

Ballygar National School

Ballygar, Co. Galway,

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December, 2015

Issue: 2

A Message From Our School Principal!

We are now drawing close to the end of what was a very busy first term in Ballygar National School. On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you, the parents for your support during my first term as Principal of Ballygar N.S. and wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Two New Teachers

We are delighted to inform you that we have sanctioned 2 new teachers for the coming school year. An appeal was made to the Department of Education in September to sanction a fourth mainstream teacher with immediate effect. The school also made an appeal to have a language teacher sanctioned for this school year. We were informed in early November that both our appeals were successful. This means that your child is now in a class with a more favourable pupil-teacher ratio.

As a result of the above, there has been a number of changes to the teaching staff for this school year. Here is a quick summary of the staffing allocation to keep you all informed

Ms. Imelda King Infant teacher
Mrs. Siobhan Watson Deputy Principal and 1st/2nd class teacher
Ms. Niamh Watson 3rd/4th Class teacher
Ms. Claire Flaherty Principal and 5th/6th class teacher
Ms. Dympna Mannion Learning support
Ms. Helene Hanley Resource teacher
Mr. Stephen Crowe Language teacher



Welcome to Our New Caretaker/Maintenance Man.

The school made an application to Galway Rural Development (GRD) for a maintenance person/caretaker. Tom Kilcommins has been assigned to our school on a part-time basis by GRD to carry out maintenance work around the school grounds. We would like to welcome Tom to our staff.

National Science Week

All classes were very busy throughout science week this year (November 11th-18th).

A huge variety of experiments were undertaken by the boys and girls during the week. Our infant classes for example explored floating and sinking,



while our senior classes investigated chromatography- the process of separating coloured inks.

On Friday the 13th of November, in association with NUIG and Galway Science, Ms. Jane McLoughlin visited our school and conducted a number of science workshops with all children from 1st-6th class. The children took part in various scientific experiments including making gloop, magical marbles, floating balls, the lazy coin, making a hovercraft and designing a boat fit for passengers.

Everyone had great fun participating in Science Week and can't wait for next year!



Morning Supervision

It has come to our attention that a number of children are still arriving to school very early in the morning.

School begins at 9.20am. In the interests of your child's safety, we ask that he/she does **not arrive to school before 9.10am** as he/she is not supervised until this time.

Unfortunately, the school cannot accept responsibility for children who arrive before 9.10am.

Santa Claus

Santa Claus will visit all the classes in the school on Tuesday 22nd December. All of the children are looking forward to seeing him.



Carol Service

All classes have been very busy this year preparing for the Christmas season.



The children have been working hard learning Christmas carols for our annual Christmas Carol Service which will take place on Thursday 17th December at 7pm in St. Mary's Church. 6th class have been busy practicing their lines for their Nativity play which will be performed also on the night. All are welcome and we hope to see you all there.

Enterprise Town Exhibition

Bank of Ireland held an 'Enterprise Town' exhibition in the Mattie McDonagh Centre on Saturday 28th November. This was a community event which was aimed at raising awareness about local businesses, clubs and schools in the community. As part of this event, the Bank held a photograph competition in which children were asked to take a photograph based on the theme of 'My Community.' All entries were displayed in the Mattie McDonagh Centre. Well done to everyone who entered a photograph. The standard across all of the local schools who participated was very high. We were extremely proud on the day as we won all 3 categories. Well done to our winners

- Megan Gately- Category A (infants),
- Hayden Naughton - Category B (1st-3rd Class)
- Zuzanna Kubien - Category C (4th-6th Class.)

Christmas Shoebox Appeal



This term we have been promoting our annual Christmas Shoebox appeal. Over the years we have been hugely fortunate to have tremendous support from parents and students in promoting this hugely worthy cause. This year proved to be no exception as we had a huge donation of shoeboxes (66 in total) which were collected from our school for Team Hope Ireland. We know that these small gifts will make a massive difference in the lives of the children that are less fortunate than ourselves. We would like to say a big thank you to all the families that supported this undertaking.

P.E.

All classes will be going to the Mattie McDonagh Centre for their P.E. lessons after Christmas. Each class will have the use of the centre once a week between January and the end of the school year. We are very fortunate to have such a great facility in close proximity to our school. We ask that each child brings €1 each week for January and February to help cover the cost of renting the hall. The following is an outline of the PE timetable. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately with the necessary gear on their PE day

Junior and Senior infants- Thursdays

1st and 2nd class - Wednesday

3rd and 4th class- Wednesday

5th and 6th class -Thursday



Orphanage Presentation

Peter Daly visited 3rd-6th class on Friday 4th December. Last year the children had a non-uniform day in order to raise money to improve the facilities for the children attending the orphanage in Vorontsovo, Russia. Peter showed the children pictures of the projects which their generous donations went towards. He also spoke to them about life in the orphanage and the living conditions which these children were living in prior to the project.



Puppet Show

Our infants attended a variety show and enjoyed a great afternoon of entertainment in the Mattie McDonagh Centre on Wednesday 9th December. First of all they participated in a sing-a-long and they all got into the spirit and showed off their dance moves. This was followed by a magic show. Niall Dowd was chosen as the magicians assistant and helped the magician perform a number of tricks. Finally the children were entertained by characters Granny Annie, Boris and the Wizard in a puppet show.

Thank you to the Parents and Toddlers group who organised the show for the children.



Fire Safety

On Monday 14th December, Noel O' Brien visited our 3rd and 4th class to speak to the children about fire safety. During this workshop the children learnt about the different ways they can stay safe both at home and in the local community. Fire safety is an important topic especially during this festive season. This visit was organised as part of our expansive Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum which allows our students many opportunities to explore various ways of keeping themselves safe in various different circumstances.



Special Achievements

We would like to express our congratulations to a number of pupils on their fantastic achievements over the past few weeks.

- Congratulations to Seamus Langan, Brian Kelly, Cormac O Malley, James Connelly, Edward Kilheaney Michael Naughton who won the Connelly Cup last month.
- Well done to Alanna Healy and Ciara Mulrooney who were part of the team that were crowned winners of this years U-14 Championship.
- A special mention for our Young Entrepreneur Anthony Naughton who made and sold 35 Christmas Reindeer at the Enterprise Town's exhibition.



New Board of Management

A new Board of Management was appointed as of 1st December 2015.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing BOM for their hard work and dedication over the past four years.

We would also like to thank all those parents who participated in the recent election of the two parent nominees. A sincere thank you to all those who put their names forward for election.

The following are the new BOM members

Fr. Breslin - Patron's Nominee

Fr. Beirne- Patron's Nominee

Claire Flaherty- Principal

Siobhan Watson- Staff Nominee

Annaline O'Malley- Parent Nominee

Enda Holmes- Parent Nominee

Frank Muldoon- Community Nominee

John Carty- Community Nominee

School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will close on 22nd December at 12 noon for the Christmas Holidays and will reopen on Wednesday 6th January

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will be held on the first week in February. You will receive further correspondence from your child's teacher closer to the time.

All the staff of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this term. **We would like to wish all our students a safe and Happy Christmas and we hope for continued success in 2016.**

