



St. Mary's P.S. Draperstown

"Learning, Caring and Sharing Together"

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2017

PRIMARY 1 and 2

We have been learning all about the lifecycle of a butterfly. We had caterpillars in our classroom and very soon they will become beautiful butterflies. We are patiently watching and waiting for this to happen.



PRIMARY 2

We have had a busy term learning about labels and captions, times on the analogue clock and discovering Newsdesk. We made a film with the Nerve Centre and produced all our own props. We are waiting excitedly to see our film.



PRIMARY 3

We have been learning all about animal habitats in our world. We created beautiful artwork to show animals in their homes. Animals can live in deserts, oceans, polar lands and farms.



PRIMARY 4 and 5

On Wednesday 15th March, P.4 and 5 travelled to Tesco in Magherafelt to take part in Farm to Fork Trail. The children had the opportunity to visit each department and see how the supermarket operates on a daily basis. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience! Thank you



Tesco!

PRIMARY 5 and 6

Nula has set up a camera inside our bird box and has linked it to our T.V. in the foyer so we can watch the blue tit build its nest and hopefully lay eggs too! We can't wait to see what's hap-



PRIMARY 6

To celebrate World Book Day, P.6 hosted a tea party for themselves and some very special guests. Each child brought their favourite book and their special teddy bear to this event. The children shared their books with their friends whilst drinking tea and eating buns!



PRIMARY 7

P.7 investigated the Irish famine of 1845 to 1851 (An Gort Mór). They planned and created films and animations to showcase their learning and knowledge. Experts from the Nerve Centre in Derry supported the children during the workshops. Everyone had a great time and we are looking forward to viewing the finished films!



ECOSPEAK COMPETITION

The children in P6 and P7 were given the opportunity to compete in a public speaking competition on the issue of food waste. Each class held their own heats with a grand final held in the school hall. The standard was very high in both classes and with much deliberation from the judges, Cassie Kelly was chosen as the winner. Cassie will now represent our school at the Mid Ulster final in Term 3. Good Luck Cassie and well done to all our entrants!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

P.1 Health Checks —
25th, 26th, 27th April, 3rd May

P.1 Parent Teacher Meetings

First Communion — 20th May

Annual Festival — 1st June

P.7 Fan the Flame Mass —

P.7 Assembly — 15th June

Keep up-to-date at:
<http://www.stmaryspsdraperstown.com>

Or follow us on Twitter
@StMarysBscreen

Anti—Bullying Assembly

On Thursday 23rd March we had a special visitor attend our Anti-Bullying Assembly. Paul Hanmore travelled from London to gather information about what we are doing to make our school a bully free zone. As well as attending our assembly, Paul spent some time in the P.6 classroom observing and working with the children as they completed a range of activities on anti-bullying. Paul was very impressed with what he saw in our school and said, "Thank you for your time today hosting my case study visit. It has been a great opportunity to see your anti bullying work led by the pupils in action. It's been a great example of how you are actively implementing the preventative curriculum by engaging the young people. I loved the Digital Leaders initiative and the Friendship Room and particularly the whole school assembly



where the young people were allowed to present their tips on tackling bullying in their unique style - this demonstrated your whole school's approach. It was great to see the positive impact the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have had on the whole school. Thanks for a great day. **Amazing children, amazing staff, amazing school!"**



Class Assemblies

In Term 2, each class had the opportunity to share with the whole school what they had been learning in their classroom. P.1 told us all about spring, P.2 shared the story of St. Brigid and P.3 taught us about healthy eating. P.5 helped us to celebrate World Book Day and P.6 shared their learning on climate change. Each class used poem, drama and song to share their message. We await P.7's Leavers' Assembly in Term 3.

P.4 have also celebrated a special event in their lives when they made their First Confession on Tuesday 28th February with Fr. Madden. They continue to work hard with their teachers in preparing for their First Holy Communion in May. We hope these children and their families enjoy their special day as they continue their journey in faith.

PRIMARY 1



PRIMARY 2



PRIMARY 3



PRIMARY 4 and 5



PRIMARY 5



PRIMARY 6



Congratulations to P.7 who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Monsignor Dolan on Sunday 12th March 2017 in St. Columba's Church, Straw. It was a very special event in the lives of our children, their families and the wider parish community. We hope you have many happy memories from the day and continue to bear witness to God in your daily lives.

Passion Play—Holy Rosary Church

In preparation for Easter, our school re-enacted Jesus' final hours on earth and His resurrection on Easter Sunday in Holy Rosary Church on the evening of Thursday 6th April. Every child in our school participated in this re-enactment through singing, acting, narrating or playing a musical instrument. We have very talented children and teachers who spent many hours practising in order to bring the message of Jesus' sacrifice to us all before Holy Week begins. The performance on Thursday evening was exceptional and a fitting reminder to all of us about the solemnity of the Easter season.

Thank you to everyone involved in this special event and to those who attended on the evening. A special word of thanks is extended to Fr. Madden for allowing us to use the church and joining us in our preparations for Easter.

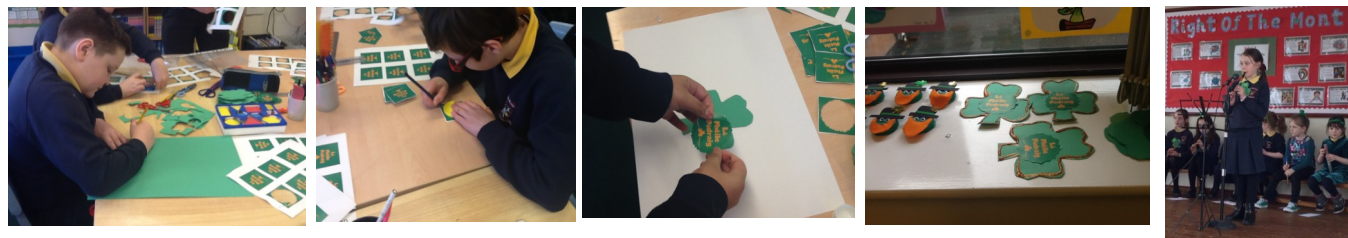
A selection of photographs taken from our dress rehearsal can be viewed below. There will be an opportunity to purchase a DVD of the "Passion Play" in Term 3.



Good Luck to John Boyle and Johnny McDaid who have been selected to play at Croke Park on Saturday 22nd April. These boys will represent our school in the Co. Derry Primary School Hurling Squad. We hope you have a brilliant day and that it is the start of many more playing opportunities in the home of Gaelic sports.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

Following on from the success of Dragons' Den in December 2016, P.7 established their own profit making business in Term 2. P.7 made St. Patrick's Day themed badges using recycled bottle tops which they then sold to the rest of the school. Each child was assigned a particular role within the programme making it a whole class effort. These children certainly are entrepreneurs in the making and we look forward to hearing about their successes in the future. In the meantime, enjoy spending the profits P.7! Many of the children wore their badges with pride to our St. Patrick's Day celebrations on Wednesday 15th March held in the school hall. Have a look on our twitter page to see some of the fantastic videos we posted of the amazing talent here at St Mary's!



SEAMUS HEANEY HOMEPLACE, BELLAGHY

On Monday 3rd April, P.6 visited Seamus Heaney HomePlace to participate in a creative writing poetry workshop with local author Bernie Magill. They focused on the poems 'Blackberry Picking' and 'The Railway Children' and used them as a stimulus to write their own poems. They also had the opportunity to recite the poems they produced in the creative writing session and their favourite Seamus Heaney poem through an *Open Mic* event in the Helicon. The focus of their trip was to inspire future writers and to provide a platform for them to showcase their talent and they certainly achieved this. We have many budding poets!

We would like to thank Bernie for her guidance and sharing of her expertise on the day and to Sheila Fullerton for inviting us to this wonderful event. The legacy of Seamus certainly lives on!



A special presentation of cheques was made to three worthy recipients in January 2017 following our magnificent fund-raising efforts in Term 1. Each recipient received £700 towards their on-going projects. They were: Jack McCrystal, Charis and St. Vincent de Paul. We extend our thanks to those who donated items for raffle or to be sold and those who gave monetary donations. It is through your support that we are able to make a difference to other people's lives; thank you!



The pupils and staff of St. Mary's P.S. would like to wish you all a happy and holy Easter. We thank you once again for your continued support and look forward to seeing you all again for another busy and exciting term!

