



SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Newsletter #9

21st January 2020

A Chairde,

We have a very exciting few weeks ahead here at Scoil Barra Naofa. We are looking forward to An Evening with John Spillane and the Children of Scoil Barra Naofa next Tuesday evening. This concert is a culmination of the Folklore Project involving John Spillane, the Arts Council and Cork County Council.

We are also looking forward to Grandparent's Day and Friendship Week in early February. These special days/weeks are extremely important to the culture and atmosphere of our school and we look forward to welcoming the grandparent's to SBN.

As always we are busy looking after the physical building and gardens here at SBN. Vivian has been busy in recent weeks both repairing storm damage and preparing the outside for Spring. While we wait for the weather to improve can I ask that on frosty/icy mornings younger children are accompanied onto the school grounds by an adult and all adults remain mindful of our neighbours and road users, both on foot and in cars, when parking. Should the school open late or remain closed due to bad weather you will be informed as soon as possible. In the meantime we look forward to Spring!

Mise le meas,

Ger O Brien & Foireann na Scoile

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday	Jan 22 nd	Art Class Resumes
Tuesday	Jan 28 th	An Evening with John Spillane
Friday	Jan 31 st	11am Credit Union Quiz Douglas
Thursday	6 th February	4 th Class: Grandparents Day
Wed 12 th – Wed 19 th February		Friendship Week
Thurs & Fri	20 th & 21 st February	School Closure: Midterm Break
Mon-Fri	02ú – 13ú Márta	Coicís na Gaeilge

Mon&Tues	16 th and 17 th March	School Closure (St. Patrick's Weekend)
Friday	April 3 rd	School Closes at 12midday for Easter
Monday	April 20 th	School reopens after Easter Holidays.

Please keep in mind there will be an additional early closure (1pm) this term to facilitate staff training on the New Primary Language Curriculum. The date is not yet known, however, parents will be informed as soon as possible.

BOUNDARY WALL

Great news in relation to our application for emergency funding to repair our boundary wall. You will have noticed that the boundary wall needs much repair work in order to make the structure safe and to maintain it's character and value. We were initially refused funding to complete the work, however, following an appeal the funds have now been granted. What has been a lengthy process will now result in work commencing in the near future. We look forward to this work being completed and seeing this beautiful heritage wall restored to its original state.

SCHOOL WORKS/NEW BOILER

We are currently in the process of applying for an emergency grant from the Department of Education and Science for a new school boiler, flue and pump. Our current boiler is over 30 years old and in a state of disrepair. Due to it's poor condition the boiler is not working to it's potential which in turn means that it is inefficient in heating the school and we are paying more to heat the building. This is an ineffective use of funds. Funds that could be spent elsewhere.

Unfortunately, our application under the Summer Works Scheme was refused again this year. We have applied on three occasions to have the roof over the halla and lower section of the school replaced. The roof has numerous leaks and while repair work was carried out after Storm Ophelia the roof needs to be replaced. This is not merely an opinion but the conclusion and recommendation of the engineers involved in the applications process.

In the coming weeks you will meet many politicians on your doorsteps and around your locality. Feel free to discuss the issue of school funding and repairs and raise awareness of these issues.

AN EVENING WITH JOHN SPILLANE AND THE CHILDREN OF SCOIL BARRA NAOFA

Next Tuesday, Jan 28th, SBN will host An Evening with John Spillane featuring the children of SBN and the Big Little Choir. This concert has been organised by the school in association with John Spillane, Marcia Dalton, Cork County Council and The Arts Council. The Folklore Project has been heavily funded by the County Council and we are extremely lucky to have been part of this project. John has spent 5 sessions working with the children of Fourth where they have performed songs, played instruments, listened and responded to John's work as well as local folklore. The children have composed their own song called "Monkstown" and we will be treated to the premier of this on the night!

The concert will begin at 7pm with **doors opening at 6.30pm**. Please do not arrive before 6.30pm as children will be rehearsing and you will not be able to enter the church. Tickets are priced as follows and will be available to purchase via the school office. Remaining tickets can be purchased on the door.

Adults; 7 Euro per ticket, 2 for 10 Euro.

Children over 5 :2 Euro per ticket.

Children under 5: free.

Please be advised that seating is limited so we strongly recommend that you buy your tickets in advance. You can pay directly in the office or ring and arrange a payment link to be sent to your Aladdin App.

We will hold a raffle on the night of the concert. The raffle will be open to all and tickets can be purchased through the school office or on the night. Tickets are priced as follows;

1 strip 5 Euro.

3 strips 10 Euro.

We have been gifted some fantastic prizes for the night from local businesses. We are very grateful to the following sponsors;

**Curragh Oil Douglas,
Rochestown Park Hotel,
Bunnyconnellan's Crosshaven,
Supervalu Carrigaline,
Carrigaline Court Hotel,
River Lee Hotel,
Keary's,**

**Lean with Lesley,
Cinnamon Cottage,
Crown Hairdressers,
Ora Fitness.**

More prizes to follow and keep an eye on our Facebook page where we'll be announcing further details of prizes and thanking our sponsors. Please feel free to like and share and tag others.

As parking is limited please leave the car park in the Church free for those attending with mobility issues. Please inform us in advance if any special seating or parking arrangements are required.

Final thanks to Fr Seán, Fr Con and the all involved with Sacred Heart Church Monkstown. This is a very special venue and will add to the experience on the night.

All proceeds raised on the night will go directly back into the school and the children. The Classroom Renovation Project will benefit as we prepare to begin renovating classrooms upstairs and all children will benefit through the purchase of books and sensory equipment and Aistear equipment.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

- Many thanks to the Parent's Association and those who helped at Santa Sunday in any way. The day itself raised 2,880 Euro which is a fantastic achievement.
- We have received 2 private donations amounting to 500 Euro. Many thanks to those families.
- We have raised 550 Euro through the sale of School Calendars. Again thanks to those who purchased.
- We are also pursuing private donations from businesses involved with the school and education in general.
- Every cent we raise will go directly back to the children and to the children's learning experience.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all that have donated, be it their time, work or money, to help us in our efforts. We greatly appreciate all of your support, monetary or otherwise, in our fundraising efforts. Further information and updates will follow.

GRANDPARENTS DAY – 4TH CLASS

4th Class will welcome their Grandparents for Grandparents' Day on Thursday February 6th at 11am. We are looking forward to a wonderful morning together. The children are busy preparing beautiful gifts and songs to share with you on the day. It promises to be a very special occasion.

SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

As part of our School Self Evaluation Process we will be reviewing the SPHE (Social, Personal, Health Education) Policy. School Self Evaluation is a reflective process involving the staff, pupils and parents. SSE helps us to reflect upon what is working and where we can improve. As educators we are constantly reflecting upon our practice, assessing what we have achieved in order to plan for the future.

SPHE underpins the entire curriculum and is crucial to our children's development as confident, independent thinkers capable of working within a group and tackling life's ups and downs. SPHE develops the citizens of the future. SPHE involves the teaching of the following programmes which you may be familiar with;

Stay Safe, Walk Tall and RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education). This year we have also introduced the Weaving Wellbeing programme as part of SPHE compliment. As always, your involvement as parents is essential to our work in school. In the coming weeks you will receive a questionnaire in relation to the teaching and learning of SPHE here at SBN. We encourage and value your feedback.

TEXACO CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

Entries to Ms. Marshall (downstairs) and Ms Treharne (upstairs) by Feb 17th. All details available on www.texacochildrensart.com. Please complete a "Home" application form (available on the website) if artwork is completed at home and attach securely to the back of your child's artwork. "School " application forms (also available on the website) are only for artwork completed as part of your child's class art lessons. Copies of both application forms are also available from Ms. Marshall. Entries can also be posted yourself to reach the Texaco Children's Art Competition by Feb 28th. Alternatively entries can be returned to school no later than February 17th.

JEP/ JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROJECT

Ms Donnelly's Sixth Class are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Project. They are currently at the planning stage and will pitch their business ideas to our "Dragons" tomorrow. The children have been working in groups to plan a product which they will create and sell. The experience is valuable on a number of levels as it encourages the skills of group work, compromise, problem solving and strategising. We look forward to seeing the finished project. Well done to all involved.

WELLBEING AND INTERNET SAFETY

During the months of January and February we will widen our focus to explore the area of internet safety. Our wellbeing is linked heavily to our perceptions of ourselves and our perceptions of ourselves in relation to others. With this in mind we must acknowledge that the growth of influence of social media figures and youtubers has a direct impact upon our children. If you would like to learn more about internet safety, for all ages, you can explore the webwise programme. This programme is available online and is what most schools in Ireland use when exploring the area of internet safety. Furthermore, Forensic Psychologist, Dr Maureen Griffin writes a blog on the Laya Healthcare Website. Her blog posts are extremely informative and offer practical tips and advice as well as clear explanations of online games/apps such as Tik Tok, Fortnite etc. Our children are digital natives, however, we are not. The digital world is moving and changing constantly. It can be difficult to keep up with these changes. You may find Dr Maureen Griffin's blog posts helpful in this regard.

Finally, Safer Internet Day takes place on February 11th. On February 13th classes from 2nd to 6th will have inclass workshops on this topic from Zeeko. First Class will continue their guided mindfulness workshops on a weekly basis with our visiting teacher during January and February.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Work has recommenced on the Glen Road and the Sand Quay area. O Connor Utilities have assured us that parking and access in and out of the playground will remain during these works. You will not, however, be able to access the Glen Rd or Church Hill from the Sand Quay. We appreciate that the roadworks are disruptive. We ask that you be mindful of other roadusers and locals when parking, dropping and collecting. Please ensure that footpaths are accessible for all pedestrians and that entrances are not blocked or impeded. Remember we must leave sufficient space for larger vehicles and more importantly emergency vehicles to access local roads and houses.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ

Children from Fifth and Sixth Classes will take part in the Credit Union Quiz on Jan 31st in St Columba's Primary School Douglas. Thank you to Gary and all at Douglas Credit Union for the opportunity and we wish the boys and girls all the best.



DOUGLAS CREDIT UNION

Douglas Credit Union Scheme continues **every Wednesday from 10am in the school reception area**. Pupils are encouraged to develop the habit of saving small amounts regularly.

SHAMROCK BOYS' ACADAMEY

Shamrocks Boys Academy for those born from 2009 to 2015 continues every Friday night from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Marine College Ringaskiddy, Monkstown NS students welcome. Contact 0861914926 for further details.