



Nuachtlitir an tSamhraidh 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

As the summer holidays draw near it is appropriate that we reflect on the work of Scoil Barra Buachaillí during the past school year. The Board of Management is pleased that yet again the pupils and staff, guided by the Principal, Norma Ryan, have achieved the highest standards of outcomes in their work. The school continues to prioritise academic excellence, while also supporting those boys who need a little extra help in meeting the challenges of learning. It is always a pleasure to visit the school, to see the well-maintained buildings and grounds, to feel the atmosphere of work, and to hear the sounds of active learning in happy classrooms.

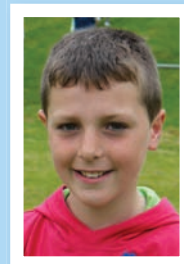


Our 6th Class boys are finishing their time in our school and as they move on to second level education they should hold their heads high, confident that they are well-equipped to excel in the challenges that lie ahead. We wish them all the very best and hope that they will continue to do themselves proud.

The boys of Scoil Barra are very lucky that their school places such a high value on participation in areas outside of the normal day-to-day schoolwork. Our school continues to punch above its weight across a range of sports and other activities – Sciath na Scol hurling and football, athletics, chess, table-tennis, quizzes, local history projects, music and the arts. I would like to acknowledge the time and work the teachers and staff put into these important areas, often volunteering their free time. That extra effort is also seen in the preparation of the boys every year for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, two of the highlights of the school year.

Parents are of course a key element in every child's education and the parents of our boys are second to none in their support of the school and its work. This commitment is more formally seen in the work of our Parents' Association, whose contribution to the school is much appreciated. As Chairperson I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Management for their ongoing support and their willingness to give of their time in supporting the school. I would also like to wish Pádraig Keating, Deputy Principal, all the very best in his retirement. He has spent all of his working life as a teacher here at Scoil Barra and he will be a hard act to follow.

Life has a way of throwing unexpected and painful challenges in our path. Our school community learned this recently when Darren Smith of 6th Class died on 8 June after a short illness. Like his classmates, Darren should have been enjoying his last weeks in Scoil Barra, looking forward to the graduation ceremony and the school holidays. But it was not to be.



The Board of Management sincerely sympathises with the Smith family in their devastating loss and also acknowledges the loss and sadness suffered by the pupils and staff in our school. Darren's classmates did his memory proud with their beautiful singing at his requiem mass and in forming a guard of honour outside the church.

This newsletter is dedicated to Darren's memory.

Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil

Chairperson, Board of Management

AWARDS GALORE!

During the 2013-2014 school year, the school excelled in several areas of endeavour, which are outlined below.

AWARD OF SCIENCE & MATHS EXCELLENCE

"We started off with creating volcanoes. But it could go boom. Then we tried to make lava lamps. Some failed. Some were good." (Ben White, second class).

In May, our school received news of our *Award of Science & Maths Excellence* for the 2013/14 academic year, sponsored by *Discover Primary Science and Maths Programme*. Comhghairdeas to the pupils of Ms. O'Sullivan's second class and Mr. Mac Sweeney's fourth class, who were primarily involved in the project. The assessment team were thrilled to see all the hard work done by teachers and students alike.



Well done to Mr. Aidan Buckley, Science Co-ordinator, for leading these initiatives.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Over the past two years our school has been working hard to achieve the internationally recognised title of "Green School". The starting point in the Green School process is the theme Litter and Waste. So, with the motto "Reduce Reuse Recycle" in mind, the boys of the Green School Committee, with the guidance of Mrs. Moore and Miss Hurley, held meetings to brainstorm solutions to the school's litter and waste problem. In true boardroom style, an Action Plan was drawn up. Pupils came up with some very practical and inventive solutions. These included: Litter Wardens, Spring Clean-ups, Package Free Lunch Days and a Christmas Craft Exhibition.



All the hard work paid off when An Taisce notified the School that it had been awarded Green School status for its efforts. On Friday June 30, the Green Flag was raised by local councillor Des Cahill with rapturous applause and cheer in the presence of our Principal, staff, pupils and parents.

Well done to all! We look forward to our future green endeavours!



AWARDS GALORE!

ALL IRELAND CREDIT UNIONS SCHOOLS QUIZ

Two teams were put forward to contest the early stages of the Irish League of Credit Unions Quiz. Our U-13 team, which was comprised of Tommy Connolly, Mícheál Giltinan, Patrick Hegarty and Calum Healy O'Connell performed very well in qualifying for the Cork Finals but narrowly missed out on the National Finals.

Our U-11 team represented Cork in the National Final. Our special correspondent from fourth class reports on the various stages of the competition, which culminated in the trip to the national final.

In January, four groups from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class all went to Blackrock Hurling Club. They were attending the first round of the All-Ireland Credit Union Quiz. My team was in the 3rd/4th category. Faolán Punch, Evan Keohane, Hugh Collins and I (David Cahill) won! For the second year running! For the second round we faced all of Cork. We went to the Rochestown Park Hotel and faced some tough questions. We came second and then we were going to the RDS. On April 6th 2014 we were going to face the toughest competition of our lives. We were the first team ever to represent St. Michaels in the finals, ever. But we were now representing Cork. In the RDS Marty Whelan was reading out all the questions. It was so much fun and we ended up coming joint fifth. (David Cahill)



Picture shows (l to r): David Cahill (Special Correspondent), Hugh Collins, Faolán Punch and Evan Keohane at the RDS, Dublin.

DISCOVER CORK LOCAL HISTORY PROJECTS

Pupils from Mr. Mac Sweeney's fourth class and Mr. Horgan's fifth class distinguished themselves in this highly competitive project, sponsored by local historian and independent councillor, Kieran McCarthy. Beaumont Boys School won the Best Overall School award as well as other prizes in the group project categories. Here's what some of the boys had to say about their experience:

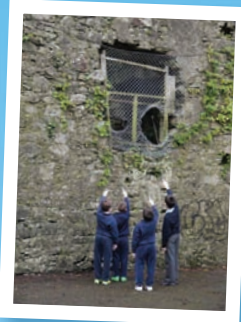


"We did the Cork Heritage Schools Project. It was very enjoyable. The projects were Dundanion Castle, Dundanion House, George Boole and Ballintemple, Beaumont House, the Quarry, Blackrock Castle and Temple Hill Graveyard. The Temple Hill Graveyard project got third place. We all worked very hard and the school got an award because

of our work and the work of 5th class. Some people made videos and some made 3-D models. Everyone's project was brilliant. We are hoping to show all of our projects in the Halla. We are also hoping to make it into a history trail. I hope you see the projects and learn new things."

(Eiméid Moore, fourth class)

"The class did a local history project. Cllr. Kieran McCarthy was in charge of the competition. Oran, Vaughan, Peter and Connor got 3rd place in the City of Cork. They went to Silversprings Hotel to get their prize. We also won best school project with 5th class called "Putting Beaumont on the Map". All the projects were mainly based in Blackrock and Ballintemple. The bronze prize went to the Temple Hill Graveyard project but there were also entries for Blackrock Castle, Dundanion House and Castle, the Quarry and Beaumont House. They were all great projects." (Connor Coakley, fourth class)



Quotes from fifth class sum up their particular experiences:

"It gave us a new insight into our locality." "It was very interesting learning how to research information." "We are proud of the effort we put in."

FEIS MAITIÚ

Several classes took part in this year's feis. Third class reclaimed the Theresa Harris Perpetual Cup for their performance of "Spells" by James Reeves and "If you come to our house" by John Cunliffe. Thanks to Irene Warren for all her direction and well done boys.

CÓR FHÉILE

Rang 3 and Rang 4 took part in Cór-Fhéile na Scol at Cork City Hall, in April. This year's performance was a rendition of excerpts from *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Joseph was performed by soloist Jake Allman with excellent back-up support provided by the boys in the roles of Joseph's brothers and Chorus. On a particularly warm evening, the customary ice-cream cones went down a treat!



Congratulations to the boys, their parents and teachers, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Mac Sweeney and Ms. Irene Warren (choreography).

CHESS

Thanks to Mr. Gannon's after-school classes, chess has gone from strength to strength in just a few years. At the Primary Schools All-Ireland Chess Championships held at the South Court Hotel in Limerick last week, Tommy Connolly won the Individual Runners-Up award while in the team awards, Eric Davsham, Gary Sesaldo, Tommy Connolly and Mario Antonilez came third.

PITCH & PUTT

A few weeks ago Beaumont Boys School played in a pitch and putt tournament in Bishopstown. The school entered 4 teams. I was lucky enough to be on a team with Ian, Charlie and James. I played the round with two of the boys from different schools. Our teams score was 185 and St. Columba's was 185 too so the last person's score on each team was counted and our team won by two shots. It was a great day with a great ending. (Jack Murphy, Sports Correspondent, second class)

OTHER EVENTS

Many of our readers will be familiar with the variety of events and activities which punctuate our school year. The following is an account of just a selection of these, with special correspondents from Ms. O'Sullivan's Rang 2, filing some reports.

SCIATH NA SCOL 2014

We are very proud of all our boys who competed in Sciath na Scol this year. Both our hurling and football teams qualified for their respective finals but unfortunately silverware eluded us. Nevertheless, we had such an exciting year with victories over St. Joseph's, Mardyke and St. Columba's, Douglas a highlight. Congrats to Alan Connolly (6th Class) who represented the school on the Cork Primary Game team against Waterford.



INDOOR HURLING

The future is bright for Beaumont Boys following third class emerging victorious, and fourth class earning third place in this year's competitions.

LÚTHCHLEASANNA BUNSCOILEANNA CHORCAÍ

Our team returned home from Pairc Uí Chaoimh with two bronze medals won by Cathal Heffernan (u/9) and Hugh Collins (u/11), and a very well deserved team bronze won in the u/11 Relay. All of our athletes finished well up the field in their respective events, and, considering we were participating in Roinn A, the Premier Division, this was no mean achievement.



BEAUMONT BOYS SCHOOL SPORTS

We asked some of Ms. O'Sullivan's boys for their accounts of our Sports Day, which took place on Friday 30th May. Here is what they had to say:

"My sports day happened on Friday the 30th of May. So what we did was go down to the sports pitch to get ready. Then we started chatting about who would win the normal running contest. So I will tell you what happened. I got a gold and two bronze. I was very happy with it. So I got a goodie bag and began to watch the other races. It was a great day." (Shane Moore)



"... it was time for the wheelbarrow race. I paired up with my cosin Jack and he had a sore hand but we came second and William and James OC came first. Then it was time for the 3- legged race. I paired up with William. It was the last race and we came third. We went over to get our medals then we had lunch and after we had fun." (Eoin Coughlan)

"First we had the running race. The grass was very slippery. I did not win. Then we had the wheelbarrow race. I was partners with my friend James Bourke. It was good fun. The last race was the three legged race. I did not win anything at the Sports Day but I had lots of fun." (William Haugh)

"I had my sports day this year. I came second in the running race and first in the three legged race. There was a small shop with loads of sweets and chocolate. We did a relay race and a penalty shoot out. I was with Cian in the wheelbarrow race. I was with Gavin in the three legged race." (Mark O'Connell)



"It was a sunny day. After small break we went to the Avondale pitch. I brought a Goodie bag but then the running race was on I was 7th. I ate some of my goodies and they were good. Next was the wheelbarrow race I came 4th and then the three legged race I came 4th. I enjoyed the day." (Ethan Horgan)

SUMMER CONCERT

"In the school concert the boys were dressed in funky clothes. I was a hippy. And we were singing the Jacksons songs called ABC and Rocking Robin. Lots of people came to watch the show. It was so much fun and then when it was over all the people clapped and cheered. And I wish I can do that again." (Leo Luzzini, second class)

"My favourite day in school was the school concert. I liked it because I was in the front row. We sang Rocking Robin and ABC." (Evan Wyse, second class)

For further reports of our Summer Concert, please check our Recent News tab on the website: www.beaumontboys.ie

SCHOOL TOURS

All classes went on their annual school tours. Once again, the boys from second class had plenty to say about theirs!

"Our school tour was on Wednesday. We were going there by bus. We took a bag with all our swimming gear. I liked going up the climbing wall. I wore a climbing harness for fall protection. I also enjoyed the indoor hockey. We all had lunch in the Mardyke hall. After lunch we went swimming. On the way back I sat at the back of the bus. We all went home tired but happy." (Eric O'Connell)

"Wednesday 28th May I went on my school tour to the Mardyke and we went on a bouncy castle and we did rock climbing, and I got hit in the forehead and I had an ice pack. Then we went home." (Cian Hogan)



"We all went to the Mardyke for our school tour. We got to the Mardyke we went swimming, racing, games and more. After that we had lunch and then I realised that I forgot my lunch and I said it to my teacher and I got 4 sandwiches and a bottle of water and then it was time to go back to school. We got back on the bus and went to school and I had a real good time on the school tour." (Jamie Moss)

"It was our school tour on the 28th May. We went on a bus to the Mardyke. When we got there we got split into two groups. First we went to the bouncy castle. We had fun bouncing around and then we played sticking in the mud. We had fun. After that we went swimming. We only played our own games. We had to get a ball. It was fun. Then we had our lunch." (James Bourke)

"My school tour was Wednesday. We went to the Mardyke. We went by bus. I sat next to Jack.. The first thing we did was the obstacle course. I liked it. After that we went swimming. I loved my school tour." (David Swords)

OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



It is clear that First Holy Communion day will live long in the memories of this year's class as can be seen by extracts from their recent news!

"On the 17th May 2014 we, the 2nd class of Beaumont Boys School, made our First Holy Communion. We gathered in St. Michael's Church Blackrock at 10.15. Well I was nervous!!!! I do not know about the other boys. We got to taste the holy bread for the first time! I was wrecked after all the hard work, you know."

We sang our hearts out of course. After the Mass we had a party with all our class and teachers.

That afternoon all my family and friends came to my house and we had a bouncy castle and dominoes pizzas. Everyone gave me lovely cards, I really enjoyed my Communion Day. The End (Gavin O'Riordan)

"I made my First Holy Communion on the 17th May. I had a job at the Communion. After that I went to a restaurant. Me and my dad ordered a lunch. I went across the road. I got lots of cards and an X-box live." (Pierce Coleman)

"On Saturday 17th May was my first holy communion. My family and I went to Church at 10.15 to get our seat. I read 2 verses of the prayer after communion. After Mass I went back to my house for a party and all the family. It was the best ever." (Jack O'Riordan)

"Our communion was exciting." (Ben White)

CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS

Our infant teachers have never depended on formal pronouncements for their impetus to introduce innovative programmes to our youngest learners. We conclude this year's newsletter with a brief account of what has been going on there: the *Aistear Curriculum Framework* and *Ready-Set-Go Maths Programme*.



Both junior and senior infants have been engaged with Aistear, a new programme or journey developed around play. While directed through fun, the emphasis is on numeracy and literacy and how these impact on our everyday lives. The children build and create objects ("junk art"), role-play in the restaurant or shop, count money in the bank, write out shopping lists as well as building making buildings with lego and robots with recyclable materials.

The *Ready Set Go Maths* programme, which the school invested in last year, is proving dividends for junior and senior infants. The children really enjoy the practical approach to number development, emphasised in the programme. The equipment purchased to compliment the programme's objectives of classifying and sorting objects by their number, colour and categories has really extended the children's approach to seeing how a hands-on approach to number lends itself also to an oral investigative link to number in the environment.



We hope the children's contributions in this year's newsletter have made you smile. We wish all our families a safe and enjoyable Summer break. School re-opens on Thursday 28th August 2014.