



Spring Newsletter
2024

Notaí Niocláis

A message from the Principal.

A Chairde,

Mar Phríomoide Scoil Niocláis is cúis áthais domsa cúpla focal a scríobh don Nuachtlitir atá á foilisiú againn am na Cásca 2024.

As we commence the Easter Holiday period for 2024 I am pleased to pen a few short words to contribute to our Nuachtlitir na Cásca 2024 – Nótaí Niocláis.

The Easter celebrations each year mark a turning point in our calendar with the arrival of Spring Time on March 31st and the changing forward of our clocks which brings longer days, better weather and growth and renewal in our environment.

Our very fine publication details many activities and events which have occurred here in Scoil Niocláis since January and I encourage you to share this online publication with your family and friends.

Our newsletter provides a magnificent overview of the talents of our pupils, their many opportunities and the professional and the dedicated work of our staff who add greatly to the community of learning and friendship which we strive to cultivate and develop here in the school.

My earnest wish is that you will enjoy a relaxing and pleasant Easter break and take in as many outdoor opportunities as possible.

Ag tnúth le bualadh libh go léir arís ar an 8ú Aibreán.

Beannachtaí na Féile Cásca oraibh go léir,

Marc Ó Síocháin. (Príomh – Oide.)



CÓR FHÉILE NA SCOL

Ms Sexton's and Mr Kirby's 4th classes performed the Lion King at the Cór Fhéile! Well done to both classes, their teachers and SNA's. Their performance was phenomenal on the night in City Hall with wonderful singing, choreography and amazing colourful costumes.

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VEX ROBOTICS IN THE NATIONAL FINALS



Very well done to our Vex Robotics National Finalists who won the INNOVATE AWARD in the National Finals in MTU. This group have worked on engineering and coding skills, developed their design, building and problem solving abilities and completed project work and honed their driving skills. The team's journey to the National Finals saw them compete in difficult regional competitions in Kinsale and in MTU and to come away with

four awards in their competitions. To do so well in their first year competing is remarkable. Congratulations to Susan, Fionn and Sarah, Liam, Iga, Sacha and Emma also Ms. Kenny and Mr. Owens for promoting this area of STEM.

"We place a strong emphasis on STEM in Scoil Niocláis (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and it is amazing to see our students excel in this area"

SCIENCE FAIR

As part of The Curious Mind Programme 3rd class were involved in The Science Fair. Parents were invited in to view experiments such as electric light houses, magnetic car races, erupting volcanoes and lava lamps to mention a few. 3rd & 5th classes visited Blackrock Castle in January and learned about Space. 4th & 5th class visited the Lifetime Lab also. 1st class take part in the Let's Grow Supervalu Campaign. The school also takes part in The School Garden Competition run by The County Council.



SCIENCE BLAST



Mr. Walsh's 3rd class represented the school at The ESB Science Blast Competition in Dublin. Pupils really enjoyed engaging with this aspect of the curriculum which involves active discovery learning. Their rockets were spectacular and the judges were very impressed by the depth of their scientific knowledge at such a young age. Well done all!

Well done to all!



STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



Since Christmas the Student Council has been busy. In January, we all met to go through and discuss the suggestion boxes from each class. We put forward the suggestions that we thought were a good idea and that were able to be done.

In February, we welcomed the grandparents on Grandparent's Day by standing at the gates and showing them to the halla. This was a great help for teachers to make sure the day was a success.

In March, the Student Council were involved in the organisation of the Junior Infants and Senior Infants Easter egg hunt. We coloured and cut out egg baskets for the hunt. We then divided the 736 Easter eggs between all the baskets!! Thank you to the Parent's Association for giving us the money for all the Easter eggs.

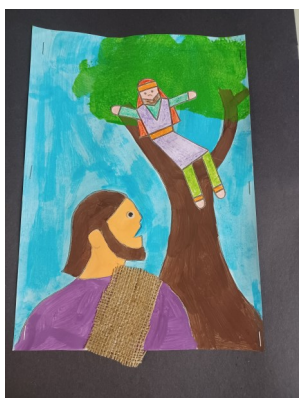
On the day of the Senior Infants hunt we helped them with orienteering/egg hunt and we made sure that each child had some chocolate eggs at the end.

On the day of the Junior Infants hunt we did different activities with them including clay, chalk and threading. We also played games with them including the floor is lava and we set up an obstacle course for them too.

Overall the Student Council have been doing great work since Christmas and hopefully will be involved in more worthwhile and fun activities around the school in the final term.

By Séimí Mc Carthy (5th class)

SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE



On the 13th March children from 2nd class received the sacrament of reconciliation. This is their second sacrament having been baptised already. Children learned the Prayer Before and After Confession and the Act of Sorrow. Fr. O' Riordan has worked with the teachers to help prepare the pupils for this sacrament. It was a lovely ceremony and families are looking forward to the Holy Communion on May 18th.

This is a pupil's artwork depicting Zacchaeus The Tax Collector.





SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE



Lá Glas

Bhí an spórt againn le linn seachtain na Gaeilge. Rinnear iar-racht iontach Gaeilge a labhairt timpeall na scoile. Bhí An tUasal Ó Síocháin agus Bean Uí Chionnaith an sásta.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great couple of weeks in Scoil Niocláis. Each class was involved in various Irish language and culture promoting activities. There was a tráth na gCeist (quiz), a Seó Faisean (Fashion Show), a junior concert and a Céilí Mór sa halla.

It was a fun filled fortnight and all pupils and staff made a big effort to speak cúpla focail as Gaeilge. On Friday pupils dressed up in Green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. There was a big parade and a mega disco in the halla.



Léigh le chéile was an initiative where older pupils read Irish stories to younger pupils. Thank you to all the pupils who read stories as Gaeilge. The school has invested in purchasing new Irish short story books.



CÉILÍ & IRISH DANCING DISPLAY



The céilí started with Ms. Chawke's 5th class playing 'The Foggy Dew' on the tin-whistle. Next we were treated to an amazing dancing display by the Attridge School of Dancing. It was fantastic to see some of our past pupils back dancing with our own Irish dancers. Then pupils in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes danced with a partner in the Céilí. The dancing teacher Niamh Marie said there is always room for more beginner dancers at 2.30pm on Tuesdays in the link building.



WORLD BOOK DAY



Niamh Ahern the author of the book 'Timmy's Technology Troubles' visited our school. The book has a powerful message about controlling screen time and having a healthy balance in life.



There were some very interesting characters for World Book Day. Pupils discussed their favourite books and characters and enjoyed DEAR time (Drop everything and read)

“The Creative Schools Programme supports pupils to explore their artistic talents“

Scoil Niocláis is taking part in the creative schools initiative . For the next two years , our pupils will explore different forms of creativity with our Creative Associate the artist Grace Haynes.

We have received a grant of 4,000 euros from the Arts Council to take part in this programme. Our pupils are thoroughly enjoying it so far . There is a Creative Schools Committee comprising of pupils expressing their ideas on creative projects in the school.



The 5th & 6th class pupils who played in the FAI 5 aside soccer tournament in Carrigaline. One of our girls' teams are through to the county final on April 17th in Musgrave Park. Go néirí libh!

BOOK FAIR 2024

The annual Book Fair took place the 31st January to the 2nd of February. The theme this year was **Read Well, Feel Well**, which complements our Amber Flag Wellbeing programme.

Parents were invited in to accompany their child to choose a book if they wished to purchase one. Ms. O' Mahony the organiser sincerely thanked Yvonne O' Connell and our wonderful Parent's Association who generously gave their time to run this fundraising event. Classes showcased their work on the theme by creating fabulous displays.

The book Fair is an invaluable opportunity for our school to raise funds to replenish our libraries. The event was an outstanding success with 10,300 euro raised, 60% of this money goes to the school. Thank you to all the parents who purchased books.



The Scarecrow's Wedding display by Ms. Hipwell's 1st class

Notes for Parents

Easter 2024

The school closes on Fri 22nd March at 12 noon and at 11.45 am for junior classes. It reopens on Monday 8th April at 8.35 am.

May Bank Holiday

School closes on Monday May 6th and Tuesday May 7th.

June Bank Holiday

School closes Monday June 3rd and Tuesday June 4th.

Summer Holidays

School Closes Friday June 28th at 12 noon and 11.45 am for junior classes.

School Reopens

Wednesday August 28th 2024 at 8.35am.

Uniform & Tracksuits

Pupils wear the uniform and all black foot wear 3 days a week and the tracksuit on PE days. In May and June pupils may wear their school shorts. Runners of choice can be worn with the tracksuit or shorts.

Acceptable Use Policy

In line with the school's AU policy all phones, tablets and smart watches are prohibited for use by pupils on the school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

Healthy Eating Policy

We would like to remind parents and guardians that we operate a healthy eating policy in Scoil Niocláis. We ask that children drink water or milk. Treat day is Friday and children may have one small treat. No crisps or fizzy drinks please.

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

It was great to see the pupils and staff of Scoil Niocláis dressed in purple to raise awareness of epilepsy in our school. Thank you to our Parents Association for organising the event!

A 1500 euro cheque was presented to Marymount from the partial proceeds from our Christmas Album CD sales. 2,000 euro of fundraising money went towards the cost of the new sensory room to support our special needs pupils.

The Parent's Association were delighted to help run the Book Fair. They funded a mobile reading bench to promote a love of reading. They organised the Easter Bunny to visit each class.

They are currently recruiting new committee members or volunteers for special events. Please contact yvonesnpa@gmail.com

Traditionally 1st class parents bake cakes and make sandwiches for the Holy Communion reception in the halla. We are asking 1st class parents to please support this effort. The success of these special events is dependent on the good will of our parents to volunteer to help. Many hands make light work!

