



BCNS NEWS

June 2022

Editors: Ava & Matilda

Dear Parents,

Welcome Summer!

Despite the wet weather, holidays are almost here! It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of June, the first summer month. June takes its name from Juno, the goddess of youth. Our staff are so fortunate to work with wonderful, innovative, caring young children every day. We've had a wonderful fourth year at Brannoxtown CNS. Children tell us it flew; I agree!

This special Summer Newsletter includes our favourite moments from the past year. Children themselves contributed **all** of the text for this issue and chose the photos. We are so proud of our students. They exemplify our four school values in all they do, every day. They truly have HEART (Heart, Effort, Ambition, Respect and Teamwork)!

We are excited to welcome two new members to our staff in the Autumn. Interviews next Monday, July 4th are to fill the permanent positions of Special Education Teacher (SET) and Mainstream Teacher. We wish Múinteoir Dawn and Múinteoir Kiva every joy in their next adventures in life and learning and thank them for all they contributed to our school. Múinteoir Deirdre, our new Deputy Principal, will remain in the Junior Room next year and I will remain in the Senior Room. All families will receive an email update on staffing, etc. in the days before school begins.

Until then, on behalf of all of us, thank you for your support this past year. Last Friday's Family Day and Graduation were a great reminder that we have an amazing school community. We truly appreciate all you do for our school.

Wishing you a lovely holiday,

Sarah

My First Day!

By Dara Belle

You'd expect to be nervous on your first day of school in **September**, but I made so many new friends, that day... It felt like I had been here forever! Everyone was so welcoming. We began the day with Homeroom and introduced ourselves, we told people our names, class and hobbies. After discussing goals for the year and how to use our daily vote(s), we had snack and went out for break. I didn't know what to do until Caton asked if I wanted to set up jumps with her and I agreed. We came back in and we played a 'Guess Who?' game, sharing information such as our favourite colour, food, animal, etc. Coming from my old school it was very different because here we have...

- democratic voting, daily
- daily Writing Workshop in a specific genre (like Recount, Persuasive, Procedural, etc.)
- a daily visual schedule across our window which is SO handy because you always know where you're going and what's up next!

By Kitty & Sienna

We started at Brannoxtown CNS in **June**, just before the end of the school year! We began with a day trip to Carlow IT for a range of fun activities. We were very nervous starting in our new school. I, Sienna came from Jamisontown in Australia and I started one week after I came to Ireland. I, Kitty came from a local school. We like the school grounds because it's lots of fun. There's a Gardening Club and a spacious yard to play in. When we came to the school, we didn't know anyone's names (except Sienna's cousins) but we managed to fit in ... perfectly! At first, I, Sienna stayed with my cousins as I was very shy. I, Kitty was also very shy, coming to a new school, though my friend, Jack, enrolled shortly after me. We found the school very welcoming. We were and still are very happy and grateful coming to BCNS. We found it very easy to make friends, because everyone is so kind, fair and respectful! We are very happy to be part of Brannoxtown CNS!



Thank you, Senior Room Students!



Junior Room children would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the Senior Room pupils who looked after us this year and made our time at school so much fun! We will never forget the playground games you organised for us, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Craft Stations and Active School Week!

Junior Room Shared Writing

We chatted about our favourite memories from this year and here's what we came up with!

Senior Room Giants!

On our first day, we felt happy and little bit nervous. Our Junior Infants thought the Senior Room students looked like giants but we soon discovered that they were so nice and so helpful; they made us feel really welcome!



Aistear

Aistear was one big highlight of our day in the Junior Room! We loved outdoor Aistear and playing in the mud kitchen! In October, we showed our spooky side as we brewed potions in the 'Witch's Lab' and we loved dressing up on the last Friday before Hallowe'en. Another Aistear memory was the grand opening of our class bakery, 'Funny Pumpkins'! We baked salt-dough pretzels, cookies, donuts, croissants and baguettes! We had the most fun role-playing in Santa's Toy Shop and designing Santa's sleigh!

MAD: Music Art



Drama!

We loved showing off our "MAD" side this year and in Drama we really had the Midas touch.

We created sound-scapes of the jungle, we used our bodies to create freeze frames and we performed the Greek myth, 'King Midas'.



Singing together was one of our favourite things to do and we loved performing 'What a Wonderful World', 'Count on Me' and 'This is Me'. In Art, we let our creativity flow: we painted seascapes, we used rollers to blend and create new colours and we used pastels to draw rainforest leaves. One of our favourite art projects this year was designing our very own dream home which had trampoline rooms, disco rooms, slides instead of stars and even a zero gravity room!

Sensory Play

This year we made play-dough, corn starch ice-cream and salt-dough treats. We loved experimenting with water, gravel, shaving foam and colourful rice. We were so lucky to have Muinteoir Kiva working with us this year. She taught us how to strengthen our hands and fingers in a really fun way: we got to hide dinosaurs in Theraputty and we played with Lego and Squigz! This year is the first time we have ever tried using cursive writing in Junior Infants and we did an incredible job!

Snow & Flake!

We love a good joke in the Junior Room but we could not believe what our class elves, 'Snow and Flake' got up to while we weren't looking! From hanging from our projector to making a mess in our tuff tray, we never knew what we would find, each morning. Can you believe they put all of us on the Santa's good list but put Muinteoir Deirdre on the bad list?

Polar Explorers

In January, a mystery backpack appeared in our classroom and inspired a class of polar explorers. In Aistear we built igloos, we designed ice proof cooking contraptions and in role-play, we kitted ourselves out as polar explorers, equipped with binoculars, ice picks and camping equipment. We wrote explanation texts about Emperor Penguins. We were amazed to learn that male Emperor Penguins are the ones that look after the egg until it hatches!!



Junior Readers & Writers

We absolutely loved reading and writing in the Junior Room! Some of our favourite stories were 'We Don't Eat our Classmates', 'Lost and Found', 'Gorilla' and 'Sharing a Shell'. In Writing Workshop, we loved learning about non-chronological reports - we researched an animal of our choice on iPads and then created a report about that animal. A highlight of the year was inviting the Senior Room pupils into our classroom to buddy up with us and help us with our writing.



MY FAVORITE MEMORY IN A JAR

Directions: Draw your favorite memory of the school year in the jar, then capture the memory through writing in the box provided.



What is your favorite memory this school year?

MY FAVORITE MEMORY IS
MAKING
ICE CREAM
FROM PLASTIC DOUGH
Etc.

MY FAVORITE MEMORY IN A JAR

Directions: Draw your favorite memory of the school year in the jar, then capture the memory through writing in the box provided.



What is your favorite memory this school year?

On Halloween one
and another where sitting
Beside each other and making
Face. I was (silly) her
Today.

MY FAVORITE MEMORY IN A JAR

Directions: Draw your favorite memory of the school year in the jar, then capture the memory through writing in the box provided.



What is your favorite memory this school year?

This happened on the last
day of school before
halloween. Everyone
in school took part
in the dress-up day.
It happened for a while
it happened for a while
on town. I was
really fun.

MY FAVORITE MEMORY IN A JAR

Directions: Draw your favorite memory of the school year in the jar, then capture the memory through writing in the box provided.



What is your favorite memory this school year?

I really liked
Santas
Workshop!
It was Fun!
I loved the
sled! It
was great!

MY FAVORITE MEMORY IN A JAR

Directions: Draw your favorite memory of the school year in the jar, then capture the memory through writing in the box provided.



What is your favorite memory this school year?

I started school in
September. I like the
Halloween costumes.
Santas workshop. I was
We went on our school
tour. We did handwriting +
was fun. I love school.

MY FAVORITE MEMORY IN A JAR

Directions: Draw your favorite memory of the school year in the jar, then capture the memory through writing in the box provided.



What is your favorite memory this school year?

This year when we wrote workshop
like ARIA I think I was
being written workshop.
in Blinnetown. Cause it
was on of the classes we were
going to do that party.

Cricket

By Aisling, Jack, Oisín, Rabiát & Paul

We had a Cricket Blitz in Week 29 at Halverstown House Cricket Club, on the grounds of Harristown House. Our Blitz with students from Scoil Bhride followed several weeks of coaching with Anne from Leinster Cricket. Children from 2nd to 6th class participated in the Blitz. We walked 1.8km to and from the cricket pitch (3.6km, total)! We really enjoyed the day. We learned so much about Cricket from our coaching and research that we were glued to the IPL (Indian Premier League) in the weeks that followed!



School Tour!

By Seb and Harry

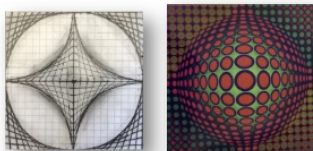
In week 35, children from junior infants to fourth class took Andy's Bus to Carlow I.T. for a special tour! When we arrived, instructors explained the range of activities available. First, we went on some of the bouncy castles. It was lots and lots of fun. Then we went outside to play hockey. After that, we had our snack. After our snack, we went on some more bouncing stations. They were much more exciting than the first. We then went outside and played tug of war and dodgeball. We had an amazing day! We totally recommend Carlow IT as a tour venue for next year!



Optical Illusions

By Tom & Angus

We chose to write about Optical Illusions in Art because we both really liked creating them! Optical Illusions were our Art focus in Week 13, following our study of Perspective. We learned to create a Parabolic Curve, like this one below. We even created Christmas Cards with Parabolic Curves on the cover to give our family! We especially enjoyed learning about the art of Victor Vasarely, the father of Optical Illusions!



Robotify

By Charlie & Patrick

Robotify is a website/app for children to code virtual robots. During the last week of school, fourth and fifth class students explored Robotify to advise Múinteoir Sarah if Robotify would be a good investment for next year (and if she should up-skill over the summer!). We, Charlie and Patrick, interviewed students to find out how much they liked it. Here is a flavour of students' feedback, in their own words:

- The lessons are quite easy, and the projects are fun to play. I give it a full score, 10/10! (Ethan)
- I'd need to play more to see how it compares with Scratch. I think it's at least 7.5/10. (Abdul)
- I like the Maze project, although I found it quite annoying when your character crashed into a wall and restarted, but I still give it 10/10! (Harry)
- There's nothing I don't like about it... 10/10! (Seb)
- The controls are difficult, but I enjoyed the robot drawing game, 8/10. (Tyler)
- Anybody can use it at any age. You can work at your own pace in the lessons, 7.5/10! (Tom)

Overall, Robotify received positive reviews. We highly recommended it to Múinteoir Sarah who will now invest and upskill so we can use it with our own accounts (at school and at home), next year!



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- ✓ School Calendar 2022/2023
- ✓ Class Booklists
- ✓ Uniform & General Purpose Fee Note

Gardening Club

By Abdul-Waris & Holly

Our Gardening Club was set-up in November by Suzanne, SNA. One of our first tasks was to plan our Calendar of activities, with help from the Woodie's Budding Gardeners initiative. We used the raised flower beds to plant vegetables (e.g., lettuce, potatoes, etc.) and herbs (e.g., mint, parsley, etc.). We held two fundraisers this year. We sold potted herbs and more recently, tyre-planters. Every-day, we checked our plants during break-times. The main reason we set up the Club is to help save the environment and do our part as a green school to stop Climate Change. This was very important to us especially after participating in the Climate Change Summit in November and presented our BT Young Scientist research to Professor Pat Guiry in March.



Graduation

By Ava & Matilda

We joined BCNS for 6th class, from September 2021 to June 2022. We graduated on Friday, the 24th of June. Although it was emotional, we enjoyed the day and we couldn't have asked for a better send-off. During the morning of our graduation, we watched a movie and then it was time for our graduation song. All the parents and teachers gathered in the junior room where the whole school sang 'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman, with Múinteoir Deirdre on keyboard. Next, the graduation students and their families headed upstairs for the ceremony. Our teacher and Principal, Múinteoir Sarah, shared three ideas with us on our Graduation Day:

- We are each a UNIQUE WORK OF ART... in progress!
- There are many things we don't know, but we will, with the power of YET!
- We have HEART - with Effort, Ambition, Respect and Teamwork... an international currency!

Our gifts included a photo collage of ourselves during our time at Brannoxtown CNS, a beautiful A4 card signed by all the students in the school, a handmade felt bird ornament in the school colours, created by Mitzie Day, parent and a framed origami school uniform created by Nicola Paquin. Lastly, everyone headed outside for pizza, graduation cake and treats (provided by parents). While everyone was enjoying their delicious food, the sixth class requested all of the students to autograph a plain white T-shirt (another graduation gift plus sharpie!) as a memento of all of our classmates. Overall, it was a really amazing day that we will remember forever.

