



November 2014



St. Mary's Autumn News

The school community of St. Mary's P.S. Draperstown is celebrating after scooping the top award of Best Overall Primary School at the Northern Ireland School Catering Awards (NISCA) following on from the success of being voted Best Primary School in the NEELB. Education Minister John O Dowd was guest of honour at the Awards Ceremony in Belfast recently. NISCA Chairperson, Irene Clarke spoke about the whole school approach to healthy living and healthy eating at St. Mary's and commended the excellent practice in the school. The judges were very impressed with the entry and commented on the extensive work led by children in the school garden, the Foundation Stage Break initiative, the Family Meal Day and many other initiatives. The assembled audience was treated to a viewing of St. Mary's Healthy Living video which can be seen at www.stmaryspsdraperstown.com. Congratulations to everyone especially our superb catering staff Karen, Trea, Eileen, Dolores and Marie. We are delighted that our excellent practice has been recognised at this level.



CONGRATULATIONS

WINNERS OF THE KINDNESS CUP

Congratulations to our winners of the Kindness Cup for September and October. These pupils were very deserving of their award for showing kindness to others.



A big welcome to the new children who have joined Primary 1 in St. Mary's this term. We have settled in so well to our new school and loved celebrating the end of our first half term with a special Halloween Celebration, where we performed for all the pupils and parents. We look forward to completing our first term and preparing for our Christmas celebration.

Ambassador Eco-School



St. Mary's was recently chosen to become an ambassador Eco-School, specialising in the area of litter. We were chosen due to our hard work in not only maintaining a litter free school, but also because of our commitment to maintaining a litter free community. Our Eco-team recently went to the Moykeeran Plantin for a clean-up where we were joined by pupils from St. Colm's and representatives from Wrigley's.



Harvesting Potatoes in P.4

On Tuesday 14th October P.4. with the help of Nuala the Caretaker, Mrs Higgins and Olive went out to dig and gather our crop of Maris Peer potatoes which had been planted in April 2014. The potato bed was stripped of all the dead potato tops' and Nuala began to dig up the soil. Some of the potatoes were really huge! We weighed the largest potato and found it to be 1.5 kilograms (what a whopper!) Everyone got to take home some potatoes and cook them, they were very tasty. When we have our healthy living theme in January we will cook them with some leeks -also from the school garden to show how we can grow and eat our own food as part of a healthy balanced diet.



Hurling and Camogie Club

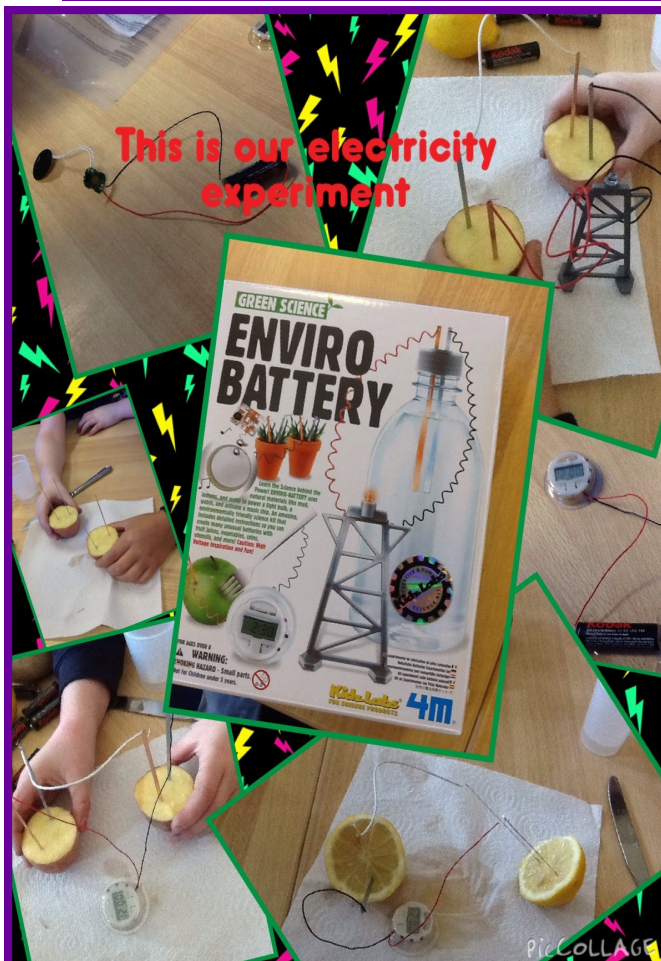


Our hurling and camogie clubs have been running throughout October and November. Our hurling coaches are Mr Brunton and Cathal Murray, and our camogie coaches are Mr Scullion and Mary McGuigan. We train every Wednesday afternoon at the 3G pitch and work hard on our skills such as striking, soloing and hooking. We enjoy our training and look forward to competing in tournaments throughout the year.

European day of Languages

To celebrate European Day of Languages (Friday 26th September) the pupils from St. Mary's held school assembly. Pupils from Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia participated along with all pupils from primary four. To prepare for the event the pupils had made colourful banners and flags to represent the various countries across Europe. The pupils and the staff gained great knowledge about Europe and the importance of learning a new language.

This special school assembly was enjoyed by everyone.



Electricity Experiments In P.5

Primary 5 have been experimenting with electricity. Don't worry, it was quite safe. We were able to use fruit and vegetables, along with zinc and copper plates to create a chemical reaction. The chemical reaction caused a 'flow of electrons' which was strong enough to conduct the electricity to power a small watch. We were very excited to see the LCD display of the watch light up.

Road Safety in P.2

Shauneen, the school lollipop lady, helps us to cross the road before and after school every day. She came to talk to P2 about road safety and we learned that it is very important to stop, look and listen before we cross the road. We have our own lollipop stick to practise with at school.



ICT Skills excel in St. Mary's

As the book fair was visiting our school for a week in November we produced some beautiful posters promoting the importance of reading every day. We used an app on the iPad called Pic Collage to make our posters. We loved the experience of taking photographs of each other using the iPads, inserting our photographs, choosing our favourite background and stickers, inserting text and finally saving, printing and displaying our work. We are very proud of our work.

By Sean, Amy, Feidhlim and Connor.



Busy Scientists in P.3



P.3 have been busy scientists in the school garden. They have looked at natural and built features. *Check the school website for more on this.*

IMPORTANT EVENTS & DATES

- 23rd Nov-P4 Do this in Memory Mass.
- 10th Dec - Children's Christmas Dinner.
- 19th Dec- School closes for Christmas holidays at 11.30am.
- 21st Dec- P4 Do this in Memory Mass.
- 7th Jan- School re-opens for children
- 14th Jan- Family Meal Day.
- 18th Jan-P4 Do this in Memory Mass.



For more info visit our school website; www.stmaryspsdraperstown.com