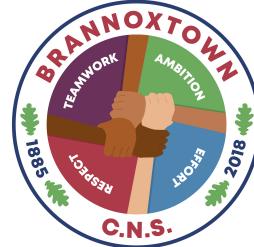


BCNS



NEWS

Brannoxtown Community National School - June News 2019

Student Editor: Melissa

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, written and produced by students. We've had a wonderful first year at Brannoxtown CNS. Our Welcome Afternoon on May 16th brought new parents, children and family members and this month we welcomed new students: Kaci, George, Sarah and Melissa.

Since Easter, we have new school signs, new window boxes, new raised beds (in progress) and new basketball posts! We're very grateful to members of the Brannockstown Tidy Towns Committee for the fresh coat of paint on our school. Through the year, we have had the joy of visits by community members to wish us well and to share their love of life and learning with us. It's a privilege to be part of such a special community.

With so much to be thankful for, we're hosting a celebration of our first school year and our first graduating students on June 24th. We hope you can come. With new enrolments across classes for September 2019, I'm sure we'll have lots more to celebrate in the years ahead!

Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal

This month, our school was selected for the 'Creative Schools Award'! Our thanks and congratulations are due to Múinteoir Dawn who coordinated and submitted our entry. The grant for €2,000 will go towards our arts and culture programme and our plans to make our school grounds more engaging and joyful for children.

The Class Dojo comes to our School!

By George

In May, we began to use the Class Dojo to earn points for our learning and behavior. At the time of printing this newsletter, we had earned 420 points! Our individual scores ranged from 23 to 38. We use our Dojo Points like money. When the Dojo Shop opens each week, here are some of the things we can buy: Avator/Character Change (10 points), Go Noodle Pass, Library Pass and Teacher for a mini-class Pass (20 points), Prize Box Pass (25 points), Surface RT Pass (30 points), Written Homework Pass and Teacher for a Class Pass (30 points). I bought a 'Teacher for a Class Pass' with Daniel; we're planning a Maths and PE Lesson. Watch this space!



Brannockstown Community Invitation



Come for a cuppa, a chat and to share stories, in pictures and music, from our first year!

Beliefs and Religions: Judaism and the Synagogue

By Jorge

On the 8th of May we went on a Cultural trip to Dublin. The purpose of the trip was to learn about different Religions and Beliefs. Our first stop was at the Dublin Hebrew Congregation Synagogue on Rathfarnham Road. At the synagogue, the Rabbi's wife provided a wonderful tour; she was very hospitable. We learned about the Jewish Shabbat which begins just before sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday. The synagogue had some parts just for women because that is how the religion works. There was a part of the synagogue called the bath-house where people took a bath or 'became clean' on important days. The tour gave us lots to think about on a cold, wet, windy day in Dublin. We are very thankful to our host Rifky.



At the Mosque on S. Circular Rd., Dublin

Learning about Beliefs and Religions: Islam and the Mosque

By Melissa

The second stop on our Cultural tour of Dublin brought us to the Islamic Foundation of Ireland Mosque on South Circular Road, Dublin. In the Mosque, Fazal explained that Muslims pray five times a day. At the moment, during Ramadan, approximate prayer times are: FAJR (3am), SHUROOQ (5am), DHUHR (1pm), ASR (5pm), MAGHRIB (9pm) and ISHA (11pm). Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar. Fasting during Ramadan is from sunrise to sunset. Fazal's family eats a date when the fast-time ends each day, while the family prepares their meal. We received a gift of a box of dates. They tasted really sweet, like honey, with a long hard stone inside. We learned how Muslims pray. First, they repeat the leader's invitation to prayer, then put their hands on their ears and across their body and pray. Then, they bend down and recite prayers again and lastly they lie down on the floor and say prayers one more time. Fazal explained the five pillars of Islam. These are to: believe in God, pray five times a day, fast (Ramadan), give to the poor and make a pilgrimage. We are very thankful to the NCCA for their grant to fund our Cultural tour in Dublin.

Religions and Beliefs: Christianity and St. Patrick's Cathedral

By Paul H, Eliot, Paul C and Kaci

During our visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral, we all made a stained glass window using tissue paper and transparent paper. It was great fun! Our work is on display in Múinteoir Dawn's room, you should have a look! On our tour around the cathedral, we learned all about St. Patrick and other Irish stories. We especially loved learning about 'The Door of Reconciliation' on display in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Did you know the Irish phrase 'to chance your arm' came from this old story? It is about a battle between two ancient Irish families, the FitzGeralds of Kildare and the Butlers of Ormonde. To show he was serious about peace, Gerald Fitzgerald, ordered that a hole should be cut in the door of the Chapter House separating the two families. He put his arm through the hole in the door, offering his hand in peace to those on the other side. When the Butlers saw the risk Fitzgerald was willing to take, they knew he was serious about peace. They shook hands through the hole in the door!

Transition to Cross and Passion College

By Andrew

On Friday the 17th of May, Sai and I went to Cross and Passion College for a tour of the school. It was really an orientation session. We met some teachers and students and visited some classrooms. It was very interesting to see what first year will be like and to meet new people. We have been using lockers and developing our independent learning skills, e.g., doing project work in 6th class, to help prepare us for the transition to first year.



Some students share their US State Projects!

Senior Class Projects

by George

We're doing three types of projects in the Senior Room in May and June: World War II, U.S., States and our Passion Project. Let me tell you about them! First of all, our World War II Projects focused on: Churchill, the Special Operations Executive (SOE), Hitler, Franco, Mussolini, Moldova during WWII, Pearl Harbour and the Holocaust. Now let me tell you about our U.S. projects. We each chose at least one state. We created a state profile with key information and presented our work for each state on an A3 sheet. Some of us are now researching our second state. Our U.S. states so far are: California, Florida, Mississippi, Maryland, Kentucky, Illinois, Texas and New York. Did you know that... there are 36 cities called 'Springfield' in the U.S.? Did you know that... Washington D.C. is in the state of Maryland but it is a district in itself? You're invited to take a look at our projects to discover some more fun facts about the 50 U.S. states! Our third and final project before the Summer is a Passion Project. You can choose what it is yourself. As long as it's interesting for the class and there's some learning in it, the sky's the limit! I think mine might be on Man U...!



A visit from Children's Author, Audrey Moore!

Visit by Children's Author, Audrey Moore

By Paul H, Eliot, Paul C and Kaci

On Wednesday 22nd of May, a local author called Audrey Moore came to visit us to share her books about 'Ping and Po-Li'. Our favourite character is Ping who is a cheeky panda living in the Asian Rainforest. We even dressed up as a panda! We loved hearing about how Audrey became an author and all the work that is involved. Everyone at Brannoxtown CNS would like to thank Audrey for her visit, we truly enjoyed it. We're all inspired to plan and write our next story!



Our new school sign!

Basketball season at Brannoxtown CNS!

By Zaharia and Sai

Students in the Senior Room were really excited to research new basketball posts, hoops and nets. We started by checking basketball court and post measurements. We researched different Basketball leagues such as the NBA in the US. After checking lots of prices, measurements and specifications, we purchased our new basketball sets from MC Sports. Each post hoop and net set was just over €500. Before the basketball posts arrived, Mick Murphy centered the brackets in the ground so the posts would align with our court markings. We are really thankful to Mick for assembling the posts. We already had lots of basketballs in the school but most were a bit flat. We ordered a new ball pump and our Equipment Monitors are responsible for maintaining the equipment and pumping up the balls each Friday.

Sports Week, 17th to 21st June

By Daniel

We have lots of good stuff planned for Sports Week. We're going to K-Leisure in Athy to swim and have fun in the pool with their large Inflatable. We're excited about having a coaching/skills session on the Astro. I am the only one who lives in Athy out of my whole school. About one third of school will be sports, each day, in sports week. Coaching sessions are planned for different ball skills. We will have lots of activities and tournaments for different sports. I'm really excited for Sports Week!

P.E.

By Zaharia and Sai

We are hugely thankful to Emily for her Volleyball coaching this term. Emily's visits to the school on Fridays include a 40-minute volleyball coaching session. We recently purchased two new volleyballs along with foam balls for the Junior Room. Emily has helped us to clean and organise the PE Storeroom. We have lots of great equipment which we use during break times and PE classes.

School Tour

By Múinteoir Dawn

We are all very excited for our School Tour which will take place on Tuesday 25th June. The school tour is to CP Adventures at Russborough House, Blessington. There are lots of fun activities to choose from including Archery, Climbing, and Zip line. It will definitely be a fantastic day. We can't wait! The school day will start and end at the normal time. Children should bring a packed lunch, a rain jacket and waterproof shoes.

Diary Dates

5th June

School

Resumes

17th -21st June

Sports Week!

24th June

BCNS

Celebration &

Graduation

25th June

School Tour

30th August

Term 1 begins