

## **BRANNOXTOWN CNS** **MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023**

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### **Junior Room Space Station**

Children in the Junior Room have been learning all about the solar system! Our classroom was transformed into a world of space exploration. Our Role-Play area became the International Space Station where children donned astronaut suits, boarded their rocket ship and launched expeditions into space. In role as astronauts, pupils carried out scientific investigations and explored the possibility of life beyond Earth - they even battled aliens! In our construction area, children built rocket launchers and spaceships while in our small world area, children explored the inner workings of the International Space Station. The children particularly loved tuning into story-time from the International Space Station where children listened to astronauts reading stories from outer space. Our unit on the solar system sparked a sense of wonder and curiosity in our pupils and I have no doubt that we have some budding astronauts among us.



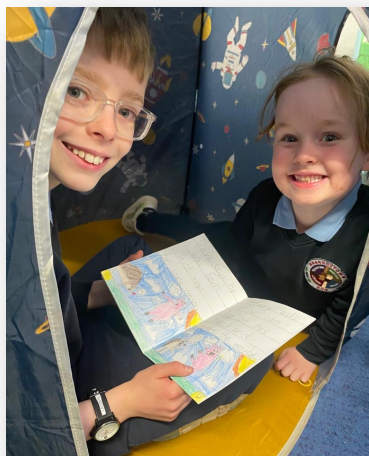
### **Spring Garden Design Challenge!**

With spring in the air, our Junior Room children collaborated in small groups to participate in a STEM challenge to design a spring garden. First, the children sketched a plan and made of list of the materials they would need. Next, the children took a walk in our locality to gather natural materials. Finally, children brought their designs to life by creating their very own garden, to share with the rest of the school!

### **School Calendar – School Closures May & June Bank Holiday Weekends**

Staff Training on the **Primary Language Curriculum** and the new **Primary Curriculum Framework** is scheduled on the Fridays before the May and June Bank Holidays.

**School is closed on  
Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> & Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June!**



### **Reading Buddies**

In the Junior Room, children are working on their reading, sound recognition and sight words. This month, the children buddied up with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils to play reading games. Together they have played Heart Word Go Fish, Boom, CVC Snakes and Ladders and KABOOM! The Junior Room children have loved showing off their reading to their Senior Room buddies who gave them so much support and encouragement. It has been a joy to see them grow in confidence as readers!

### 'Budding' Gardeners

The green fingered students in first and second class are working on a class garden in the playground area of Brannockstown CNS. The students are currently working on stage one of this project which is 'Sow It!' They have chosen to sow peas, sunflowers, pumpkins, shasta daisies, cornflowers, and a mixture of wildflowers throughout their class garden. The students loved the hands-on work of sowing the pea and sunflower seeds in their classroom and are taking great delight in watching the plants progress. Everyone is excited to see the results of their teamwork when their class garden blooms in the summertime!



### Wonderful Writers

Students in first and second class are developing and improving on their writing skills daily. The focus in the second term was to use descriptive adjectives in their writing so that the audience could create vivid pictures in their minds. One fun project that the students chose to highlight was a descriptive writing piece on minibeasts. The students worked in pairs to observe different minibeasts and then collaboratively wrote descriptive sentences to describe the colourful pictures. – *The wiggly earthworm is digging in the brown dirt* – Aidan & Ruby 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. *The butterflies are a beautiful shade of baby blue* – Robyn & Leon 1<sup>st</sup> Class



### School Tour Payments

Increased transport costs mean that ***tours cost €45- €50 per child this year.*** Small payments can be made toward the tour after Easter and teachers will receipt these on Class Dojo.

### Shared Writing about our Stop Motion Studio films (BLAST)

Over the last 6 weeks the boys and girls in first and second class have worked with Mags Kane Rowe, a storytelling coach, to plan and create a story based on the myth Fionn and the Dragon.

#### Group 1 – Robyn, Billy, Jamie, Edith

*We worked together to make an epic storyboard. Mags was a brilliant teacher. In the 6 weeks we learned so much from her and she has inspired us to do more stop motion in the future!*

#### Group 2 – Eva, Olise, Ruby, Elianne, Sophie

*We worked together to make a funny movie. We had a lot of fun making the movie and we would love to use stop motion again.*

#### Group 3 – Tad, Hunter, Iona, Hugo, Kendall, Leon

*We worked together to make an action movie. Mags helped us to make a fantastic stop motion movie. We used cute dragons as our characters.*

#### Group 4 – Ciaran, Marie, Lillie, Aidan

*We loved the last 6 weeks with Mags. She inspired the whole class. We loved working together to make our stop motion movie.*



## Seachtain na Gaeilge

### *Bhaineamar an taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge in Brannoxtown CNS i mbliana!*

Students collaborated in making decorations and posters to decorate their classroom. School-wide activities for all children included the Comórtas Seanfhocail where children chose their favourite seanfhocal (Irish proverb) and designed a poster around it. Each class spent the week learning a variety of different traditional Irish dances including Ballaí Luimnigh, Tonnta Thoraí agus Ionsaí na hInse. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning the steps and looked forward to their dance practice each afternoon! To bring Seachtain na Gaeilge to a close, we finished off the week with a 'Lá Glas' and students from each class came together to compete the big Tráth na gCeist/Table Quiz!



## BLAST Movies with Stop Motion Studio!

For six Mondays, all children participated in the BLAST initiative, funded by the Arts Council. Our project, We are Screen Writers & Film Makers, led by Margaret Kane Rowe focuses on creative story-telling, loosely based on the legend of 'Fionn and the Dragon'. Junior and Senior Infants worked on story-boarding a new dragon tale and creating their own multicoloured dragons using playdough! Children from 1st class onwards have used Stop Motion Studio to bring their stories to life, using stop-go motion technology. On March 27th all projects were screened in a celebration event. You can see all 15 videos on our school YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCGWEQgC\\_6bRsjK0y7Ygy8Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGWEQgC_6bRsjK0y7Ygy8Q).

*We used different materials to make our sets and brought in props from home. We're using iPads to film the movies, using the stop motion app. You create a stop motion by taking a photo of something, moving it slightly and then taking another photo. You then repeat this process over and over again. We ended up with 182 photos which gave us roughly 16 seconds of film. Next, we're recording voice-overs and adding sound effects. It is great fun! (Oisín, 4th Class)*

## World Book Day Puppet Show

We had a wonderful celebration of World Book Day at Brannoxtown CNS on March 2<sup>nd</sup>!

*We did lots of different activities for World Book Day this year. We designed book covers, made book marks and created hats which we decorated based on our favourite hats. I decided to do mine on Charlie and the Chocolate factory, and I even added real chocolate! My favourite World Book Day activity was making story puppets, it was so much fun. My partner and I choose to do The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson. We drew out all the main characters and coloured them in. After that we cut them out, laminated them and added lollipop sticks. We then went to the preschool and performed a puppet show for them using our puppets. They seemed like they loved it. Later on, we went to the junior classroom and performed the puppet show for them too. What a day it was! (Aryan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class)*



## Leinster Tennis League

Eight children are currently representing our school in the Leinster Tennis School League. Our first match was in Terenure Lawn Tennis Club (LTC) on March 15th. Home fixtures are on Tuesday the 28th of March and Thursday the 20th of April (TBC). Support has been essential in allowing our children to have the opportunity to participate. Parents have organised training sessions and lifts for the team.

*Our team is quite good at tennis! Morolabi and I are on the girls team, Yaroslav and Seb are on the boys team, Patrick and Makayla are on our mixed team and our subs are Aisling and Tom. We're getting better, all the time! (Dara Belle, 5th Class)*

## Filmmaker Awards!

On Wednesday, March 29th, four students from the Senior Room are travelling to Castletroy, Limerick, to participate in the Fresh Film Junior Young Filmmaker of the Year Awards! Patrick, Charlie, Harry and Seb created their short film 'The Last Survivor', in January. Their short film is about a native whose tribe was wiped out a long time ago. In the present day, three friends decide to play hide and seek in the nearby forest after the power goes out in their homes. The native attacks the boys and their lives are thrown into jeopardy... You can watch the full film at: [www.youtube.com/@seizestudios](http://www.youtube.com/@seizestudios).



## Event Planning: Cultural Diversity Week

Sunday, May 21st is the UN's International Day for Diversity and Inclusion. At BCNS, the following week is our school-wide celebration of Diversity and Inclusion, also known as Multicultural Week. Children have begun planning activities for this week, to include a focus on sharing various aspects of the cultures represented in the school including sharing language, history, geography, dance, food, story, sports, flags, etc. Parents have been asked to save-the-date of **Friday 26th May to visit BCNS for our 'School Show' and 'Food Tasting'** to celebrate diversity and inclusion.