7) Yasmin Taci (P4) and Sian Rooney (P6).

Healthy Breakfast

Continuing the efforts by Mrs Gartland, the children and the parents to promote healthy eating, the P4-P7 children enjoyed a healthy breakfast in their classrooms this month. It was just brilliant to see all the children participating and was great fun. There were some fantastic ideas such as smoothies, crackers and cheese and lots more ideas which the children were able to share. Check out the website for some photos!!



Hurling

Our boys hurling squad (which included Enya Daye (P6 girl) competed in the B section of the outdoor Hurling League on Thursday 14th April at St. John's GAC. Although they competed well against Bunscoil Sliebh Duibh, Oliver Plunkett and St. John the Baptist, the competition was just too challenging for our team at this stage. Well done to all the team which included P4-P7 children.

P6 Olympic Handball Finals

A huge congratulations to our P6 girls and boys Olympic Handball Teams who following three days of intense league games, (Oct – March) made it through to the Olympic Handball Final Day in the Leisure Plex on Friday 15th April. Both teams competed against 5 other teams from Antrim and Down District and successfully made it to the final. The girls played St.Comgalls, Sullivan Prep, Comber, St.Ita's and St. Joseph's Carryduff, winning all these matches and drew with St.Itas. They met Carryduff again in the final but unfortunately narrowly lost (3,2). We are immensely proud of their efforts. The good news is that they can play again next year in the P7 league, and some of the P6 girls will be chosen to play up in the P7 league this year in May.

The boys had a slightly tougher route to the final, they lost to Pond Park in the qualifiers (2,4), defeated Killinchy (6,2) drew against Carryduff, (0,0) defeated Sullivan Prep (4,1) and Glencraig (5,0). They again met Pond Park in the final but lost (0,3) in an intense final thriller. I am so very proud of all the children for their passion, commitment and effort. Next year they will compete again when some of the boys will be chosen to play up in the forthcoming P7 League. A huge thank you to Mr Law for coming along to help, to the parents who came to watch and to Mr Gallagher who came to support us also.

Girls Team: Enya Daye, Sian Rooney, Mia Law (P5), Hannah Gartland, Moya O'Kane, Kamile Ramanauskaite, Rihanna Lawlor, Katie Magee, Tyler Hillier and Shannon Johnston

Boys Team: Ruairi Gallagher, Oisín Casey, Conor Broderick, Conall Gorman, Anton Beattie, Fionn Dobbin, Oliver Nejmo, Lewis Hooke, Cailean McKenna and Kuba Dubowski.

Gaelic Games

Best of luck to Eoin Dixon & Lily Furey who are attending Gaelic Football trials on Wednesday afternoons during May. Both pupils are aiming to be selected for the Belfast Representative Teams due to compete against their Dublin counterparts in Dublin early in June

We are very proud of both pupils and we hope that they get a deserved place in the squads.

The Big Pedal

What a phenomenal success the BIG PEDAL challenge was. The weather was definitely on our side this year for a change and each day the cycle pods were full to the brim with bikes and scooters. Congratulations to all those who participated, hopefully you all enjoyed it. Mr Gallagher and I were delighted to meet so many of you in Wallace Park. I hope it will encourage you all to bike/scoot to school more regularly. Thanks to our friend Pamela from Sustrans who came in during the challenge and did workshops on puncture repair and carbon footprint with our P5 children.



The FANTASTIC news is that we have now achieved our SUSTRANS SILVER AWARD!!!

Don't forget, the annual WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK begins Monday 16th May.

NI Football Training

Well done to Ray Brady in P5 who recently took part in training as part of a Northern Ireland soccer development initiative. Ray was initially selected as one of three boys from the Lisburn and Castlereagh area to move on and join around 60 others from across Northern Ireland. Ray was unlucky to not be chosen as one of the final 12 representing Northern Ireland in the upcoming youth tournament in Holland but trained exceptionally well and was selected for the standby list. Well done Ray, from all here in the school community – truly a fantastic achievement!

Swimming Gala

Big congratulations to all our P5 - P7 swimmers who participated in the annual gala at the Leisureplex. Special congratulations to our medal winners. In the club category, Katie Griffiths and Eve Watson (both P5) finished 1st and 3rd respectively in the Girls 9 years Backstroke event and Katie went on to receive a bronze medal in the Girls Club freestyle event. In the afternoon session, we added to our success with Moya O'Kane and Rihanna Lawlor cleaning up in the Club category. Moya won gold in the girls P6 backstroke and breaststroke, whilst Rihanna collected gold in the P6 girls butterfly and front crawl events. Eoghan Oakes finished second overall in the boys P7 non club backstroke event. Our relay teams did brilliantly, the P6 front crawl relay team (Moya O'Kane, Rihanna Lawlor, Anton Beattie, Cormac Marshall) finished second overall, losing to the gold winners by a mere second whilst the mixed P6/P7 medley team (Rihanna Lawlor (back) Moya O'Kane (butterfly), Ruby McClelland (Breast) and Eoghan Oakes (front) managed to scoop third prize overall. Another very successful and enjoyable year, once again celebrating all that is good about St. Joseph's Primary School!!



Netball

Well done and congratulations to the netball team who represented the school brilliantly at the McCalls Netball Tournament at the Leisureplex in April. The team played four games winning three and drawing one. They then progressed on to the semifinals where they were unfortunate to lose in a closely contested match against the eventual overall winners, Pond Park. The girls demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and played with determination and enthusiasm, making their coaches and the school very proud!

Thank you also to the family members who supported on the day, this really spurred the team on.

***Childminder has vacancies
'Home from home care'***

Contact Cathy on:

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