

Principal's Post

22nd November 2022

Thank you for all monies raised for our Halloween Sponsored Walk. In total, €1815.00 was raised. This money has gone towards the insurance and running costs of the two school mini buses. These mini buses will be used to take pupils to sporting and social events throughout the year. In addition, thank you to the Parent's Committee for hosting teas/coffee for all parents held after the Sponsored Walk. This was warmly received by all.

The first block of swimming lessons has commenced for our senior pupils. We will facilitate three blocks of swimming this school, each block consisting of six weekly lessons for all eligible pupils. Lessons are held in Ballyfermot swimming pool on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you to Ms Heffernan, our P.E. specialist teacher and Mrs Feeney for organising these lessons. Thank you to all staff attending these lessons to supervise and support the pupils. Hairdryers were purchased to ensure hairs are well dried upon return to school.

In addition to swimming, two groups of pupils went to a Basketball Training Day on 9th and 10th November. They represented themselves and the school very well and had a good time learning the skills of basketball and playing with/against other schools. Thank you to Mr. Jones and the SNAs who attended these trips.

I.E.P face to face meetings/phonecalls have been held over the past number of weeks. If any parent missed a meeting/phone call, we would urge you to ring the school on 018201859 and make arrangement to speak with the class teacher. We thank you for your co-operation in the facilitation of these I.E.P. meetings.

Antibullying Week was held last week from 14th-18th November as directed by Minister of Education, Ms Norma Foley. Resources with activities were shared and discussions/questionnaires were distributed. As a staff, we would encourage you to speak with your child regularly about how they are getting on in school and when they are out with their friends. Talk to them about being kind and finding ways to resolve conflicts through talking and reflecting on issues that arise. Please be aware of your child's online activity as this is a potential area of vulnerability for pupils and teenagers in general. They can do or say unkind things to each other without thinking about people's feelings. Monitor screentime and speak to them about internet safety. Gentle reminder mobile phones are not permitted in school or on school transport.

Music Week is being held next week, from Monday 28th Nov.-2nd Dec. Thank you to Ms O'Riordan, Deputy Principal for organising musicians to come and play for our pupils throughout the week.

A whole school Assembly, organised by Mrs Farnan, Assistant Principal II, was held last Thursday, 17th November. The theme of the Assembly was “Leaders in our School Community”. It provided an opportunity to introduce the members of the Student Council, the Green Schools’ Committee and the Active Schools’ Committee and to recognise and celebrate the hard work being done by these groups. The pupils did a great job of sharing their information and were real positive role models.

There was a Fire Drill held last Tuesday afternoon. Well done to all the pupils for their calm and efficient evacuation of the school buildings.

Thank you to the Student Council who organised a ‘No Uniform Day’ on Friday, 28th October. Members of the Student Council meet most weeks, under the direction of Ms Wilkinson. They make many valuable suggestions and are leading more social occasions and activities for all the pupils.

Well done to St. Gertrude’s and St. Brendan’s classes who brought filled shoeboxes and donated them to the annual Shoebox Appeal. Thank you to all who donated items for these shoeboxes for giving so generously.

Well done to the classes of St. Patrick and St. Peter. our Green Schools’ Committee for their active daily participation and sharing of information with all classes as we continue to work hard to be a ‘Green School’. Thank you to Ms. C. Murphy and Ms Wilkinson for leading these tasks and activities.

As Christmas approaches, we ask for donations to our Christmas raffle. All pupils received an explanatory letter for parents, should you wish to approach local businesses/shops etc. and seek raffle prizes. Additional copies of this letter are available from the office. Dates for the raffle and Christmas carol service event will be arranged and shared soon.

If you or someone you know might be interested in acting as a substitute bus escort, please ask them to get in contact with the school for Garda vetting etc. to be organised. It is proving very difficult to get substitute cover for bus escorts and we need to have a supply panel of vetted people who can act as substitute bus escorts as the need arises.

Please inform the school if your contacts details change or indeed if there is any change in your child’s medical needs or otherwise.

Le meas,

Sharon Gorevan