



# BCNS News!

**BRANNOXTOWN CNS**  
**MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024**

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE JUNIOR ROOM!

February was a great month in the Junior Room!!! We had wonderful fun on the 13<sup>th</sup> February when we celebrated Pancake Day. The boys and girls from Múinteoir Deirdre's room were on hand to pair up and help out with the Junior and Senior Infants to make pancakes!!! The older children were fantastic, talking the younger children through the recipe and helping them to measure and add the ingredients. There were chefs' hats aplenty and the flour was flying round as the batter was whisked to perfection before being cooked. 10 minutes later came the best part – the toppings!!!! The children's eyes lit up with delight as they decorated their pancakes with their chosen toppings – there were strawberries, cream, marshmallows and plenty of syrup to name but a few!!! The pancakes were devoured in a few short minutes but hopefully the memories of a fantastically fun day in school will live on for years!!!



To celebrate Valentine's Day this year, the Junior room joined forces with Sinead's pre-schoolers for a lovely day of sensory fun. First, the face paints appeared and there were many beautiful love hearts painted on cheeks to get us into the Valentine's spirit. The children had terrific fun as they moved from sensory station to station. There was shaving foam to be played with, dried, dyed pasta and rice along with home-made play dough and cookie cutters to name a few of the activities the children engaged in. The children then all created their own little edible Valentine's treat, using melted chocolate and marshmallows. All in all, it was a fantastic day of Valentine's fun and another day for the children to remember!

### **School Calendar – School Closures**

May Mid-Term Break: Fri. May 4th – Wed. 8th inclusive.

May 30th: School Closes at 12pm for Staff CPD.

June Bank Holiday: Monday, June 3rd.

Election Day: School closed on Friday, June 7th

Last day of School: Tuesday, June 25th (half-day:12noon)



Reading was top of the agenda on Thursday the 7th of March in Brannoxtown CNS when we celebrated World Book Day. There was huge excitement in the Junior Room in the run up to the big day, as the children chatted and discussed which of their favourite books they would bring in. When the day finally arrived, levels of anticipation were high as the children arrived, armed with their chosen books. The day was spent in a haze of well-written words, beautiful illustrations and captivating storylines as each child's book was read aloud to the class. The joy of reading continued throughout the day, with a wonderful buddy reading session with the boys and girls from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Then, we had a fashion show for the other classes, with the Junior and Senior Infants modelling their World Book Day hats, which they created using characters from books. A great, literacy-filled day was had by all!!!

## Wonderful Writers

The enthusiastic students in First and Second class are developing and improving on their writing skills daily. During this term, the students investigated report writing and they worked really hard on researching and writing their very own informational report on one of their favourite animals. Some fun facts for you – A baby squirrel is called a kit. Black bears eat fish and some male black bears can even eat bear cubs. Foxes are nocturnal so they like to hunt at night. A koala eats so much eucalyptus that they can smell like eucalyptus!



## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Our favourite part of Seachtain na Gaeilge was definitely 'Lá Glas'. We did so many fun activities to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Everyone in the school dressed up in different shades of green. We learned different types of Irish dancing and the whole school danced together in a céilí in the playground. An Dreoilín was our favourite dance. The whole school participated in a parade around the local neighbourhood and that was so much fun!! We designed colourful posters to show different seanfhocail (Irish proverbs). There was a competition for the best one from each class!

Shared writing by 2<sup>nd</sup> Class



## **School Tour Payments**

*School tours will cost €45- €50 per child this year.*

We hope to have our Aladdin online payment system up and running soon. In the meantime, parents are invited to make payments by cash in instalments if you wish to begin the process.

## World Book Day

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 was a great day that was so much fun because we did a lot of activities to celebrate World Book Day. Everyone in our class brought in their favourite book. We did buddy reading with the students in Junior Infants and Senior Infants. We were so proud of ourselves when we read stories to them. The boys and girls loved it!

Tad, Billy, Imran, Hugo & Scarlett (2<sup>nd</sup> Class)

World Book Day was so much fun. Our favourite part was when we designed and created hats for World Book Day. There was a competition for the most creative hats. Scarlett, Erin and Leo won the competition. We brought in our favourite books from home and we designed a new cover for our favourite book. We really loved when we did buddy reading with Junior Infants and Senior Infants. It was an amazing day to remember – Sienna, Leo & Jayden (1<sup>st</sup> Class)



# SPOTLIGHT ON 3RD & 4TH CLASS!



It has been a busy term in Múinteoir Eoin's class. We have had great fun at our Gaelic Football and Soccer lessons with Liam and Ger. We have also studied the Vikings, Ancient Egypt and painted the True Pyramids of Giza using coffee beans. Our favourite lesson of the term was painting cherry blossom trees for Art to mark the start of Spring.



## School Quiz Teams

This January there was a lot going on including our Credit Union quiz. First, we had 10 rounds of quiz questions in preparation to see who would make it onto the quiz team. Luke, Isaac, Samuel and I (Aryan) made it to the under 11s team and Harry, Seb, Kitty and Mackenna made it onto the under 13s team.

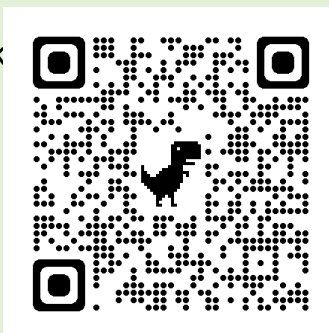
After this we did a few table quizzes in preparation for the Credit Union quiz. Then, on the 28th of January we had the Credit Union Quiz and guess what? The under 11s won!! Our u13s did really well too and got 3rd place. Next up, we had the Cumann na mBunscol Quiz on the 1st of March. The Cumann na mBunscol quiz team was Harry, Seb, Luke and me. We came 3rd out of 37 teams and this was a great achievement.

On March 3rd, the under 11s had their second round of the Credit Union quiz. This quiz was extremely difficult but we only missed out by one point from qualifying to the R.D.S. For our first year entering these quiz competitions, our school exceeded expectations and we're all looking forward to next year already. *by Aryan*

## World Book Day and eBooks

To celebrate World Book Day, we engaged in zoom calls with authors and illustrators from the Scholastic website. We heard from Sarah Bowie, Tom Gates and Terry Deary of Horrible Histories.

This term, we all created an eBook on a county of our choice and presented them to Múinteoir Aoife's class. Take some time to have a look at our eBooks by scanning the QR code or going to [www.tinyurl.com/MuinteoirEoin](http://www.tinyurl.com/MuinteoirEoin)



# SPOTLIGHT ON 5TH & 6TH CLASS!

## Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest

In the month of February, Múinteoir Sadhbh taught the whole class about Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest. We did many projects on it and even made dioramas of the Amazon Rainforest. We learned about the layers of a rainforest: the forest floor, the understory, the canopy and the emergent layer. We also learned about their delicate ecosystems, animals of the rainforest and their habitats and the importance of rainforest protection. We researched Brazil's culture, history and its geography as well as its landmarks. We also created brochures on different cities in Brazil. We had a great time learning about Brazil and its culture!

*By Makayla and Nida*

## Percy Jackson and Greek Mythology.

This month, we started reading Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief as our class novel. We also began book clubs and discussions. We used post-it notes to study the book. Everyone got really into the book, and we had some great discussions. While reading, we started learning about Greek mythology. We learned about the Greek Creation Story and even made our own Titans. We have been enjoying learning about ancient civilisations like the Incas. It's been great fun, and I wonder what we are going to learn about next!

*By MacKenna.*



## Student Council

In the new year, we held our Student Council elections. The following students were elected to the roles:

**Chairperson:** Harry

**Vice-Chairperson:** Eloise

**Secretary:** Mackenna

**Class Reps:** Eshal, Malayla, Mimi, Paul, Sebastian, Sarah.

Then Senior Room, led by their Student Council organised a spring event for the rest of the school that included egg and chick crafts, egg hunts, sensory trays, pin the tail on the bunny and ping pong target practice! Everyone had so much fun we absolutely loved getting taking on leadership responsibilities in school.

*By Eloise*



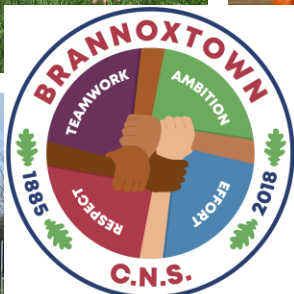
**Save the Date!**

**6th Class Graduation**

**Thursday, June 20th**



# OUR SPORTS TEAMS IN ACTION!!





### **Girls Soccer – Sienna**

Our soccer blitz took place in Newbridge FC on March 5th. On the team was me, Makayla, Mimi, Nida, Sarah, Era, Annika, Bertha, Rabiati and Amelia. We played 4 matches and won 3. We had so much fun! Thanks to Ger our coach and Múinteoir Eoin for forming the sports teams and to Múinteoir Deirdre and Múinteoir Síle for coming to support us and the boys' team. As we won our games, we got to the next round and hopefully we will do well. Finally, I just wanted to say a huge thanks to everyone that joined the team and made a great effort.

### **Boys Soccer – Sebastian**

We arrived at Newbridge FC astro pitches at 9:45, excited at the day ahead. Our first game kicked off at 10:30. In total, we played 4 games. We scored 3 goals altogether and considering we had no experience, we did really well. Our squad was made up of eight players including myself, Jack, Paul, Arian, Samuel, Luke, Isaac Fl and Isaac Fe. We would like to thank our coach Ger Stenson for the training sessions he did as without him, none of it would have been possible. It was very fun and was a great day out that everyone enjoyed.

### **Girls Basketball – Makayla**

On Friday 1st of March, the girls had a basketball blitz at St. Laurence's GAA. We played 3 schools; Tiermohon, Curragh and Ballymore. The blitz started around 10 am and ended at 12.30pm.

From all the 10 girls, we all enjoyed it. It was a wonderful experience and we definitely want to do it again! Thanks to Múinteoir Eoin for coaching us and all the parents who drove us to and from the blitz.

### **Boys Basketball – Paul**

On Friday the 15th of March, the school basketball team went to St. Laurence's GAA for a blitz. The team had Jack, Tyler, Seb, Luke, Isaac, Emanuel, Oisín and myself (Paul). The blitz started at 10am and ended at 12.30pm.

We played 5 teams: Ballymore, Moone, Kilberry, Curragh and Tiermohon. The standard was very high and we scored plenty of baskets. We had a lot of fun! Thanks to our coach Múinteoir Eoin and to the parents for driving.

### **Girls Gaelic Football – Annika**

On the 29th of February, we had a Gaelic Football blitz. We played three teams: Two Mile House, Mercy Convent Naas and Killashee. Two Mile House was a friendly match of five minutes. All the others were twenty minutes long, ten minutes each half. Each team had seven players. The team included me, Makayla, Amelia, Sienna, Nida, Rabiati, Gabriela, Bertha, Jessica and Eloise. At the end we went to the playground that was right beside the pitch. It was so much fun.

### **Boys Gaelic Football – Oisín**

Recently, we played a boys Gaelic Football blitz. It took place in Kilcullen. We wore school jerseys and our own shorts. We played against Killashee MDNS and Crookstown National School. It took place on the 22nd of February. The team consisted of Sebastian, Paul, Oisín, Aryan, Killian, Samuel, Luke, Isaac Flynn, Isaac Fe, Angus and Aryan. Many thanks to Múinteoir Eoin, Liam our coach and the parents for giving lifts. It was a huge success, and everyone enjoyed it.

## BCNS Parents' Association

Phenomenal work has been done by the BCNS Parents' Association! Most recently, our Lá Glas parade raised an incredible €403.40! This brings this year's fundraising to €1,162.40 - and the year isn't over yet! All classrooms, including our SET room will be investing in play-based and hands-on resources to support the teaching of literacy and numeracy. What's more, the PA will use funds to treat children to an extra special surprise on Sports Day in June! See the table below to find out what else the PA have in store for the remainder of the year. And a huge thank you to the incredibly supportive families we have here at BCNS!

### PA Fundraisers:

The following fundraisers are planned to take place between now and the end of the school year:

- **Bag2School:** we aim to collect bags of old clothing and footwear in the 2nd/3rd week of April.
- **Movie Night**
- **BCNS Raffle**
- **Art Exhibition**



PIC-COLLAGE



Brannoxtown Community National School (CNS)  
Deirdre Murphy, Principal

[brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie](mailto:brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie) [www.brannoxtowncns.ie](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie)

Look out for us on Facebook and Twitter:  
@Brannoxtown CNS



## School Garden

Gardening at our school is thriving and a huge thank you has to go to SNA Suzanne! We are incredibly grateful to her and the Brannockstown Community Group who generously donated compost, bamboo plants, willow plants and wildflower seeds to our school. We also wish to thank parents who have donated time to work in our garden and to one Dad in particular who arrived to school one evening with his mini-digger to prepare 2ft deep trenches for the planting of our bamboos. With the help of our pupils, Suzanne has planted our bamboo wall to create the beginnings of what is a beautiful outdoor classroom. Our younger pupils also helped with the planting of our willow branches and they are so excited about the prospect of bending them into a willow tunnel as they grow taller and stronger! Upon return from spring break, each class will sow sunflower seeds between our beautiful bamboos. As always, we welcome support from any parents who can offer their time to help Suzanne out with the development of our garden space.



## 2024/2025 BCNS School Calendar

Junior Infants First Day    First day for classes    School closed for holidays    Last day: Start of Summer Holidays

July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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