

B C N S NEWS

BRANNOXTOWN COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

EDITORIAL TEAM:
ESHAL, MACKENNA & MOROLABI

BLAST - Writers and Storytellers Project

On Monday, February 20th, all children will begin workshops with Margaret Kane-Rowe, a scriptwriter, filmmaker, storyteller and voiceover artist. Through the workshops, children will explore universal concepts such as exploring and creating ideas, overcoming our fears and embracing new experiences. Children will:

- Plan using improv exercises, story prompts and brainstorming
- Outline stories by creating characters, settings and plots
- Pitch ideas and respond to feedback
- Storyboard their film using drawings, posters or set design
- Engage with others' ideas
- Cast and define roles

Use technology tools such as stop motion to share their productions!

We're looking forward to documenting our experiences on Class Dojo! More information: Margaret Kane Rowe: <https://www.margaretkanerowe.com/>

Friendship Week

To coincide with Valentine's Day, children at Brannoxtown CNS celebrated Friendship Week, this past week. Homework took a new twist with children practising gratitude, self-care, mindfulness and kindness. In class, we celebrated kindness and positive friendships by making Valentine's Day cards, reading stories about friendship (such as 'The Rainbow Fish', 'Enemy Pie' and 'Something Else' in the Junior room) and sharing acts of kindness!

Schools Cricket Coaching

This year, students from 3rd to 6th will once again participate in the Schools Cricket Coaching programme, in collaboration with Cricket Leinster and Kildare Sports Partnership. Coaching will begin close to the Easter Holiday for four weeks, followed by a Cricket Blitz at Halverstown Cricket Club (CC), with students from neighbouring schools. We especially thank Stuart Conroy, Honorary Secretary, Halverstown CC.



Student Council Actions

Promoting physical wellbeing at Brannoxtown CNS is the main priority for our Student Council, this year. Last term, Council members advised on the purchase of new PE equipment and devised a new Charter for borrowing and returning it. In sharing the Charter with all classes, Council members gathered feedback from children on ways to improve our outdoor yard time. Following consultation with children, the proposed solution was to reduce the number of children on yard, at any one time. The new proposal, to stagger yard times, was implemented on January 5th, with a new teacher supervision schedule. Four teachers have supervision duty, each day. Children in junior classes (Junior Infants to 2nd) eat first while children in the senior classes (3rd to 6th) have yard time, and vice-versa. Following a second consultation, an overlap of 10 minutes was introduced with all children on yard together. During the overlap, Council members lead structured games with younger children (2 days) and all children engage in free-play (3 days). Feedback from children has been overwhelmingly positive and most importantly, no accidents have been recorded!

- *I love lunch times now because I can play football and the big kids aren't taking over the soccer space. (Senior Infants)*
- *We can make our own dens and the seniors don't get to use the tyres... we do! (1st class)*
- *We don't have to worry about running into the Juniors or them wandering on the court, because they have their own yard time. (3rd class)*
- *I like the overlap. 10 minutes is enough time for the crowded yard! (5th class)*

Parents Group & 'Bag 2 School'

On November 9th, ten parents attended a meeting at BCNS about setting up a new Parents Group. The school's Chairperson, Deirdre O' Donovan, provided insights from her own experience setting-up and leading a Parents Association at her children's primary and secondary schools. Priority areas identified for parent involvement at BCNS included: planning/hosting occasions and events, providing input to the development of policies and procedures and supporting school development and resourcing. Two parents, Helena Ryan and Karen Flynn, stepped forward to manage Parent Group communications and we are indebted to them for their initiative, leadership and support.

Members of the Parent Group are currently planning a 'Bag 2 School' collection at Brannoxtown CNS on the mornings of March 14th and 15th. 'Bag 2 School' is a free fundraising scheme to raise funds using a resource we all have - unwanted clothes. The school earns 40cent for each kilo of clothing collected and all profits go directly to the school. The Parent Group will share more information closer to the date. For now, you may wish to set-aside any unwanted clothing until the March collection, with our thanks in advance! More information: <https://bag2school.ie/>

Sacramental Preparation

Our First Holy Communion candidates are busy preparing for their special celebration on Saturday, May 6th, 12 noon in the Kilcullen Parish Church. Communion Masses for families preparing for First Holy Communion are on three weekends (Saturday, 6:30pm or Sunday, 11:00am): February 18th/19th, March 11th/12th and April 22nd/23rd.

Confirmation will be offered next in Spring 2024 (two-year-cycle) for children in 5th and 6th class.



Mauricio returns... for Drama!

We are thrilled to offer children a second Drama Module with Mauricio Quevedo. In this second Drama Module, children will progress from drama games and improvisations, to creating a production to film and share. To do this, children will:

- play and improvise together
- stage a story with their bodies and voices
- rehearse and devise
- perform

Mauricio is a professional theatre maker and educator with over 15 years of experience leading drama with children. Mauricio holds an MA in Theatre Directing a B.Ed in Drama, a B.A in Acting and he's in the final stage of his PhD in Arts. He is an associate director for the Irish artist-led collective, Super Pua. Most importantly, children love learning from and with him!

Cumann na mBunscol & Quiz 2023

On Friday, February 10th, our first quiz team, of four students in 6th class, will represent Brannoxtown CNS at the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Quiz in Ballymany Senior School, Newbridge. We wish the very best of luck to Abdul, Aya, Charlie and Tom! For the first year, Brannoxtown CNS has registered for the Cumann na mBunscol games and we look forward to supporting teams of children (initially 3rd to 6th class) to participate in football and basketball leagues this year and also in cross country running (scheduled for the week before Easter).

Junior Infant Enrolment Open Day

Junior Infant enrolment is now closed and we are operating a waiting list for new applicants. We are very excited to welcome our new Junior Infants for their first official visit to Brannoxtown CNS with Mums and Dads on Thursday, **February 23rd at 6:00pm**. This visit is for families to visit their child's new classroom, collect their welcome pack and gather practical information about the school uniform, booklist, etc.



School Trips & Tours

With the brighter mornings and afternoons, several outings are planned for children in the coming months, including swimming coaching for children in senior classes. Looking ahead to the end-of-year tour, parents may wish to make a small contribution to the cost, estimated at €30 to €40. Teachers will receipt payment with a Class Dojo text.



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Look out for us on Facebook,
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