

# Tralee Educate Together National School

Newsletter First Term, 2012/2013



## Happy 10th Anniversary!

Our school was awash with memories, chat and good cheer on Friday 7th of December as the school community came together to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. Speakers included Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together, Chris Reina of school start-up group, Johnnie Wall, Mayor of Tralee, as well as Francisse Walshe, Chairperson of the BOM and Denis Reidy, Principal.



Speaking after the event, Paul Rowe said: *"A big thank you to Francisse Walshe, and all the board, Denis and all the staff and all the children - especially the Student's council - and the parents and supporters for a great welcome last Friday night. It was a beautiful event, with powerful speeches from ex-pupils and from the school's foun-*

*ders. Educate Together is committed to ensure that this school gets a permanent building to enable it to grow to its real potential."*

To get the children's insight, ten former pupils shared their memories of the school, ten current pupils shared their current experiences, and the Student Council members made a speech, before pulling party poppers.

*"Tralee Educate Together was the best thing I ever did, and I can't imagine what life would have been without it",* said the former pupil Rían O'Connor, who was one of the first pupils in 2002 and completed his whole primary education in the school.

Jillian Cronin and Catherine Barry, staff at the school, arranged a fantastic display of photographs, news articles and school newsletters spanning the decade which evoked fond memories for all.

It was a true celebration of the **"Learn Together to Live Together"** motto of the school.





# A Decade of Unforgettable Memories

On the night of the 10th Anniversary Celebration, ten pupils (past and present) read their memories and thoughts of the school over the past 10 years.

We would like to thank you all for your unforgettable words. We can only share some of them here, but they are all so, so important to us!



Farouq, past pupil.

"Oh, let's not forget the free foods, how can you not love that, the smells of delicious exotic foods teasing your nose

and finally getting to eat after a good day of work and fun"...

"My favourite subject at school is Maths. I like this school more than anything and my teacher is very nice"...

"My best memories of Tralee Educate Together are the



K.C. , 4th Class.



Ruairi, 3rd Class.

school trips. I liked when we went to Siamsa Tíre theatre. I also enjoyed the trip to Banna Beach Leisure Centre. It was lots of fun"...

"My favourite thing about the school was the way they thought

us about equality. Everyone was treated as equals, no matter what race, religion, gender or nationality they were. This was by far the most important thing I learned here"...



Rose, past pupil.

## 10th Anniversary Celebration: Selection of Photos



The winners of the 10th Anniversary Art Competition. Their prizes were sponsored by the PA.



BIG thank you Jillian for a great work preparing the children for the anniversary.



Pupils of our school during the morning Assembly before the official ceremony took part that evening.



This is Zumba! A group of pupils danced Zumba at the end of the ceremony. We loved it!!!



School staff, Tralee town councillors and BOM with Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together.



Thank you very much to the Parents Association for lovely refreshments that night. Thanks to Diana, Seosaimhin and Francisce for volunteering to organize the ceremony.





## News from the Infants Classroom

During the first school term we did many new things for the Infants classroom, specially for those in Junior Infants, everything was new!

### "Pig in the Pond"

One of the activities we did was reading the story



"Pig in the Pond" together (the teacher read it and ask some questions about the story)...



After this the pupils who can write a little bit wrote some sentences with words of

that story.

Then we prepared a BIG picture, where all children did some creative parts. Some coloured the background, some coloured the pig, some children did the small blue stripes for the "water" and stick it on the poster and some children put the glitter for the nose and the grass.

### We were in the Newspapers!

Junior and Senior Infants were so lucky to be included in two local newspapers, the Tralee Outlook and The Kerryman earlier this year, as we celebrated Healthy Eating Week.

We also had the opportunity to try very healthy and nice food, some of us tried things for the very first time.



## Carol Singing in Town



Children from 1st to 6th class rehearsed for weeks to perform a lovely Carol Singing in Tralee town. Many thanks to Michael for being such a good music teacher!

## Fancy Dress Competition



We had monsters, princesses, zombies, witches and many more interesting costumes during Harvesting Day, traditionally celebrated as Halloween in Ireland. Here are the winners of the fancy dress competitions with their pumpkin prizes.





## A Busy and Lucky Time for 1st and 2nd Class

During the month of November, the 1st and 2nd class pupils won a competition which was running throughout the school.

The competition looked for the class with the best attendance so far this school year. 1st and 2nd class pupils love coming to school and they were crowned the winners.

For their prize, the pupils got to spend a day at Toby World in Tralee where they had great fun and spent the day running around, climbing and sliding. Everyone promised to be at school as much as they could for the rest of the year.

Back in October the 2nd class pu-

pils got the chance to become elected for the Student Council in school. Lots of pupils had great campaigns planned, and put lots of work into their posters and speeches.

On the day of the election, Kyle and Bríd were elected to the Student Council but everyone who tried did really well and made a great effort. Kyle and Bríd do a great job in bringing everyone in our class important news.

The 1st and 2nd class pupils were very lucky, because they were chosen from many classes to visit Santa in Tralee. Santa invited the

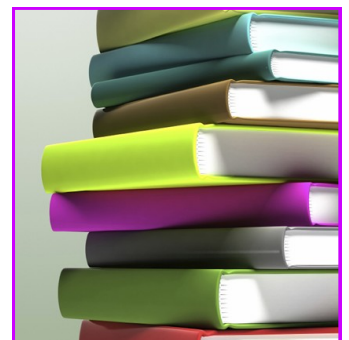


classes down on December 5th. In the build up to the visit, the pupils collected hundreds of used batteries for recycling, and we used these as our tickets into Santa's cabin.

We told Santa what we wanted for Christmas, and he gave us a small present before we went. We had a great day.

We also got to spend some time in Tralee library. The pupils enjoyed the huge selection of books, and read about lots of different things.

We must try to visit Tralee library again, as 1st and 2nd class love reading.





# What have 3rd and 4th Class been doing?

In September two new girls joined Third and Fourth Class: Andrea Pollakova joined Third class and K.C. Crowe joined Fourth class.

We also have a student from Tralee I.T. in our class. His name is Julian and he will do a project with us in December and January.

We celebrated maths week in the school. We did some art under a mathematical theme: paper weaving, we had to measure

In November we learned about

Harvest Festival and fancy dress party.

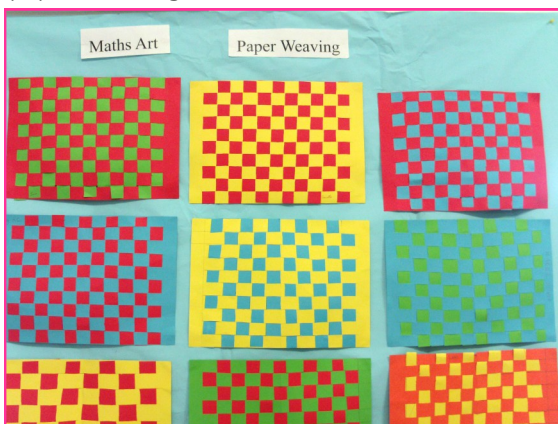


The library also donated some books to our classroom library.

Also in November we celebrated Ethos Week. We learned all about the history of the school and we focused on the Multi-Denominational aspect of our Ethos.

We created a poster to reflect all the different belief systems that exist in our class.

Diwali. We did some Diwali art work and created a Diwali classroom display.



**Maths Art: Paper Weaving by 3rd and 4th.**

lengths and follow a pattern.

We marked the end of Maths Week with a session of Maths for Fun, all children enjoyed playing maths games.

We learned about Harvest Festivals in October and celebrated the season with a fancy dress party. We also took part in 'Game Playing Day'.

In November we also visited the Tralee County Library. We learned about the different genres of books and we were shown where to find our favourite books in the library.

We then took some books back to school to read throughout the month.



We also took part in a writing competition to mark the 10 year anniversary of the school. We wrote about our best memories of Tralee Educate Together.

Jillian, Deanah and Catherine helped us prepare party pieces and speeches for the night of the celebration, we really enjoyed preparing for the night.



## Many Things Happening in 5th and 6th Class

In September a new boy, Dylan, joined 6<sup>th</sup> class. There are now 11 boys and girls in 5<sup>th</sup> and 17 in 6<sup>th</sup>.

Stefan, a student from the University of Darmstadt, Germany is working with our class as part of the year he is spending in IT Tralee. We have just started work on a project with him to create some games for the yard at lunch time.

For **Maths Week** we all had accounts set up on Manga High and Denis set us challenges for the week. There were lots of gold medals! We used the laptops to play the challenges online on the last day.



Pupils of 5th and 6th Class enjoying a healthy meal during Healthy Eating Week.

For **Science Week** we were lucky to get to the Library for a Science Magic show. Adrian got to pull a table cloth of a table without breaking any plates. Denis sat on a chair made out of nails!

As part of the Crocus Project from the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland, we learned about the Holocaust. We also learned more about this when we read our class novel, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas.



Recently in **Ethical Education** we learned about the Jewish holiday of Hannukah. We made dreidels and painted a window for it. We also painted a Christmas window and one for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we wrote about what an Educate Together school is and drew a picture. The whole class made a poster for the Democratic principle of our ethos.



## Cake Sale Fundraising for 10th Anniversary

At the end of October the Parents Association organised a yummy Cake Sale to raise funds for the 10th Anniversary Celebrations,

Families donated beautiful cakes, buns, cookies and different types of pastries. The children, staff and parents had great fun buying and tasting the delicious and varied contributions.

The PA raised €240 and all the funds were used to get refreshments and sponsor different prizes related to the 10th Anniversary. Thank you again to all!!





## Another Great Term Working in the Garden



### NEW COMPOSTER AND WATER COLLECTOR

A few children from 3rd & 4th class were asked to write a letter to Michéal Ó Coileán ( environmental officer in the council ).

They told him about our school garden and asked if we could get a new composter and water collector for the school.

He kindly delivered it the week before winter holidays.

The group were Aneta, K.C, Wiktor, Max and Marek.

They are very proud that they got results!

Our school has a very successful Garden Project going on. It is at the back of the school and everyone is welcome to come and visit it.

Gail Groves (staff) and John Walker (parent) are the busy bees making this project happen. They bring children from different classes to the garden every Thursday morning.

Parents are welcome to join the gardening activity from 9AM on Thursdays.

In October we had a very busy clean-up day. After a wet Summer and early Autumn also with lots of rain, the garden really needed some work on it.

Pupils, parents, staff and friends came along with shovels, gardening gloves and even power tools. The day was a great success, thanks to the effort of everyone and the lovely sunny day we were lucky to have.

After that, every Thursday there are different groups of children preparing the soil, planting bulbs for the Spring blossom and most recently, planting the Wishing Tree we got in December to mark our school's 10th Anniversary.

We hope to see you in the Garden this term!

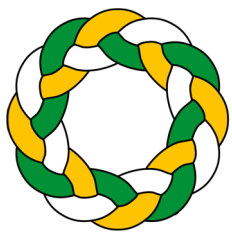


Hard working day cleaning up the garden in October.

John showing the children how to build a bench.







# Tralee Educate Together National School

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## Ethical Education: Halloween, Diwali and Ethos Week

### Halloween

As part of our Halloween theme, Junior and Senior Infants worked on a display for the main notice board.



evil.



Hours for the celebrations on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

The artwork which was done by the children during Ethos Week is on display in the school. If you are in the school, please come and have a look. The work from First Class to Sixth is displayed in the main building and the colouring from Junior/Senior infants is displayed outside the Infant Classroom.

### Diwali

First and Second class completed a display in recognition of the festival of Diwali. It is a five day Hindu festival known as the festival of lights. The name Diwali translates as 'row of lights.' Small oil lamps are lit to signify the triumph of good over

### Ethos Week

Ethos Week took place in November this year. Children in all classes learned about the history of our school and the ethos of Tralee Educate Together. Students from Junior infants to Sixth took part in competitions to mark the tenth anniversary of our school. The work was put on display in Collis Sandes



## Student Council Elections 2012/2013

Our school was abuzz with election posters and campaign speeches earlier this year, as candidates prepared for their annual student council elections on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Fourteen members from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class were elected by secret ballot on Thursday morning. The Mayor of Tralee, Cllr. Johnnie Wall, presided over the count and announced the winners to the school community.

The Student Council have been meeting to set their goals for the school year and had a very active participation during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.



L to R. Front Row: Kyle, Bríd and Caoimhe / Second Row: Siobhan, Wendy, Jagoda, Rory, Basit and Jack / Third Row: Jessica, Sherraya, Nikolas, Adrian and Nicolás / Back Row: Denis Reidy, Cllr Johnnie Wall (Mayor of Tralee) and Maryanne Keane.

11/10