



# St. Patrick's Newsletter



## Our Rickety Wheel

Many thanks to all who donated items for our Rickety Wheel (made by our very talented caretaker, David) and to all those who helped out in any way. It was a great success with over £4000 being raised on the night adding much needed funds to our school budget!! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Devlin, Mrs Mc Connellogue and Mrs Mc Sheffrey.



## Our School Choir

Children from our school choir represented our school brilliantly when they performed at Ardnashee School Christmas Show on Wednesday 12 December. Our school was so privileged to be asked to perform at such a special show.

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, our full school choir, primaries 5-7, performed beautifully at Saint Patrick's Church Christmas Carol Service. Many thanks to the parents for ensuring that each child was available to sing, and for presenting them so beautifully for such a special performance. Our final performance for 2018 will be at First Trust, Meadowbank on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019!

**Miss Cullen**

**(Music Coordinator)**



## Our School Council

Here at St. Patrick's we have a very active School Council. The School Council takes part in lots of activities including:

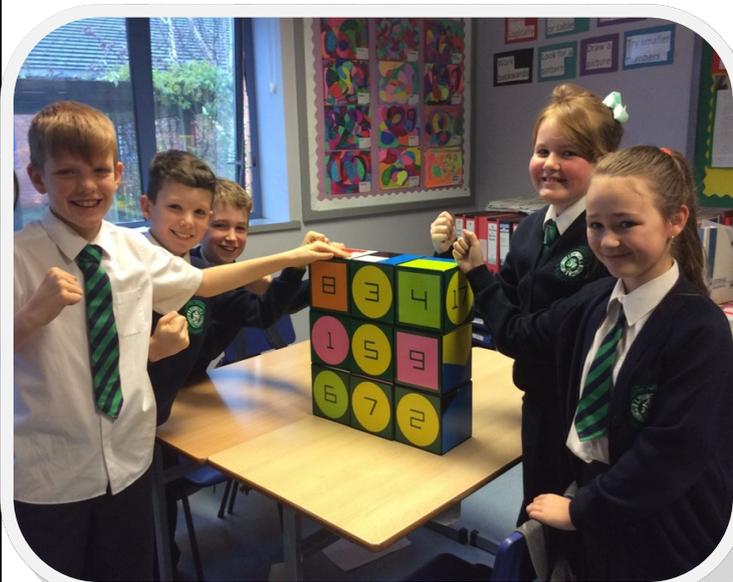
- Coming up with ideas to help improve the school and making decisions
- Listening to the views and concerns of other pupils
- Representing these concerns to the staff within the school council, Mrs. Mc Sheffrey, Mrs. Adlard and Mrs. C. Doherty

The children's manifestos were completed by the P6 and P7 candidates during class time. Lots of learning went on. We looked at famous speeches and examined the features of persuasive writing such as repetition, alliteration, statistics and opinion. The children included many of these features in their speeches. The children came up with lots of good ideas to try to persuade their class members to vote for them, including new football nets, slides for the play area and vegetarian options for the canteen. The elections for the new School Council members took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the small hall. To make it fair, there was a secret ballot which caused great excitement and anticipation. The ballots were collected and counted. Newly elected School Council members were announced in the midst of great excitement and Mr Devlin, Mrs Mc Connellogue and Mrs Mc Sheffrey presented the new Student Council members with their coveted badges. We wish all our new councillors good luck in their roles and we would like to thank our outgoing School Council Members for their contribution over the course of the year. Our P5 Children remaining on the Council for another term are: Aoife Quigley Room 20, Jacob Doherty Room 21, John McGinty Room 22 and Aaron Patton Room 24. Congratulations to all our new members.

<b>New School Council Members P.6</b>	<b>New School Council Members P.7</b>
Room 23 Hannah Daly	Room 29 Maebh McCallion
Room 25 Farrah O'Neill	Room 30 Niamh Casey
Room 26 Ruairi Tracey	Room 31 Faye Leonard
Room 27 Ronan Hagan	Room 32 Adam Doran
Room 28 Cara Allan	

## New Mathematics Initiatives in St Patrick's

We have introduced a new maths resource, called IZAK9, into the school for P5, P6 and P7 classes. Izak9 is an innovative Mathematics resource from Qubizm. The resource appeals to the engagement of pupils through active learning in groups. We have been selected to participate in the trial of this resource and have acquired two of these for our participation. Our Mathematics co-ordinator, Mrs Moore, has been uploading lessons which are relevant to our P.6 children, onto the Izak9 site. For example the P.6 teachers have been working on divisibility tests to assist with the learning of prime numbers and Mrs Moore has uploaded a lesson on this for use with Izak9. Other teachers have uploaded lessons also. Children in Mrs Moore's class in Primary 6 were the first to use the resource and they had an enjoyable and challenging afternoon working in teams to solve a maths problem.



## Athletics Success at St Patrick's

St Patrick's Athletics' Club took part in St Mary's Duathlon (run-cycle-run) on 29th November 2018. This was the third year of this fantastic event. St Mary's provided bikes, helmets and fantastic encouragement from the girls from their Triathlon Club. Our athletes were fabulous competitors, with many competing in their first ever duathlon. They were rewarded with a T-shirt, hot chocolate and a chocolate bar. Well done everyone.

St Patrick's cross country squad have had another successful year in the Primary School Cross Country League. Our girls' team finished fourth overall in the competition and the boys' team finished third. The boys' team have qualified for the Northern Ireland final in January. Our success has been due to the dedication to training twice weekly, as well as the talent and commitment of our young runners, both our fantastic P.7s and our new P.6 additions to the team in the form of lots of speedy boys and girls from P.6. Both teams conducted themselves so well throughout the league and were a credit to our school. Well done to all of them for their sportsmanship and utter determination. Fitness levels and skills have increased weekly as illustrated by performances from Adam Doran, Joseph Mc Geady, Emmet Morrison, Eireann Furey and Jude Nash. A special mention goes to the overall winner of the girls' race, Clara Casey, and our own speedy newcomer Katie Lee Mc Donagh, winner of the girls' fun run. Amy Downey also has shown great leadership in her role as captain.

Our boys' team, consisting of Cillian Duffy Mark Mc Geady, Joseph Mc Geady, Cal Tabb, Naomhan Doherty Fionn Mc Gilloway and Emmet Morrison, will be training hard for the big final in January. We wish them very good luck. Watch this space.

**Mrs K. Logue (Athletics)**



## Message from the Principal

Well here we are again! Christmas is upon us and it only seemed such a short time ago that we were welcoming the pupils back to school, after the summer vacation. This is such a special time of the year in school. Nativity plays and songs help to capture the magic of this very special time of year. We would like to wish all our staff (teaching and non-teaching), parents, children and parishioners a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. **Mr Deulin (Principal)**



## Art Success

Our pupils were busy during the month of October producing artwork for art competitions. As in previous years, our pupils entered the annual Credit Union Art Competition. This year's theme, 'The Force of Nature' encouraged pupils to "think green" by depicting their visions of the beauty in nature. The age categories for applying were 7 years & under, 8-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-17 years and 18 years & over.

We had lots of successful entries and the winners were announced at a special award ceremony held on Saturday 8th December at the Abbey Street branch. Our winners were:-

7years and Under	8-10 years
2nd Meghan Mc Laughlin P.4	2nd Luke Mc Grath P.4
2nd Zara Cheung P.4	3rd Caitlin Mc Caul P.7
3rd Jasmine Munroe P.4	3rd Aimee Kerr P.6



St Patrick's also received the overall prize of £100 for the most winning entries! Mr Devlin was in attendance at the ceremony and was proud to pick up this overall prize. What a talented bunch we have at St Patrick's!

## Foyle and District Road Safety Competition 2018

Our Primary five pupils entered the Foyle and District Road Safety Competition. Pupils were asked to base their entries on one of the following themes.

- The dangers of mobile phones in relation to road safety
- The importance of hi visibility for all road users
- The importance of wearing a seat belt
- Why pedestrians need to stop look and listen when crossing the road.

St Patrick's had two winning entries, Molly Condren Crossan and Anna Mc Laughlin, both from Miss P. Smith's class. The girls winning posters were displayed in Foyleside Shopping Centre during Road Safety Week in November. The two girls also had their artworks framed and received £10 vouchers at a presentation ceremony on 19th November. Well done girls. Mrs Mc Farland (Art Co-ordinator)



## Buddy System at St Patrick's

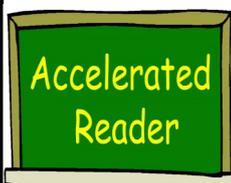
As usual, our P.7 Pupils teamed up with our P.3 pupils to write their letters to Santa. Our P.7 pupils enjoyed taking responsibility as 'buddies' in school, helping our younger pupils to construct their sentences and spell difficult words. They were so patient and kind to our younger pupils. This care for others and courtesy are qualities which are very much encouraged by the staff at St Patrick's and this was displayed by every pupil who helped out in P.3. Thank you boys and girls.



**The P.3 teachers.**

## Accelerated Reading

Well done to all the boys and girls who received prizes this week for Accelerated Reading. The race has been on to 'beat' others to the 'top spot' on the Accelerated Reading boards within classes. Cool 'star' highlighters and A.R. magnetic book marks were distributed by Mrs Mc Connell. These were donated to the school by Renaissance Place. We would encourage parents to instil in their children the importance of nightly reading, as it allows them to access the breadth of the curriculum as well as improve their communication and language skills. Keep reading over Christmas. The child with the highest word count in each class after Christmas will receive really cool High Visibility items including a snap band! **Mrs Mc Connell (A.R and Library Co-ordinator)**



## Christmas at St Patrick's, Pennyburn

As always, our P.1, P.2 and P.3 pupils have been very busy rehearsing and performing in starring roles in Nativity plays around the school. This is a very special time of the year with lots of very cute moments observed by very proud parents. We would like to thank our teachers for engaging the children so well in their learning about the Nativity in such a fun interactive way. Many thanks to all the teachers for their hard work in the preparation of the children. We would like to thank Fr Mc Caughey and the team of priests who heard confessions in our school in preparation for Advent.

