

Scoil Mhuire—Howth Primary School

April 2018 Newsletter

2nd May 2018

Tidings of Good News!

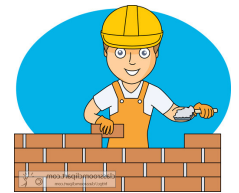
Special points of interest:

- New laptops and iPads for pupils
- Great sporting News—Athletics, Hurling, Football
- May Altar
- Music Makes Magic

Earlier this month, the school was informed that the Department of Education & Skills has approved €766,232 (inclusive of VAT and fees) towards the cost of building a 4 classroom extension plus WC's/corridor/heating centre). This is the culmination of six years hard work and a tribute to the persistent dedication of many people involved in the long campaign—previous and present Board of Management members, the Working Party on Accommodation 2015-2020, our Parents Association and our school staff who have shown such support throughout the project. I would also like to thank Fr. Gerry Tanham, P.P. who has coordinated much of the legal work with regard to a transfer of land required for the project from Fingal Co Council. We look forward to this exciting new development in the history of the school. A schedule towards initial construction will soon be drawn up. *Ar aghaidh le chéile!*

We have been advised that all school building projects incur hidden costs. In order to offset this we are launching a major fundraising campaign. Over that time we hope to hold 3 / 4 major events including a Golf Classic 21st September 2018; sponsored Road Race 17th November 2018; Ladies lunch (TBC). A Social Night to launch the campaign Pathways through Primary (where friends of Scoil Mhuire will be given the opportunity to sponsor a brick) will be announced. *Watch this space!*

I would like to thank our enthusiastic steering group Ashley Sheridan, Jenny Hutton, Sandra O'Rourke, Marina Fagan, and Aisling Wright for the time, energy and expertise they are expending on this project.



Inside this issue:

Music Makes Magic	2
Sporting News	2
New Age of Technology	3
School Events	3
Sacraments, May Altar	4
Standardized Testing	4
Active Schools Week	4
School Calendar	4

Irish Water

Gráinne Carey, Communications Officer, Irish Water has informed me that Irish Water intends to update defective water pipes in Howth with work starting towards the end of May 2018. The project will involve a temporary traffic system in Abbey Street and road closures in Balscadden lasting c6 weeks. An information meeting for local people will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 2nd May from 5.30—7.30 p.m.



Enrolment 2018

We have received sufficient enrolment applications for two Junior Infant classes 2018/2019. Information Meeting for new parents will take place on Tuesday 15th May and Induction Day for the new Junior Infants on Tuesday 22nd May. Our school uniform suppliers—O'Farrells of Portmarnock will be in attendance on the 23rd. Thanks to our school secretary, Ms. Joan Lyons, for her work in processing the enrolment applications.

If you are aware of anyone who has a child ready to start school or is in the process of moving in to the area this September but has not yet completed an application please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible.



April 2018 Newsletter Music Makes Magic

This amazing project which is celebrating its fifth year is going from strength to strength with weekly violin lessons for all 417 children in the school (from Junior Infants on to 6th class), Orchestra classes, afterschool lessons and song writing workshops. Our school orchestra has performed in the Royal Irish Academy of Music and two weeks ago traveled to Finglas as part of a musical exchange with St. Finian's N.S. (Thanks to parent Ann Campbell who made 35 goodie bags for our orchestra's cinema treat after the show).

On Friday 27th April we were delighted to welcome Dublin Youth Orchestra who performed with our school orchestra at a special concert in St. Mary's Church, Howth (Thanks to Kevin Brew for offering this wonderful venue). All these events would not be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of a marvelous team led by Paul McGregor/ Maria Dowd and under the baton of teachers Naoise Dacks/Shane Cavanagh, thanks to Lorna Penchester, Louise Fearon, Karl Stebbigs, Teresa Weston, Helen Brosnan, Colm Querney, Maria Conway, Ian/Lynn Sheridan and all the other helpers who have worked with MMM over the past five years. *Ar aghaidh le chéile!!*

Sporting News!!!

It has been a hectic few weeks on the sporting front with a busy schedule of athletics, hurling, football and soccer. This is a direct result of pitches being out of action last month due to adverse weather conditions. As well as being a hectic period it has also been a most successful one.



It has been a very busy month for all our sporting footballers/hurlers in Scoil Mhuire! Our junior girls won their final match in the Fingal League against Milverton National School last week, which means they have won every match played this year! Our Senior Girls are having equal successes following an exciting match against Pope John Paul II, Malahide. They are playing the semi final against St. Oliver Plunkett on May 1st. Well done to all the girls involved and teachers, Ms. Nugent and Ms. O' Donnell.

Senior boys are in the Fingal League final following a riveting game against Mary Mother of Hope. The junior boys have recently qualified for the semi finals also. Well done boys and to Mr. Burke.



Athletics Report



Hurling News

Well done to all the athletes who took part in the Finals Day of The Fingal Athletics League in Morton Stadium, Santry on Tuesday 10th April. The athletes had to put up with very wet and cold conditions on the day but they all proved how amazing they are and were presented with three plaques on the day.

Winner of Group C Girls North Dublin

Winner of Group C Boys North Dublin

Winner of Best New School North Dublin

The athletics team for Santry Sports has been selected and are busy training on Tuesday mornings with Colette (Raheny Shamrocks) and lunchtime on Fridays with Ms Anderson, Ms Slattery and Mr Flynn. The team will compete in the Field Events on Monday 21st May and in the Track Events on Thursday 24th May. Hopefully we can bring home more medals and trophies!!

Howth N.S hurling team has been going from strength to strength, starting out with a resounding win in our first game to Baldoyle. This followed a narrow defeat to GS Míde in Beann Eadair. The final game which was due to be played this week has been awarded to Howth N.S which leaves us in the semi finals awaiting confirmation on who and where we are due to play in the semi finals.

Exciting times ahead! Both Mr Devlin and myself would like to thank all the parents of the pupils of the team for the support and lifts, Beann Eadair for being great hosts of our home games! Mary and Barry for arranging pitches, and last but by no means least, the children on the panel themselves.

Keep up the good work!

Ar aghaidh le chéile, Mr Cassidy





School Events—Recent/Current/Ongoing:-

April:

- 10th Fingal Athletics
 11th/13th Music Makes Magic / Howth Camera Club fundraiser
 16th/17th HSE Hearing/Vision testing with Sen. Infant classes
 16th Green School clean up
 16th/17th Junior / Senior Assemblies
 17th An audience with John Boyne (author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*), 4th/5th/6th classes.
 Thanks to parent and novelist Clare Kilroy and to Ms. Heerey for setting this up
 19th Howth Pipe Band workshop with 4th/5th classes
 26th Meeting of the Teaching Staff (after school)
 27th Dublin Youth Orchestra performed with our school orchestra in St. Mary's 11.00 – 11.50 a.m.
 30th -May 4th Active School Week

Ongoing events: Music Makes Magic, Orchestra, After School Club, Chess, Spóirt trí Gaeilge, Maths Club, WOW etc.

Due to postponement of fixtures before Easter because of adverser weather we have had a crowded schedule of games over the past two weeks. Thanks to all the teachers involved in coaching these teams and to the parents who volunteered to provide transport to and from matches.

Sacramental Preparation

This is a hectic time for our pupils in Ms. Barrett's, Ms. Maher's, and Mr. Burke's classes with regards to preparation for the sacraments of Holy Communion (12th May) and Confirmation (25th May). Our school choir, under the baton of Ms. Fox and Ms.

Mannix have also been very busy getting ready for these important occasions. Sacrament of Reconciliation for 2nd class took place on Thursday 15th March and the Service of Light for 6th class on Thursday 2nd March.

Stations of the Cross

Well done to all our boys and girls who took part in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday under the guiding hand of Pat Guinan and her team.



May Altar

Our lovely May Altar is a wonderful collaboration between school and Parish. We would like to thank Joe & Eithne Stewart for all their work in setting it up.



New Age of Technology in Scoil Mhuire

Scoil Mhuire Howth Primary School is about to become digitally enhanced using the funds raised from Tee Off For Technology. Our 17 new Acer laptops and lap-cabby are ready for lift off this week. 15 new iPads and Griffin keyboards have just been delivered and will be up and running in the next few weeks. All this new equipment is for pupil access. Teachers will receive training in GSuite for education and Apple School Management.

In addition our school has been selected by Coding Ireland to be part of their Coding Programme for Primary schools. We are one of five schools nationally to be chosen. 15 teachers received CPD training for this on Monday evening and we feel very privileged to have the opportunity to bring this to our school.

I would like to thank the following groups - the fundraising committee for providing the much needed funds and advice to make this happen, our IT support company, the school IT committee and our brilliant student digital leaders namely Billy Campbell, Sadb Keogh, Conor Brosnan, Patrick Haines and Daniel Butler who have helped us get this off the ground. There's lots of work ahead to get it fully up and running but it's a fantastic start.
Ms. Heerey



Standardized Testing

Annual Standardised testing for 1st—6th will take place from 14th—18th of May, and 21st—25th May for Communion classes. Please endeavour to have your child present at school and if for any reason your child will be absent please inform the class teacher in advance. . The two tests being administered will be the Sigma T testing mathematical skills and the Drumcondra Reading test which tests reading, vocabulary and comprehension. More information is available for parents on the ncca website:

http://ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Early_Childhood_and_Primary_Education/Primary-Education/Assessment/Leaflets_for_parents/Leaflets_-_Standardised_testing.html

The pupils in Senior Infants will completed the MIST test which tests literacy skills in February. The results are not standardized but inform the teaher of a child's ability in literacy.

The results of the standardized tests will be on your child's report. For the Drumcondra Reading and Sigma T, scores will be in a STen format (see NCCA website) click on the link below

http://ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Early_Childhood_and_Primary_Education/Primary-Education/Assessment/Leaflets_for_parents/RRD01251A-NCCA-ENGLISH-Tip-Sheet-STEN.pdf

Active School Week

We have been running Active School Week from Monday 30th April - Friday 4th May and have been following a busy programme of fun activities. Every pupil ran 1 mile contributing to the fantastic accomplishment of a whole class marathon. All classes went for a lovely walk in Howth and all will take part in the interclass tug of war challenge. Each year group has participated in a workshop in one of the following sports: rugby, athletics, tennis, aerobics, sailing and pilates which have been delivered by fantastic sports women and men who are experts in their field. All pupils have been set the 60 minutes per day physical activity challenge and many are exceeding that, including being active outside school also which is fantastic. Pupils have been devising their own ideas for being active which they will showcase in class during their active talent show. Well done to all of the children and families for being super active! Thanks to everyone for their support, Ms Barrett.

School Calendar May—June 2018

May:

Wednesday	2nd	Public Meeting Irish Water in School Hall	5.30—7.30 p.m.
Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th		Public Holiday/School Holiday	School Closed
Saturday	12th	First Holy Communion (2nd Class)	11.00 a.m.
Tuesday	15th	Meeting for New Parents	1.30 p.m.
Tuesday	22nd	Induction Day for New pupils	1.30 p.m.
Thursday	24th	Meeting of the Teaching Staff	
Friday	25th	Referendum Day—School Requisitioned	School Closed
Friday	25th	Sacrament of Confirmation (6th Class)	

June:

Friday 1st & Monday 4th		Public Holiday/School Holiday	School Closed
Wednesday	27th	Graduation (6th Class)	
Friday	29th	School Closes for Summer Holidays	12 noon