



St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School Newsletter

June 2017

A thuismitheoirí agus a chaomhnóirí,

First Holy Communion ceremonies: This year we celebrated our First Holy Communion ceremonies on May 6th in the 3 churches. We had Ms. O' Grady's class in St. John's, and Ms. McGuire's and Mr. Harvey's classes in St. Gabriel's together with one class from the Senior Girls' School. The ceremonies marked the culmination of a journey which started back in September when parents who wished their child to receive the sacraments met with the teachers and parish pastoral teams in the Girls' Hall. On that night, parents volunteered to help prepare the 'Do This in Memory' Masses which were celebrated in the parishes throughout the year. They prepared readings and prayers with the children and worked with the parishes and teachers on the programme. On behalf of the staff here, I wish to thank those parents who volunteered- it really made a big difference to have your support.

Post-communion refreshments: Parents of boys in first class (and even some parents who are no longer with us) organised refreshments and baked confections and cakes for after the First Communion ceremonies. The hall was beautifully decorated and set up for the occasion too. It is by far our biggest turn out of help from the parents of boys from our first classes. A great 'meitheal' indeed and ably co-ordinated and recruited by Clíodhna Hurley.

- For the record the parents were:

Anna Dunwoody
Xue Fang Yu
Fiona Wright
Jennifer Usher
Lisa Persse
Cara Joyce
Sinéad Morgan
Ann Greene
Melanie Hobbs
Regina Riordan
Norma Donlon
Joanne Giles
Deborah Bredican
Emer Hoy
Sarah McCabe
Aideen Murray
Kim Doran
Breda Broderick
Alva Hope-Ross

I wish to thank them very much for adding to the day- sometimes a cup of tea and a bun is the best tonic after a long morning!

Science Week 2017

Thanks to everyone who helped to make science week a great success this year. W5 from Belfast visited Belgrove with a very enjoyable show.

Lots of parents volunteered to help with experiments and came in to talk to the boys about science and technology.

- Conor McKeating spoke to the boys about Einstein and the Theory of Relativity to the boys in Room 2
- Muireann Roche spoke to the boys in Rooms 6 and 9 about medicine

- Niall McAndrteu spoke about technology to the boys in room 6
- Siona McAdam spoke to the boys in Rooms 7 and 9 about pharmacy
- Gráinne Doak spoke to the boys in Rooms 1 and 3 about DNA
- Bernadette Bruen spoke to the boys in Room 11 about aviation and the aviation industry
- Bronwyn O' Connor spoke to the boys in Rooms 8 and 10 about medical innovations..... including a tablet-sized camera and data collection device which the patient swallows. A single use item presumably.....
- Dr. Emmeline Hill who discovered the speed gene in racehorses spoke to the boys in Rooms 11 and 12 about the whole area of genetics and equine speed (A big GRMA to Lucy Cronin for making this visit possible).
- John Brereton spoke to the boys in Room 2 about solar energy and how we can use it in our homes.
- Karen Stafford spoke to the boys in Rooms 5 and 6 about medicine and biology.
- Leo Lawler spoke about medicine to the boys from Rooms 11 and 12.
- Garret Coady and Samantha Bourke did a very interesting experiment on the effect of water on different chemical substances.

I want to express my appreciation to each of these parents and visitors who shared their time and knowledge with us during Science week for contributing so effectively to the learning which the boys did that week.

One of the highlights of Science week was the science display hosted by the 2nd class boys, for the boys in 1st class, senior infants and junior infants.

New Junior Infant visits: On Monday and Tuesday 29th & 30th May, the junior infants who will start school in August had their induction session with their new teachers. Every boy seemed very happy to be in his new class and there were very few tears shed- and none by the boys! Members of the Parents' Association provided teas and coffees and O'Farrell School Uniform Suppliers were on hand to kit the boys out. A big thank you again to the Parents' Association for refreshments on the day.

Belgrove's got even more talent!

On Wednesday May 31st we celebrated our annual Arts Day in the School. We had an array of hard-working face painters in action and the Arts Day Committee under the wise and enthusiastic guidance of Mrs. Breen had sourced clay so that the ceramic artists could work with each class group on getting their pieces of ceramic art ready. No doubt these pieces have pride of place in each home at this stage.

A new element which was introduced last year was a segment entitled 'Belgrove's Got Talent'. After the hugely successful launch last year, we were eagerly anticipating a showcase of amazing talents.

By way of background, in 1983 an American developmental psychologist Howard Gardener described 9 types of intelligence-

1. Naturalist Intelligence ("Nature Smart")
2. Musical Intelligence ("Musical Smart")
3. Logical-Mathematical Intelligence (Number/Reasoning Smart)

4. Existential Intelligence
5. Interpersonal Intelligence (People Smart")
6. Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence ("Body Smart)
7. Linguistic Intelligence (Word Smart)
8. Intra-personal Intelligence (Self Smart")
9. Spatial Intelligence ("Picture Smart")

Our Belgrove's Got Talent show on Arts Day saw boys- and staff- show talents from each of these domains!

Mrs. Breen acted as MC and made sure we had a rich variety in the running order!

- We had Tadgh from 2nd class play a beautiful piece of music on his violin- he told us he has only been learning for 6 months!
- A group of boys from Room 4 regaled us with jokes and a poem and sang 'Rock me momma like a wagon wheel!'
- Kris, our caretaker, who has been playing the piano accordion since he was in 5th class, played some lovely polkas for us.
- Calvagh from senior infants told us some very funny jokes.
- Boys from Room 10 did a magic trick involving cutting a boy in 2..... Safety Statement was read through quickly and ambulances were on standby!
- Charlie from 2nd class danced a hornpipe for us- and he only started lessons 5 months ago. Will he remember that it started here when he is the new Michael Flatley?
- Then Henry from senior infants performed some amazing soccer skills. His demonstration was followed by Conor from the same class who read from and used a visualizer to show us his short illustrated novel 'Conor and the Gruffalo'.
- There followed a nostalgic trip commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the release of Sgt. Pepper involving a partial rendition (cw visual aids) of *When I'm 64*
- Back on track with the pupils and a group of boys from Room 1 performed the Macarena.
- Then we had Joe, Ruadhán and Harry from 1st class give us a rousing rendition of 'Shut up and Dance with Me!'
- Harvey conducted the boys from Room 11 who played recorders and gave us a stirring rendition of 'Ireland's Call'.
- They also played the tune from The Sunday Game. This may well be because Donegal may not be providing any pictures for the programme this year...
- Tracey from our staff played a beautiful piece on her clarinet. It was her first recital after 30 years- and it was truly beautiful.
- From Room 2 we had Hector who played Hot Cross Buns for us on the tin whistle- and he has only recently taken up the instrument!
- Then we moved to the bodily- kinaesthetic realm- and Dan from senior infants demonstrated a pattern from Taekwan Do.
- After Dan we had the entire class from room 7 who performed 'these are the days when we won't grow old' for us.
- Next a piano duet from Benedict and Conor who played a waltz for us with impeccable timing.
- Robert and friends from 2nd class performed a cover of an Ed Sheeran song called 'The shape of you'!
- Our final item was an interpretive piece involving Weston, Adam, Ethan and Patrick from junior infants. Each of the boys gave a different interpretation of the Bruno Mars classic 'Uptown Funk'.

Well done to all for a truly magical interlude and what was the highlight of Arts Day.

Face painters: A big mife buiochas to the many face-painters who helped adorn the faces and arms too of the boys with various emblems, crests and washable tattoos on Arts Day..... you know who you are.

Diarmuid and Gráinne: Our friends from Clann Cluana Theatre brought this show to us in April. Tomás from Room 12 writes

On Tuesday 25th of April, we attended a show in the hall called Diarmuid and Gráinne'. The show was performed by the Clann Cluana Theatre company. The story was about two people who loved each other. Diarmuid betrayed Fionn McCool because Diarmuid took Gráinne. I thought the show was funny and cool. My favourite part was when the silly man said he was the greatest fighter in the world and Diarmuid beat him. We really enjoyed it

Active School Week: By far one of the most enjoyable weeks of the year is Active School Week. This year it ran from the 19th to the 23rd of June- the week before the holidays! The Active School Committee had been planning the events of the week for some time and the planning certainly showed in how smoothly the events ran. The weather helped enormously apart from a squally start to sports day itself.

In keeping with our intention to always involve parents as much as possible, we began each day with a '10 at 10 to 9' slot in the yard. Kris set us up with a mic and staff and parents modelled the moves which were called as gaeilge-

- Diagonal arms- sín do lámha
- Touch your toes windmill- Barracíní
- Arm circles- ciorcal do lámha
- Back strokes- lámha taobh thiar
- Knee to opposite elbow- Glúin go h-uileann
- Clap over head- bualadh bos san aer
- Side to side tap- taobh go thaobh
- Jumping jacks- Léimigí
- Jog on the spot

This set the tone for each day and it was activity all the way after that!

ASW Monday: Monday started with 3 cricket coaches from Clontarf CC- Andre, Bradley and Hannah- taking 8 classes in turn for some batting and running practice in the yard. Ireland's recent success in cricket and elevation to first class status augurs very well for the game and the enthusiasm of the coaches was evident from the beginning to the end of the day. Monday also saw fun races take place in the hall.

ASW Tuesday: On Tuesday, Sansao from Mundo Capoeira conducted capoeira workshops with 6 classes and put them through their paces. Capoeira is a Brazilian [martial art](#) that combines elements of [dance](#), [acrobatics](#) and [music](#) and has a rich history. On Tuesday we also had a orienteering station set up outside rooms 2 & 3. Again teachers brought their boys to this in turn and it was a great success.

ASW Wednesday: Our sports day on Wednesday was a great success- Staff and pupils braved the early rain to head to the astro where the AS Committee had briefed all staff on the 6 stations which had been set up by them. Each year group beginning with junior infants had a 30 minute slot to get a rotation at each station. The planning and imagination that was brought to bear on the day made it truly inclusive of each boy- there was constant movement and each boy got a number of reps. at each station.

We had a

- Frisbee zone
- ball wall where boys practised their kicking

- parachute zone
- races- with a novelty aspect!
- Bats and balls
- Obstacle course.

Once again, we were very lucky to have the support of a number of parent volunteers as well as some children of school staff and this was a great help.

I want to thank Mrs. Anne McCarthy for facilitating us by giving us the use of the entire astro pitch on the day.

ASW Thursday: Once more Sansao and orienteering were on the menu. Sansao took the remaining 6 classes for capoeira as well as a parent group at 1:30 where Lycra was an absolute necessity.

Lunch breaks: As well as the scheduled activities described, we also had a very active lunch time. Kris Sierant who is earning a reputation as a goalkeeper of some note (starred in the staff V pupils game in SBS on Friday) volunteered to go in goal during lunchtime for the entire week as boys tried to score penalties on him. Each boy got a number of opportunities to score on Kris during their lunch break- again thanks to Kris!

ASW Friday: on our last day, we finished our cricket sessions and then we followed it with our dance display. DJ Kris spun the wheels of steel as the boys and staff danced to favourites such as the *Macarena*, *I got the feeling*, *Shut up and dance with me*, *I like to move it* and *Despacito*.

Adult activities during Active School Week: ASW is not only for children.....Joan Leahy, a parent on our Active School Committee and a serious rower (?) took a group of parents to Islandbridge for an introductory rowing session. Feedback was very good and all had a great time.

School Tours: This year, the teachers at each class level collaborated and planned their school tours in year groups.

The junior infant classes went on their school tour to Lambert Puppet Theatre,

The senior infants went to 'Imaginosity'.

The first classes went to Activity Nation in Ardgillan Castle.

The second classes went to Causey Farm.

Graduation Mass and presentation of certificates: This was a beautiful ceremony and I want to thank Fr. Pat McManus for celebrating Mass with us. The boys were a credit to their Parents and teachers. A big 'Mile Buiochas' to Maria McGuire, SORCHA O' Grady and Ger Harvey, the class teachers and Michelle Carty as well as special needs assistants Mary and Linda.

Deirdre McDermott: Those of you who have been involved in preparing the 'Do This in Memory of Me' masses will have met Deirdre who was the pastoral worker for the three parishes. She gave great support to parents and priests with the sacramental preparation. Deirdre will shortly be leaving us to work in another parish. On behalf of everyone here I wish to thank her for all her work with the boys and to wish her every success in her new parish.

Sharing the bounty: By tradition, we ask the boys who have made the Sacrament to donate a portion of their 'bounty' to two named charities- Barretstown and the LauraLynn Children's Hospice. We presented representatives from each organisation with a cheque for €950 after the graduation ceremony. I want to thank the boys for this very generous gesture. Information on both charities can be found on info@barretstown.org and info@lauralynn.ie

Data transfer: We wish each boy every success as he begins the next phase of his education whether in the Senior School or elsewhere. If your son is transferring to a school other than the Senior Boys School in Belgrove, you need to sign a letter in order for us to release information and his new school needs to write requesting such. Contact the office for more information.

Boys in first Class 2017-18: To help ease them into the longer day, these boys will be dismissed at 1.20p.m. until Friday 8th September. From Monday 11th September they will be dismissed at 2.20 as normal.

Boys leaving Belgrove?: If a boy from junior infants, senior infants or first class will not be returning next year, please let us know immediately as it will have implications for those waiting for places in the School.

Low energy Day: The hunt for our second green flag- for energy conservation- is gathering momentum. Our Green Schools Committee were trying to track our electricity usage to see if we could establish that by turning off almost all of our electrical appliances on Wednesday June 21st - Low Energy Day- we could calculate our energy saving. So..... no laptops..... no public address..... no whiteboard.....lights off..... (kettles were considered necessary for survival though!)

So thanks to Declan Byrne from Eirgrid who checked consumption from 10 until 3 on 21st and compared it with consumption during a regular day to see how much we saved. Awaiting figures! A big thank you too to Eirgrid metering services staff who were very helpful.

Noel O' Connor RIP: Many of you will have heard of the death of Noel O' Connor RIP. Noel has been a presence at home time in the school yard here and indeed in the girls' schools for several years now where he collected his grandchildren. Noel was devoted to them and gave great support to his daughter Samantha. On behalf of all here I wish to extend our sympathy to the family.

Summer stars Reading Programme



The Summer Stars Reading Adventure programme provides the whole family with an opportunity to explore the full range of events and facilities which are available in their local library, such as story time sessions, children's activities, access to talking books and games, computers and Internet access, and of course children's books for all ages. Exciting events for children will also be held in public libraries during the summer. Check out your local library service or local library website for further information on local activities and events. check out www.summerstars.ie

During the summer: If you need to contact the School during the summer, the best way is by email to principal@belgrovejbs.ie

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Management, may I wish each of you a happy summer.

Don't forget.....we return on Thursday August 31st!!

Date for Diary - New Junior Infants run around day. Saturday 9th September. Note to follow in September.

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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE PHOTOS OF ALL EVENTS ON WWW.BELGROVEJBS.IE !