

## **Tralee Educate Together** National School

Collis-Sandes House, Kileen Road, Oakpark, Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland

TELEPHONE: 066-7180506

WEB: [www.tralee-educate-together.com](http://www.tralee-educate-together.com) • EMAIL: [tralee.etns@gmail.com](mailto:tralee.etns@gmail.com)

---

### **Newsletter - January, 2015**

*The children are well settled into the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and we are all looking forward to lots of learning activities in the weeks ahead - see below for details.*

#### **Bag Pack Success**

Thanks again to all who supported this successful fundraiser - 3,090 euro was raised! Thanks also to the people of Tralee and Kerry who donated so generously on the day.

#### **Welcome**

A warm welcome to our new families: the Lukasiewicz's, the O'Connor's and the de Diago's.

#### **After School Language Classes**

The Czech speaking children are thoroughly enjoying the Friday after school **Czech** class. There will be an free introductory **Spanish** class next Monday, Feb. 2nd, followed by a ten week course at a cost of 30 euro. The class is open to children from 2nd - 6th class and is arranged through the Greenview Language Group.

#### **The Importance of Bees**

Transition year students from Mounthawk Secondary School will visit TETNS this Friday to talk to all the classes about the importance of bees and how we can help protect them.

#### **Outdoor Learning**

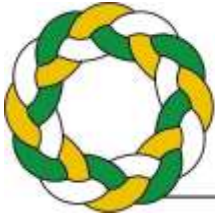
In collaboration with the students on the BA in Outdoor Learning, IT Tralee, we will be participating in a day of outdoor learning on Feb 6th. The woods around the school will provide the ideal setting for this learning experience. The children and teachers will go out in class groups and the activities will take about an hour and a half. The activities will incorporate maths, geography, environmental education, etc. We are very excited about this opportunity and we would like to thank John Pierce for his input and guidance. The college has asked for permission to take a short video of the children doing the activities. This would be used for future student training. If you do not want your child to be videoed please inform the class teacher.

#### **Credit Union Quiz**

Good luck to Nimotalai, Saorlaith, Daire and Marek from 5th and 6th class who will participate in the Credit Union Schools Quiz. It will be held this Sun, Feb 1st, at 1 o'clock, in the Ballyroe Heights Hotel. Thanks to Rosie and Caroline Doyle O'Brien for supporting.

#### **Tralee Bay Wetlands Field Trip**

Some classes will visit the Tralee Wetlands in February. They will learn about wetlands, what kind of animals and plants live there and why wetlands are an important habitat for future fresh water and food supplies. **5th/6th class: Tuesday, 10th Feb and Infants/1st/2nd class: Friday, 13th Feb.** We will use bag pack funds to cover the cost of this trip but we will ask parents to pay for the bus. More details to follow later.



## **Tralee Educate Together** National School

Collis-Sandes House, Kileen Road, Oakpark, Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland

TELEPHONE: 066-7180506

WEB: [www.tralee-educate-together.com](http://www.tralee-educate-together.com) • EMAIL: [tralee.etns@gmail.com](mailto:tralee.etns@gmail.com)

---

### **Update from Parent Association**

The Valentine's Table Quiz will be held in Collis Sandes House on the 15th of February between 3pm and 6pm.

### **The Importance of Developing and Maintaining Home Languages**

Many of the children who attend TETNS come from bi-lingual or multi-lingual homes. These children are fortunate in having available to them the benefits and advantages that being able to speak more than one language bestows.

Many things can impact upon the acquisition of a language for a child, and how well they do is heavily dependent on what they see and hear modelled from infancy. Children can easily learn more than one language as long as they are exposed to good language models and have plenty of exposure to both languages. A common misconception is that maintaining the first, or home language will interfere with the learning of English. There is a consensus of expert opinion to say that the opposite is in fact the case and what is key to successful language acquisition is that the child is spoken to in the native language of the speaker.

There is also a large amount of evidence which shows that the maintenance of a home language, including the reading and writing aspects, can extend a child's cognitive development and therefore be of benefit in all areas of learning. Also, speaking their home language helps to build self-identity and to maintain links to family and culture. The ability to speak the home language is a skill, which if properly nurtured, will benefit children throughout their lives.

The following are some ways to help your child to develop, maintain and use home languages:

The best way for children to learn language is in conversations, in play, in songs and games, stories and rhymes. Activities such as cooking, doing puzzles, playing bingo and card games, counting games, listening to songs and stories, reading story books, singing games, computer games, paired reading, writing letters, emails and stories are just some of the many ways children can be helped to acquire a language.

Experts suggest that each parent speak the language they are most proficient in to the child and provide opportunities for the child to use the language, for example, play dates with other speakers of the language. Literacy (reading and writing) in the home language is vital in attaining language proficiency. Home language literacy gives the child many advantages, such as, ease of learning other languages and higher attainment in overall literacy development.

*If parents would like to discuss supporting home languages further or perhaps share skills, knowledge, ideas and resources like books, games, etc. with other families please let me know - I am happy to facilitate in any way I can.*

Go raibh maith agaibh

Mary