

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

Primary 7 held a Dragons' Den to select a business idea for the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. Six groups pitched a range of imaginative and creative ideas to our five 'dragons'. After much deliberation and discussion, the Sweetie Cone idea was recommended. This is the idea that P7 have been working on as part of their business. The Sweetie Cones are available in several shops and businesses in Draperstown or can be purchased in school.



SEAMUS HEANEY HOMEPLACE, BELLAGHY

On Wednesday 24th January, P.5 visited Seamus Heaney HomePlace to participate in a range of activities connected to "Churning Day." The children recited a special prayer and watched a member of staff make butter. They also had the opportunity to churn their own butter using a Kilner jar and butter spades. At each stage of the butter making process, the children discussed and recorded their observations of how the cream was changing. They then used butter spades to shape the butter into a cuboid. After lunch, the children listened to and read some of Seamus Heaney's other poems and visited the museum documenting his life. This visit has inspired some of our children to write poetry of their own.



Helping those in Need

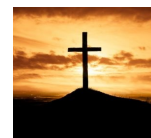
A special presentation of cheques was made to two worthy recipients in January 2018 following our magnificent fundraising efforts in Term 1. Each recipient received £700 towards their on-going projects. They were: NSPCC and St. Vincent de Paul. We extend our thanks to those who donated items for raffle 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!



And Finally ...



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!



St. Mary's P.S. Draperstown

"Learning, Caring and Sharing Together"

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—March 2018

PRIMARY 1

As part of our Shared Education Programme, we visited the Jungle N.I along with Moneymore P.S. We took part in 'Forest School' activities and explored the area, painted with natural materials, created outdoor decorations, built outdoor dens and looked at the creation of natural fires.



PRIMARY 2/3

We have been learning about birds. We walked along Susan's trail and found some frogspawn. We collected grass, moss and other materials and used them to make our own nests.



PRIMARY 3

We have been very busy making numbers up to 100 using Base 10 materials. We educated everyone about eating healthily at Assembly. We also completed construction activities during Science Week.



PRIMARY 4

P.4 celebrated a special event in their lives when they made their First Confession on Wednesday 28th February with Fr. Madden. We continue to work hard in preparing for our First Holy Communion in May.



PRIMARY 5

We have had a very busy term completing lots of exciting projects. We have visited the library and participated in poetry recitals with Nuala McCrossan. We participated in a Food and Fitness workshop with the Dairy Council. We learned what we should and shouldn't eat as well as exercising for one hour every day!



PRIMARY 6/7

Caoimhe Hegarty, past pupil of St Mary's and Deputy Editor of the Derry Post, visited P.6 to discuss her role as a journalist and offer tips and advice to help improve our writing. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Thanks



PRIMARY 7

We made St. Brigid's cross using rushes during Catholic Schools Week to replicate the work of St. Brigid. As well as the familiar square centred cross, we also had a go at making a Derry cross.



Derry Camogie Champions 2018

Congratulations to our P.7 camogs who were crowned Indoor Derry Champions on Wednesday 21st March. They will represent Derry in the Ulster Finals in April!



Superheroes

During Term 2, we have all participated in Superhero sessions which are designed to develop and improve our FMS and build strong cores. We would like to thank Ballinascreen GAC for providing us with this amazing resource.



SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week arrived in our school with a bang on 11th March. Each class completed a range of STEM activities. Two teams from P.6 and P.7 competed in the STEM Challenge in St. Patrick's College, Maghera. The teams had to design and construct a bridge that would hold a specified weight. Both teams scored very highly and one of our teams qualified for the final in June. Well done and Good Luck to everyone!



In Science Club, the children have been investigating forces and have made gliders, paper aeroplanes, balloon rockets and mouse rockets.

We welcomed Kathy Schofield from Primary Science Teaching Trust. She will work with us until December, enhancing our provision for Science.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- P5 Swimming—13th April
- P6 Assembly—26th April
- P7 Confirmation—29th April
- P1 Assembly—10th May
- P4 Holy Communion—19th May
- P.7 Assembly — 21st June

Keep up-to-date at:
<http://www.stmaryspsdraperstown.com>
 Or follow us on Twitter
 @StMarysBscreen

P.5 and School Council visit Stormont

On Monday 12th March, P.5 and the School Council visited Stormont as part of their PDMU learning. During their visit, the children learned about the building and its role in the political history of Northern Ireland. As well as this, they met with Ian Milne, MLA who facilitated a debate in the Chamber. Ian took the children to visit the office of the Deputy First Minister and saw where the RHI Inquiry is taking place. During our learning workshop, the children held their own election and got to vote for the party they wanted in school which was the "Pet Party". The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip and there are many budding politicians amongst them.



Eco School Success

Congratulations to our Eco Committee who ensured St. Mary's was awarded a fourth Eco Schools Green Flag. This recognised all the hard work that takes place throughout the school in eco initiatives. Our Eco Schools Ambassador status was also renewed this year- we truly are an Eco School! In the past, assessors from Eco Schools would visit our school before awarding an Eco flag; however this was not the case this year. The judges were so impressed with us from previous years and the portfolio of evidence we submitted this year that they awarded it to us without a visit. Well done to everyone involved!



Spirit of Live Here Love Here Award

Screen Eco Schools were winners of the overall accolade at the recent Live Here Love Here Awards. Screen Eco Schools is all the schools in the parish working together on eco initiatives such as the Blooming Ballinascreen Project. Our Eco Committee and Primary 7 have shown great leadership through this collaboration. Well Done!



World Book Day 2018

Thursday 1st March saw the arrival of the 22nd World Book Day. A range of events were organised throughout the day with the children in Mrs Barton's and Miss McNicholl's classes kicking things off with a World Book Day Assembly. We were lucky to be joined by some book characters to add a little colour to our assembly. As well as this, Key Stage 2 classes shared a story with the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. We had also had a range of activities and competitions in each of the classes.



St. Patrick's Day 2018

Our school was a sea of green on Friday 16th March to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We had our annual St. Patrick's Day concert with the children playing a range of musical instruments which included: guitars, tin whistles, fiddles, clarinets and harps. As well as this, Pól danced for us and Primary 6 and 7 sang a medley of old and modern Irish songs. We have a wealth of musical talent in our school which is evident not only on St. Patrick's Day but throughout the whole year. Thank you to everyone who participated in our concert which showcased our Irish tradition and culture.

The children in Primary 1 to Primary 4 also had the opportunity to learn Irish as they were joined by Ms McKenna on Friday. The children listened to stories spoken in Irish, played games and sang songs. Thank you to Mrs. Devlin for organising these events.

