

# Tralee Educate Together National School

Newsletter N°2

## St. Patrick's Day Parade 2012





## Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter 2011/2012

### Hello again!

First of all, we would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the children, parents, teachers and friends that participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2012 and made a wonderful display and promotion of our school in Tralee.

We have been busy this term, with many after school activities, all of them right after the end of the school day, on the school grounds or classrooms.

The FAI Soccer Training were back at school coaching football soccer skills to kids from 4th to 6th class during February and March. Thank you very much FAI for coming back, we will be looking

forward to see you again next year.

Also in the sports area, James O'Connell (SNA) started a great basketball training club, from 1st to 6th class divided in two afternoon sessions and it will continue until the end of the school year.

Learning Spanish is a new adventure for 5th and 6th class. Some of the pupils are attending Spanish lessons with Barbara Damm (parent) at school, and will continue for another 4 weeks after mid term break.



The Garden Project, coordinated by Gail Groves (Learning Support teacher), has also been very busy, with organised working sessions involving children and parents.

We also enjoyed a lovely family Sunday walk in Ballyseedy Wood, organised by the Parents Association.

Finally, just before the well deserved holidays, the Student Council got everybody buying tickets for the BIG Easter Egg Raffle. The money collected will go to the fund for buying patio benches for the school.

**Happy reading time!**  
Editorial Team TETNS

## Credit Union Table Quiz



The two teams that represented our school in the Credit Union Table Quiz competition.

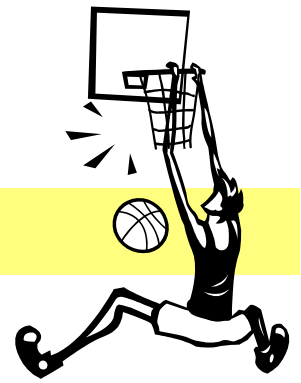


This is the third year that our school has participated in the Credit Union Table Quiz, a national competition that has been running for 21 years and is a highlight in every school calendar.

Tralee Educate Together N.S. was well represented by our two teams. To the left we can see Rory, Daire, Wendy and Felix and to the right is the team integrated by Kenny, Luke, Neil and

Emma.

The teams were coached by Gail Groves. Thank you so much for participating!!



## Basketball for All !!!!

There was high drama on the morning of Thursday 14th March. Children looked on as Denis, James and Danny arrived on the yard with a ladder. Was this a new approach to the teaching maths or science???? Soon all was revealed. In less than ten minutes, there was a new basketball court in Tralee Educate Together!

Fifth and Sixth class were the first to play on the new court. Four mixed teams of boys



and girls had the opportunity to display their skills. With two hoops the possibilities are now endless: class games, inter class games and more.

With the help of James O'Connell, who coaches basketball after school, it is hoped that the future Tralee basketball stars will come from Tralee Educate Together!

Basketball Wednesday 2.25-3.25pm for children 4th-6th Class. Thursday 2.25-3.25pm 1st-3rd Class. Contact the office if you would like your child to take part.



## Learning about Springtime Festivities



Learning about Naomh Padraig. The kids coloured these pictures to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, patron of Ireland.

Children in Junior and Senior Infants show their work around two traditional springtime festivities.



A typical German art lesson by Diana Lorenz (parent) showed the kids how to decorate "blown-out" eggs for Easter.



## Chinese New Year



This school term it was 3rd and 4th class's turn to display the work done in their class on the Ethical Education display board, located in the main hallway.



During January they created a colourful display about the Chinese New Year, which included lanterns, information about the festival and the animals of the Chinese Zodiac.

In 2012 the Chinese New Year festival started on January 23rd, but the exact date varies every year, because it is based on the lunar calendar. During the festival people in China decorate their surroundings with lanterns, flowers and banners.

Brendan Wang Timothy, whose mother is Chinese, is holding a red fish which is hung in his house for good luck. He showed that and other objects from China to all classes during the Chinese New Year Festival.

## Mind Mapping the Spring by 3rd and 4th Class

Mind mapping is a great way to put information into and take information out of our brains. Our brains like thinking in pictures. The smooth curves and colourful pictures create powerful images for our brains to remember.

Mind mapping changes a long list of information into a colourful, memorable and highly organized diagram. This makes mind mapping a very good way of storing and recalling information, presenting things to other people and brainstorming new ideas.

### How we made our Mind Map of Spring

- \* We started with the title—SPRING.
- \* We brainstormed all the words we could think about Spring and wrote them on a flip-chart.
- \* Then we identified the main topics related to Spring: Months, Weather, Animals/Birth, Special Events, Farming/Gardening.
- \* We picked a color for each topic.
- \* On the flipchart, we underlined all the words

\* We grouped the words for each topic on a mind map template on the whiteboard.

\* Some pupils in the class took photos of the signs of Spring we could find around the school.

\* We printed other photos from the internet.

\* Other pupils worked in pairs to match the words to the pictures before they were placed on the Spring Mind Map display.

**Look closely at our Mind Map.**

Can you find the photos we took of the signs of Spring around the school?

Can you spot the deliberate mistake on the rainbows?!?





# Preparing our Garden for the Growing Season

As part of the Heritage in Schools Scheme, Ian and Cathy from Gorbrack Organic Farm spent the day with us on Friday 16th of March.

Every class had a chance to set seeds and plants and did a lot of hard work to prepare the garden for the growing season.

Every class had a chance to set



Junior and Senior Infants set potatoes and planted sunflower seeds that we saved from last year.



5th and 6th set carrot, beet-root, spinach, cabbage and rainbow chard.



1st and 2nd Class made a new herb bed, arranged some natural seating and planted onion sets.



3rd and 4th set a variety of lettuce, peas and beans and made a wigwam and bamboo fence to support the peas and beans.



Our school Garden Project has been possible thanks to the dedication and hard work of pupils, parents and in particular Gail Groves, who coordinates the project.



## Fridge Magnets for Junior Entrepreneur Programme

The Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP) is an entrepreneurial awareness and skills enhancement programme for Primary School children. The programme aims to help children recognise enterprise and entrepreneurship and to foster an awareness and understanding of the entrepreneur's role in the community, therefore empowering the child to start to think and act with the initiative, creativity, independence and ideas

that are invaluable in the modern world.

This year 5th and 6th Class are taking part on the JEP. To come up with one common idea, the classroom was divided in 4 groups around 4 ideas. The groups worked very hard to make their ideas attractive enough to win the vote of the school's dragons in our own Dragon's Den version. The dragons, Denis, Catherine and Jillian had to take a

decision based on the amount of work put in, research and practicality. They finally voted for the **Fridge Magnets** idea.

Now all the classroom is involved in the market research, like sending surveys home and to their neighbours, with the aim of starting production after Easter and then hold a series of events in and outside the school to sell the fridge magnets. **Best of luck with the project!**



What's the **BIG** idea?

## It is Drama Time!

During this term 1st and 2nd class had great fun learning two Irish legends through drama: "Fionn and the Dragon" and "The Children of Lir".

In the picture we can see some of the next actors' generation of Tralee performing in the classroom... for now!



## Maths Trails



As part of our Maths curriculum, 1st and 2nd class undertook a series of Maths Trails.

We were lucky enough to have some members of the community call to 1st and 2nd class.

Ian and Cathy from Gortbrack helped us planting the garden.

Breda Lyons came to talk to us about what school was like long ago.

Marcella Murphy came to talk to us on what it was like to be a teacher.

Barbara Damn talked to us about her native country Chile.



## Rain Gauge and the Greenwave Project

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class made a rain gauge for the Greenwave project. We are recording rainfall for the months of February, March, April and May.

We check the rain gauge every morning at 9.30 and record how much rain has fallen in millilitres.

Each Friday we submit the total rainfall for the week online at [greenwave .ie](http://greenwave.ie).

As part of the Greenwave project, we are also logging the signs of Spring.

Go to [www.greenwave.ie](http://www.greenwave.ie) and

look at 2012 photos to see Tralee Educate Together's photo of a primrose online!

Rain gauge

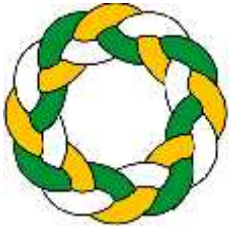


One of the signs of Spring is the Primrose, which we first spotted in the school garden on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Holi, the Indian Festival of Colour

Colourful pictures for Holi, the Indian Festival of Colour. Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class used oil and soft pastels to make their creations. Holi is one of the major festivals in India and probably the most vibrant of all.





# Tralee Educate Together National School

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## Student Council in Action



The Student Council has been meeting, talking, planning and doing things for the school the last couple of months.

They made signs for the school toilets (much appreciated!!) and they have organized an Easter raffle, with the aim of raising funds to buy benches. The 1st prize is a giant Easter egg donated by the Parents Association, 2nd and 3rd prizes are homework passes.

The Student Council will be visiting the Town Hall after mid term break and they will start preparing their own newsletter to be distributed at the end of the school year.

## News from the Parents Association

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the A.G.M. We would love to have new members, fresh faces and fresh ideas!

So please feel welcome to come the next meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in Dennis' classroom in the school.

Barry Fitzgerald has produced a lovely compilation of pictures from school activities, parties and events of 2011, featuring the children, parents and teachers. This is now available on DVD in the office at the cost of €5. It is a great record of a year in the life of the school community.

The school was well represented in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. A big thank you to all who were able to come along and we hope you all enjoyed the day.

Don't forget to look at the school website, it has an up-to-date calendar with upcoming events, and also you can now use the Google Translate facility. Check it out, its [www.tralee-educate-together.com](http://www.tralee-educate-together.com)

Some other activities organized by the Parents Association during the second term include Open Meeting, teas and coffees on February 1st, helping to get plants and equipment for garden and flowerbeds for the school Gardening project and the Ballyseedy Woods family walk on March 4th.

**Coming up.....**

Table Quiz, Refreshments for Sports Day and more!

### Tralee Educate Together Newsletter 2012, N\* 2

#### Editorial Team

- Denis Reidy (Principal)
- Catherine Barry (Resource Teacher)
- Barbara Damm (Parent)

#### Design

Barbara Damm (Parent)

#### Next Issue

Last week of June 2012

If you would like to participate or make suggestions about the School Newsletter, please contact us at:

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