

BCNS

Jorge



NEWS

Brannoxtown CNS Newsletter: 10th April 2019

Student Editor: Jorge

A New School Garden

By Andrew

Our school garden and grounds will be quite different to what we have now... we're on a mission to make our school grounds look great! The garden we have now is not that big so we're planning to plant **more grass** to replace some of the tarmac. Last Thursday, we had a **site survey** to identify the best location for **new raised beds**, which will be made out of larch (a hardy type of wood) for growing our own **fruit** and **vegetables**. In class, we planted **marrowfat pea sprouts** and **sugar snap peas** in DIY toilet roll holders. We are also going to plant **carrots** in a tall bin (to avoid carrot-fly!). By the summer holidays we should have lots of peas and carrots and other vegetables and sprouts for DIY school salads. The school recently planted a new **ash tree** to increase **biodiversity** in our school garden (with big thanks to the North Kildare Beekeepers Association). We learnt a lot about biodiversity and how bees like ash trees. This information will help us to redesign and improve our school grounds. One long-term goal includes installing **buddy-benches** where we can sit in our school garden to eat and chat and just enjoy ourselves!



We Love Reading!

By Daniel

We invited everyone to our first **School Book Fair** on Tuesday, March 4th! Special thanks to all our visitors. Before the Fair, we made **50 invitations**. We posted them in shops in Kilcullen and in the letterboxes of houses near the school. When the Book Fair trolleys arrived, we were so excited! We all had jobs to make sure our visitors felt welcome and could browse for as long as they wanted. We served **tea and coffee**, managed the cash-desk, played with young children who visited and helped our visitors to find books. We've been working as authors ourselves during our weekly **Writing Workshops**. On Wednesday, April 10th, we're excited to take a **guided tour of the Kilcullen Library** with huge thanks to Julie for the invitation!

Art and Culture

By Eliot, Paul and Paul

In March, we learned all about **Australia**. We really enjoyed learning about the Aborigines and their art. We created **Aboriginal Art** which is all about symbols and paint dots! It took a lot of focus and concentration. We enjoyed it so much we also used **pointillism** for our Holi art and Mother's Day Cards! We created a **coral reef** collage for our room which is really big and bright. We also wrote about and drew **Australian animals**.



Our next visit from the **Mobile Library** is on Tuesday, April 30th

Celebrating Feasts and Festivals

By Sai

- **Pancake Tuesday:** We researched pancake recipes and on February 25th, we brought in tasty fillings like sugar, lemon, bananas, honey, strawberries and other stuff for our DIY school-pancakes! We learned that Pancake or Shrove Tuesday is a traditional Christian feast before the 40 days of Lent and fasting that come before Easter.
- **St. Patrick's Day:** We all wore green for our Lá Glas, the Friday before St. Patrick's Day. We learned about St. Patrick (myths and truths) and celebrated with singing, playing music and céilí dancing.
- **Mother's Day:** We made cards for our Mums for Sunday March 31st. An acrostic poem reminded our Mums how much we appreciate and love them.
- **Holi Festival:** We celebrated Holi, the Hindu festival of colours on March 20th and 21st. The festival celebrates the end of Winter and the triumph of good over evil. We created colourful Rangoli patterns.
- **Easter:** This week we are learning about Domhnach Cáscá (Easter Sunday). Christians celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, three days after his crucifixion.

Seachtain Gaeilge / Irish Week!

By Jorge

This year, I spent my first **St. Patrick's Day** in Ireland! I learned my first céilí (Irish Dance), the Siege of Ennis and we had a lot of fun dancing it at school! I also learned that **Lá Glas** (Green Day) is a day to wear something green. All the activities are related to St. Patrick's Day and celebrating **Irish culture** through music, language, drama, history, geography, patron's (religion) time, art and craft! For our Seachtain Gaeilge, we learned the song, **Tóig Amach Mé**. This is an Irish version of Bob Dylan's **Wagon Wheel**. We discovered the fantastic music channel on YouTube by **Coláiste Lurgan** (in Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe): www.youtube.com/user/tglurgan. We got on great with our Tin Whistles (key of D). We learned to play **Ireland's Call** just in time for Ireland's last game in the Rugby Six-Nations (but it didn't help)! In GMGY (our Patron's Programme), we talked about key moments in St. Patrick's life. In Geography, we learned about **Australia** and the many Irish people who were sent to **Van Diemen's Land** in the 1800s. We listened to Irish Music written about this sad time in Ireland's history.

Hands-On Maths!

By Múinteoir Dawn

We've been getting hands-on with our maths learning in the Junior Class! Using **construction straws**, we made an array of **3D shapes**. It was fun identifying the different features of the shapes, especially the **2D shapes** which make up the faces of the 3D shapes. We also focused on **weight** and compared the **weight of different classroom objects**. It was tricky work finding objects that weighted 1 kilogram exactly! After the Easter break, we're looking forward to using our maths skills in the playground learning about **length and area**.

P.E. and Fitness

By Timmy and Zaharia

Since our last newsletter, we've been very active:

- playing **volleyball** with Emily (who has been selected for the National Volleyball squad). Go Emily!
- **swimming** with Fiona at the Osprey Hotel.
- exercising regularly with 10@10 and Go Noodle.
- playing **badminton** with our new rackets.

We completed two **Aldi posters**, with thanks to our secret sticker friends, who enabled us to gather over 600 stickers (300 per poster). We had fun with fractions... each time our numerator of stickers increased! **We hope the winning school is ours**. If not, we're looking forward to getting a set of rugby balls, bibs and a kit bag for participating!

Smelly Science!

By Múinteoir Dawn

This month, we're learning about **teeth**. Egg shells and teeth are made up of a similar substance. We're investigating **how different liquids affect egg shells**. We enjoyed planning our independent and dependent variables to ensure it was a fair test. As we predicted, the **coke and vinegar did the most damage** with the water not causing any damage at all. It has definitely reminded us to **drink water more often!**

Engineer's Week in Carlow!

By Daniel

This year our school celebrated **Engineer's Week** with some great hands-on activities and two trips on March 5th:

- the **Science Made Simple Show: Alice Perry's Incredible Adventures** in Carlow IT to participate in experiments and ride on a hoverboard!
- **Delta Sensory Gardens** to see engineering in nature and to gather some ideas for planning our school garden!

We're excited about our (fully-funded) cultural trip to Dublin on Wednesday, May 8th!

Huge thanks to the NCCA for their grant to our school.

Week 28 @ Brannoxtown CNS!



Our weekly news round-up is posted each Friday on our School Facebook: Brannoxtown CNS

Week 28: Measures, smelly experiments, landscaping green spaces, planting pea seeds, new novels, Writing Workshop, BCNS Newsletter 2, World War 2... and volleyball with Emily from the national squad! Wonderful things happen here... and we're enrolling!

www.brannoxtowncns.ie/enrol

We look forward to welcoming our new class of Junior Infants and all new children on Thursday, May 16th from 1pm-2:30pm.