

# BCNS



# NEWS

## Brannoxtown Community National School - October News 2019

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our October Newsletter, written and produced by children at Brannoxtown CNS! Here, we share some of the highlights of our first eight weeks. We've had some wonderful learning adventures, so far. We hope you enjoy reading all about them. Until school re-opens on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, we wish you and your family a wonderful and well-earned Halloween holiday!

Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal

### Autumn

by Múinteoir Dawn and Junior Infants

In October, we learned all about Autumn. We loved looking for acorns, pine cones and conkers when walking outside. As it is getting colder, we are wearing warmer clothes like coats, scarves and gloves. The leaves are changing colours and falling to the ground. The squirrels are collecting nuts for winter. We have really enjoyed spotting Signs of Autumn all around us especially on our Autumn walks. We loved learning all about Halloween too. We are all looking forward to our Halloween party on Friday; we wonder if anyone will be dressed up as a 'cailleach' or a 'púca'?



### Writing Workshop

by Kaci

In September, we started Writing Workshop. We got new folders and organised them into four sections. We write on A4 pads. We have written recounts and procedures so far. After writing, we take turns in the "Author's Chair". We read our work and talk about it. My favourite part is recount writing because I wrote about my sleepover.



Spot the Squadcar...! Huge thanks to Gardaí Pauline and John who visited us to talk about staying safe during the Halloween Holiday.

### Rugby Blitz by Timmy Dempsey

My grandad played rugby for Connaught. I've always loved rugby. I played with the under 14s in Naas. Now I play rugby with my friends and I enjoy watching games on TV. In November, our school is teaming up with Halverstown NS and Blessington Educate Together for a Rugby Blitz. The Blitz is for children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class. We think each level will have about four teams, with each team playing three games. We'll tell you how we got on in our next newsletter!

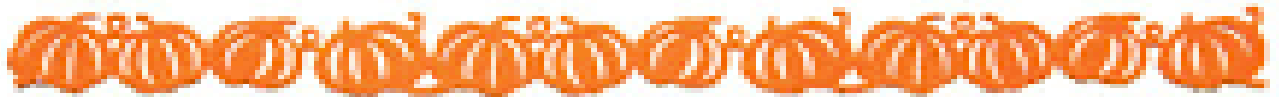


Junior Infant & Senior Room Buddies!

### Starting School in Junior Infants

by Múinteoir Dawn and Junior Infants

We have had lots of fun since starting Junior Infants in September and have welcomed three new friends along the way. We have so many favourite activities we cannot pick just one! We love playing with the older children in the yard and using our role-play area. We especially loved dressing up as witches and wizards! We also love playing with the sand, reading in the book corner and making art and crafts. We made spooky spiders, wicked witches and slithery snakes, to name just a few! We can't wait to come back to school after midterm, we are already excited for our next activities!



### Drama

by Paul

We have been playing fun games in drama. We have been miming. We pretended we were in the sweet shop. It wasn't a normal shop. The sweets were strange like invisible liquorice. Then we learned a rap called "Gran Can You Rap" and performed our rap to music. We played a mirror images game too. We had to do slow motion actions and follow our partners. My favourite thing was a 'walking around the room' game because we pretended that we were in different places and acted it out. I liked walking over crocodiles on a shaky bridge.

### Homework Club

by Aoife and Sarah

Homework Club starts at 2:30 and ends at 4:30pm, Monday to Thursday. Múinteoir Dawn and Múinteoir Anne Marie provide the Homework Club at our school. After the Christmas break, Busy Fingers will provide the Homework Club. So what do we do at the Club? The most important thing to say is that we have a lot of fun at our Homework Club! We do our homework first and then we hang out and play at our school. If the weather is nice, we play outside. It's great to go home with homework done for the day!

### Sacramental Preparation by Múinteoir Dawn

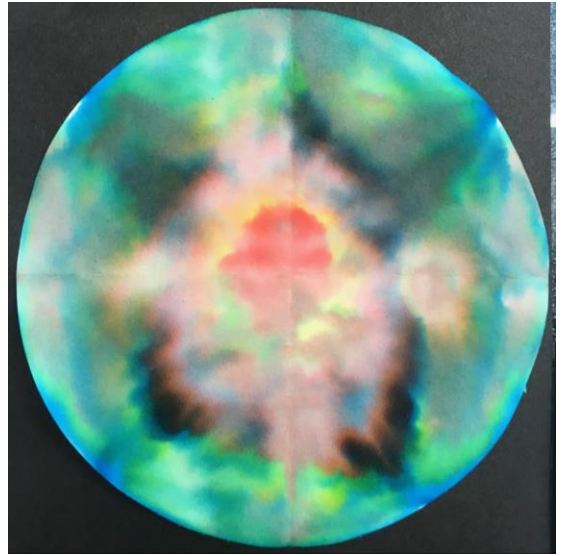
Afterschool classes for Communion and Confirmation will begin on Wednesday 6th November and will take place every Wednesday from 2.30pm-3.30pm. Our school will join up with St. Joseph's NS, Halverstown for both Sacraments. Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 10th March and Communion on Saturday 16th May. Both services will take place in St. Joseph's Church, Gormanstown.



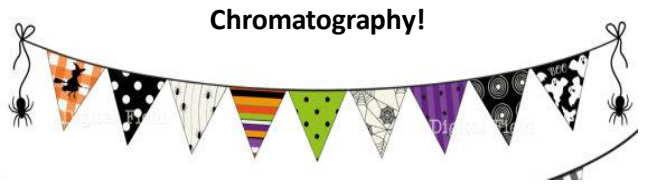
## Brannockstown Tidy Towns

by Múinteoir Anne Marie

On Saturday 19th of October, a special event to celebrate the achievement of all in the Tidy Towns competition took place in our school. A rousing performance by the Kilcullen Gospel Choir was enjoyed by all. This was followed by a presentation to thank the members of the Brannockstown community involved in the Tidy Towns Project. This special gathering was organised by the Brannockstown Community Group.



A Christmas event for the school and community in December is next on the event calendar – save the date, Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 3-5pm!



## Chromatography by Melissa

Chromatography is science and art all in one. It is about seeing how colours are blended to create new colours and patterns. For our Chromatography experiment, we used filter paper. Other options (which may not be as effective) include paper towels and coffee filter. We used water soluble markers (not sharpies) and water. To display our chromatography circle designs, we used glue, black card and crayons. Here are the steps:

- Colour your filter paper circle using a concentric circle design.
- Fold it in half and then in quarters.
- Dip it in water until the water-line reaches the edge of your paper. (DO NOT DUNK IT!)
- Take out your coloured paper and wait for it to dry.
- When it dries, glue it to the black card and display.
- Enjoy your chromatography!



## Children's School Lives (CSL) Research by Múinteoir Sarah, Principal

We are delighted that our school has been chosen to participate in the longitudinal study, Children's School Lives (CSL), funded by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and led by a team at University College Dublin (UCD). The purpose of the study is to learn more about children's lives so that education policy can be more in-tune with and responsive to children's experiences learning and growing in school. We think this is an important opportunity to ensure children's voices shape national policy. More information:

[www.ncca.ie/en/publications-and-research/children-s-school-lives-csl](http://www.ncca.ie/en/publications-and-research/children-s-school-lives-csl)

### Healthy Eating

by Múinteoir Dawn and all children

This half term, we introduced our Healthy Eating Policy. The children enjoyed discussing the importance of a healthy, balanced diet in our everyday life. We explored healthy home-baked treats for school. After much discussion, the children agreed on two recipes to bake; Coconut Cookies and Raspberry Biscuits. The children enjoyed sharing what we liked and disliked about the home baked treats and what changes we could make next time. We're currently gathering healthy recipes to publish our very own booklet: Brannoxtown CNS Healthy Lunches. We're inviting contributions! If you have a recipe to share, please email us: [brannoxtowncns@kwebt.ie](mailto:brannoxtowncns@kwebt.ie)



Our school-baked healthy cookies!

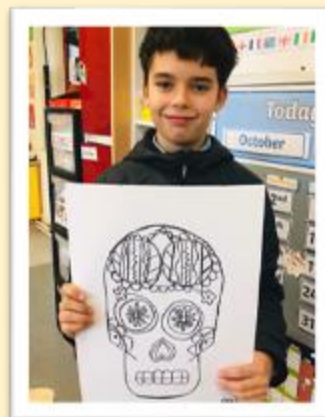
### Maths Trails at Castletown House by George

For Maths Week, we went to Castletown House which is a Palladian House in Celbridge built 297 years ago. Our Maths Trails took us to several rooms in the house and introduced us to the original owner, William Connolly. We also learned about Lady Louisa, who married William's great-nephew and heir, Thomas. She got married at 15 years old [VERY YOUNG!]. We had lots of problems to solve in each room before moving to the next. We were finding ordinal points on a compass, counting windows and the time needed to clean them, calculating how much powder William Connolly ordered for his wigs and measuring the width of Lady Louisa's dress—she would have had to enter the doorway sideways so her skirts would fit!

### Highlights by all of us!

We have had a wonderful half-term full of learning and fun. We asked children to think about their time in school and choose a highlight to share. Here's what they said:

- Benji: Playing with sand
- Finlay: Art and craft
- Jessica: Visiting the library
- Aaron: Role play
- Sophie: Playing with the tent
- Lexie: Drawing and colouring
- Kaci: Adding doubles in Maths
- Paul: Making a minion with clay
- Mimi: Drawing a sugar skull
- George: Going to the Mobile Library
- Timmy: Sugar skulls in art
- Melissa: Introducing myself to the new students
- Aoife: I'd have to think about it. I've loved so much!
- Sarah: Creating an original cover for my personal journal
- Daniel: The visit by the Gardaí!



### Diary Dates:

- 4th November**  
School Reopens
- 8th November**  
Dunlavin Dairy  
(All Classes)
- 11th November**  
One day closure  
for staff CPD in  
Kildare  
Education Centre
- 15th November**  
Birr Castle  
(Middle and  
Senior Classes)
- 19th November**  
Mobile Library
- 4th December**  
Parents' Meeting