

Tralee Educate Together National School



Newsletter Last Term, 2012/2013

We are very close to finish this school year. A very special one where we celebrated our 10th Anniversary. So many things happened in the past few months, all thanks to a great team effort between pupils, staff, parents and the local community. We hope you will enjoy this newsletter edition and we wish you a very happy summer holiday!



Sports Day in Na Gael GAA Club



Visit to the Tom Crean exhibition in Kerry County Museum



Our wishing tree during the only snowy day in winter



Oisín & Niamh
St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cénas a Fuil
Seánla a Niamh
17/03/2013



Woodland Walk & Fairy Trail in Ballyseedy Wood



Zumba classes with Linda, a great success!

It's a kind of fairy magic...

Have you heard about the fairy seen flying through the trees in Ballyseedy Woods on a beautiful Sunday in May?

We don't have a photo of her but these are some of the families enjoying a picnic after the walk! Wonderful afternoon, thanks to all the parents who helped organising it!

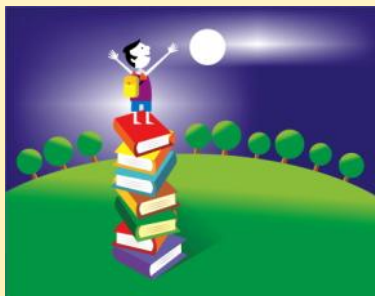
And below a small sample of the fairy houses we found there. Go to our school website www.tralee-educate-together.com to see them all!



Literacy Liftoff Programme

We have started Literacy Liftoff in Junior and Senior Infants. Literacy Liftoff is a classroom programme of intensive instruction. It involves three to four teachers working with the children at four stations in the classroom.

The main focus is on reading books and writing stories. It is based on the premise that children learn how to read best by reading continuous text and learn how to write by writing.



Children are organised into reading groups based on their reading ability. It has the following aims: to raise the literacy levels of pupils in the school, to provide the pupils with a set of strategies to be confident readers, practice in writing will help the pupils to become independent writers, to give the children a sense of enjoyment and achievement and to develop the pupils' language and creativity.

Above all it is fun!!!



Seachtain na Gaeilge



The students celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge on Friday by performing for the school community. The

ing Irish on Friday mornings decided to hold a celebration of the Irish language in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day. They incorporated basic Irish that they had learnt and used it in a fun way for the children to enjoy. It was a simple way to try and bring the language to life.

performance included a Siege of Ennis, a Lady Gaga amhrán and a visit from Naomh Pádraig with the four Seasons! Oonagh's Tráth na gceist for all the classes ended in a draw:-)

Oonagh O'Rahilly is our School/Family Liason Officer. She said that the parent group learn-



Well done to all the students, staff and parents who participated.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

There was a lot of work, fun and excitement in our school before St. Patrick's Day. This year we decided to make a major effort and went to the traditional parade in Tralee with a massive snake

and a great float full of our most famous Irish saints and heroes.

The parade was a big success and we had no rain! Many thanks to everyone that took part of it!



5th and 6th class preparing the snake.



Fionn, Setanta, Queen Maeve and others on the float.



Easter Egg Hunt!

Junior and Senior Infants had a fantastic time in the school garden at Easter time.

Their teacher Fiona organised an outdoor class and an Easter Egg Hunt.

But that is not all, they also got to welcome in the garden some of the next year pupils in Jr. Infants who came to the open day.



Learning about Tom Crean at Kerry County Museum



What a journey! Children in 3rd and 4th class were amazed by the story of Tom Crean's expedition to Antarctica a century ago.

They visited Kerry County Museum in April and listened carefully to the story of the brave Kerry explorer.

Some of them even had a chance to try on clothes like the ones they used during that freezing expedition.

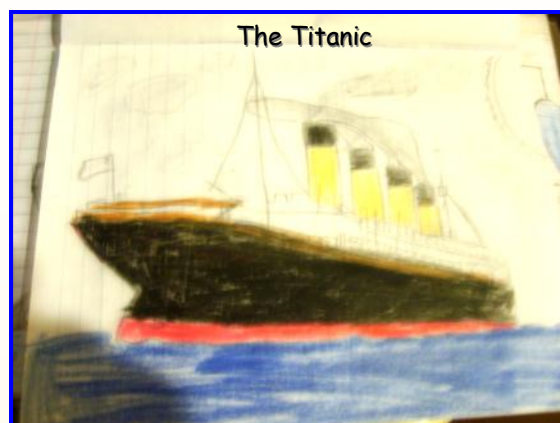
The museum also has a permanent exhibition and medieval experience about how was life in Tralee hundreds of years ago.

Titanic and Volcanoes... an explosive mix!

First and second class have been very busy recently. We have done a lot of work with plant life. We set our own seeds and these will grow into lovely cowslip and pansy flowers.

The classes have also done a lot of

work during the anniversary of the Titanic. Everybody did lovely artwork, and took a virtual tour of the ship using our interactive white-board. We also completed our own sinking and floating experiments.



The pupils learned lots about volcanoes, and we also created our very own volcanoes, which erupted in our classroom with explosive results.

First and second class pupils have been very lucky as we have been getting special music lessons in the Community

College. These have been really enjoyable.

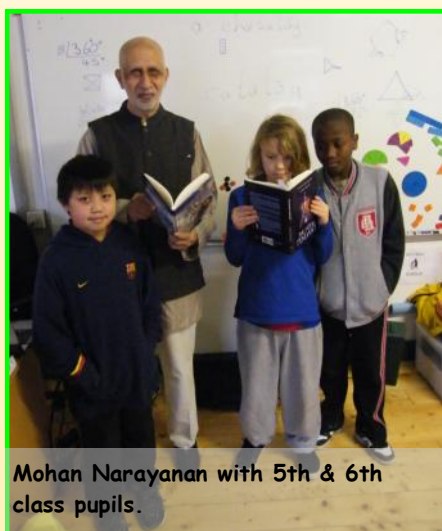
Finally, we are all looking forward to working hard in the run up to the summer holidays, where we will be able to rest and get ready for a new year in a different class.



A handmade volcanic eruption in 1st and 2nd.

Special Guests that visited our School

MOHAN NARAYANAN



Mohan Narayanan with 5th & 6th class pupils.

We were delighted with the visit to our school of Mohan Narayanan, Indian author of the novel *The Payyoli Pendant*. He has written four plays in English, all of them having been staged. He is also an

engineer, a Management Professor and Technical Consultant. He is active in other creative fields - music and theater - and is an advocate of AIDS awareness as a trustee of the South India AIDS Action Program. His deep spiritual beliefs are reflected in his prose.

AFRICA DAY

Every May 25th Africa Day is celebrated all over the world to commemorate the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity. To mark the 50th anniversary in 2013, the Tralee International Resource Centre organized a series of events

that included visiting two primary schools in Tralee, one of them our school.

Our guests played African Drumming and talked about the many faces of Africa to pupils in 5th and 6th class.

Thanks for visiting us!



Activities for Parents and Fundraising

Parents have been really busy the last couple of months. They have been helping so much to raise much needed funds for our school that we have not enough words to thank them.

There were 3 bag packing weekends in February, March and April and families also took part on the school Table Quiz organised by the Board of Management.

The Table Quiz was a fun way to fundraise and we received huge support from the local community that donated prizes very generously.



The TETNS Table Quiz winner table.



International Coffee Mornings.

There have been also ongoing classes for parents. Zumba Dance has proved to be a much enjoyable way to exercise. Parents were invited to do Zumba with Linda in the sports hall of Moyderwell NS and you can see them in the picture having a lot of fun!

Another successful activity was the Cookery Group. Thanks to Oonagh who made arrangements with her counterpart in Presentation School and facilitated the course to parents from our school.

Jackie, a parent of children in 2nd, 3rd and 5th class, said that they had a good choice of recipes,



Cookery Class Group.

had all ingredients provided, cooked together with the guidance of the "chef" and tried the food they prepared at the end of every session. They made delicious cakes, different types of bread, quiches, apple pies and soups.

A popular Arts & Crafts group has been established as well. It is a very relaxed and informal opportunity to do some knitting and sawing together.



Zumba for parents of TETNS and Moyderwell NS.

In May we held our first International Coffee Morning for parents and guardians in the Staff Room of our school.

We had very good response and many parents came along with home made pastries and enjoyed the opportunity to know each other a bit more and talk about the many different cultures that are represented in our school community.

The aim is to continue doing this International Coffee Morning once a month. Just before printing the newsletter there was the second one being prepared for June.



Music, Sports and Spanish in Our School



TIN WHISTLE

Caroline (parent) has been coming in on Fridays to teach 5th and 6th class how to play the tin

whistle. The children are getting better every week and hopefully they will be ready by Multi-faith & Culture Day to play something for you. Many thanks to Caroline for the lessons!

SPANISH - ESPAÑOL

Junior and Senior Infants had 8 weeks of Spanish classes with Barbara (parent). They were all very good at listening, singing,



And 5th and 6th class had Football Soccer training with coaches from the Tralee branch of the FAI Football Association in Ireland, who kindly come every year to our school.

dancing, colouring and playing in Spanish. Did you know that Spanish is one of the three most spoken languages in the world, together with Chinese Mandarin and English? Thank you Barbara for teaching us. Adios amigos!

BASKETBALL and SOCCER



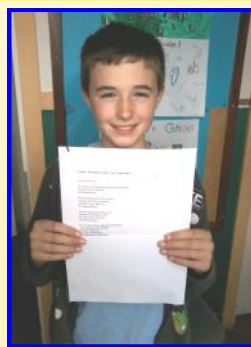
Pupils from all classes were invited to join basketball practice after school with OOOOO, a student at the IT Tralee. We hope to have it back next year!

Competitions' Winners, Finalists and Prizes



Some of our pupils were finalists at the Art Competition for Schools during **Féile na mBláth** Tralee Garden Festival. Liam was a finalist for Jr. and Sr. Infants, Bríd was a finalist for 1st and 2nd class (she is in the photo above), Jack was a finalist for 3rd and 4th class and Sara was a finalist for 5th and 6th class.

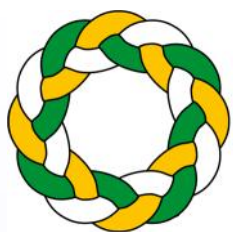
We also had three prize winners in the **Shanakill/Rahoonane Organic Garden "Design a Bug"** competition: Andrew, Ethan and Nicole from 5th&6th class. Andrew won a trip to the Garden for the whole class!



Congratulations to Daire Doyle O'Brian from 4th class, who came second in the under 12 Creative Writing Competition at the **Lis-towel Writers Week**. He received a prize, tickets to the opening and his poem is printed in the anthology. He was also invited to read his work with other winners.

Congratulations to Yann O'Carroll from 5th class, who won first prize in the Art and Craft section of the **Kingdom County Fair** for his work entitled Happy Birthday Tralee Educate Together.





Tralee Educate Together National School

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Sports Day 2013



1st and 2nd class

Ready, steady, go!!
We had a fantastic Sports Day this year in May.

The weather could not have been better! All classes enjoyed the games and races, in particular the novelty

race that involved running and dressing up with two items from a pile of the most unusual clothes.

Many thanks to the PA for their help and providing oranges and much needed water.



3rd and 4th class



5th and 6th class



Jr. and Sr. Infants

A Special and Green Thanks to John Walker



John preparing the soil with pupils in the school garden

A special Thanks must be given to John Walker, who gives so generously his time and effort

every week to help the children in the school garden. Regardless of the weather, we know John will be there with new ideas and enthusiasm.

Farewell to 6th Class 2013

All the best for the future and many thanks for your fantastic contribution to the school to Caemnat, Ailbhe, Vilte, Sherraya, Nicole, Jessica, Haris, Nikolas, Jaison, Damian, Dylan, Darragh, Bosun and Jamal.

