



# Scoil an Chroi Ró Naofa Íosa

Christmas Newsletter - December 2019

Issue no. 107



## Phoenix FM Quiz

Congratulations to our quiz team from Mr. Herity's 6th class, who came second in the final of the Phoenix FM School Duel Quiz on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The quizzes will be broadcast in the New Year.

## Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

Once again our boys and girls showed their altruistic spirit and affirmed their kindness and decency by supporting in record numbers, the 'Team Hope Shoebox Appeal'. The purpose of the project is to spread joy and cheer to boys and girls around the world at Christmas time. Our students wrapped shoeboxes with decorative Christmas wrapping before filling them with a whole range of gifts.

## FÍS Awards

The students in Mr. Herity's 6<sup>th</sup> class were nominated for another FÍS award this year. This continues a long tradition of success at the awards and affirms Huntstown's place as a digital film making centre of excellence.



Mr. Herity and his class chose lego as their medium of expression. They wrote, directed, produced and edited the stopmotion film 'A New Day' using iPads and lego. They even composed their own score which was performed by the children themselves.

The awards ceremony at the Helix was a festival of fun and colour. The class took home the prize for Best Original Soundtrack. Well done everyone.

## A visit to Airfield Farm

The Green team, together with Ms. Lucey, visited Airfield farm in Dundrum in September.

The students enjoyed a wonderful time. They were involved in a mini beast hunt along an ecological discovery trail. They learned all about the different animals and the contribution that they make to our daily lives; milk from the cows, wool from the sheep, eggs from the hens and geese. They were also able to explore the gardens and saw where forced rhubarb was grown. It was a joyous experience for all involved.



## Meet the author



It was a joy and privilege to share a morning with the accomplished author Megan Wynne recently. Boys and girls from fifth class were invited to Blanchardstown Library, where they were treated to a meet and greet with the author. Megan has written a number of books for younger audiences and she was happy to share her passion for literacy with our students. We learned so much from the experience.

## The Reading Garden

Over the summer holidays, our incredible colleagues Tina, Esther and Sandra, transformed the courtyard next to the Atrium. An otherwise forgotten space has been revitalised with decorative mosaics, a wild flower garden, a peaceful water feature and some wonderful spaces to sit and share a book. We look forward to warmer weather and in the meantime we marvel at its cheering beauty.



## A Message from Mr. Lyons

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Christmas holidays approach, we take time to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. Term one has been characteristically busy; filled with exciting and fun times. In September we welcomed four new Junior Infant classes as well as a number of new pupils across Senior Infants – 6<sup>th</sup> and our Coiscéim classes. It is always heartening to witness how warmly welcomed people feel when they join our school community as we continue to outstretch a hand of friendship and kindness. Our Junior Infant boys and girls have made enormous strides this term. They have made lots of friends and are learning through play and imagination in our classrooms and in our playground.

A group of fourth class students visited Microsoft's DreamSpace facility in Sandyford in September. It was an awe-inspiring experience where the students were able to witness the many opportunities that technology can offer and learn how it will continue to shape the world which they are inheriting. This visit was complimented by a coding workshop for Ms. Fortune's fourth class in Blanchardstown Library in October. Our Coiscéim classes also had two very enjoyable visits to Blanchardstown Library where they participated in a sensory music session and a sensory workshop with Dublin Zoo and our 5<sup>th</sup> classes visited the library for author workshops.

This term saw the successful launch of the Weaving Wellbeing positive mental health programme in our 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes, to complement the Fun Friends programme in 1<sup>st</sup> class. I encourage parents/guardians to use the “Weaving Wellbeing Wednesdays” homework to have conversations with your children on the topics of positive mental health, resilience and confidence. The Weaving Wellbeing parents talk was very well attended and I would like to extend my best wishes to parents Jennifer Horrigan and Luke Stynes who were elected to Parents' Nominee roles on the school's Board of Management at the meeting.

Sporting success has been a key feature of the first term. A soccer blitz organised by Mr. Kestell and Mr. Doyle saw boys and girls from fourth, fifth and sixth classes competing against one another in a friendly in-school competition. The competition was run on the school playing pitch. Our Athletics team has been training hard each week too. We were delighted when the boys and girls from Huntstown were a credit to our school and community when they ran at athletics events in Porterstown. They were complimented for their exemplary behaviour and their true sense of sportsmanship. Well done to Ms. Mulcahy, Ms. E. O'Connor, Ms. O'Dea and Ms. O'Sullivan for their energy and enthusiasm, no matter the weather. We were also delighted to welcome Dublin Senior Footballer James Doran to the school with the Sam Maguire trophy to celebrate Dublin creating history when they won the Men's All Ireland Football Championship for a 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row! The children certainly enjoyed the visit, and a night off homework too!

During Science Week 2019, the sixth classes visited Hartstown Community School where they were welcomed to the science laboratories by a number of teachers and students. They conducted a number of experiments; testing different metals and compounds in order to measure their reactions. It really piqued the interest of the students and helps to set the foundations for their enthusiasm for the Sciences and for STEM learning.

Mr. Herity and his sixth class extended their film making success, with another string of nominations at the FÍS Awards 2019. They won the 'Best Soundtrack' award and their film 'A New Day' was lauded for its originality, creativity and emotion. This is an example of how we embrace technology and use it to explore the curriculum with imagination.

Many of our classes took part in wonderful Christmas performances for parents/guardians in the atrium whilst 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes prepared Christmas carols and performed them for one another at the Christmas Carols Concert. The joy and wonder of Christmas is beautifully captured when our boys and girls are joined in one voice. It is a most uplifting season and our school community helped to spread Christmas joy and goodwill by preparing over 100 boxes of gifts for Team Hope's Shoebox appeal. Thank you to Ms. A. Daly and Ms. Donohoe for co-ordinating the efforts of pupils, families and teachers in this project.

Once again, our Parents' Association has invested sterling effort to support our school. The Christmas raffle has been a wonderful success. It generates much needed funds for our school and we are enormously grateful to the Association for coordinating this important fundraiser, to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and to everyone who bought and sold tickets for the raffle. Personalised Christmas cards were also organised by the Parents' Association this year and class calendars will be available for purchase from the Student Council in the New Year. I would like to sincerely thank the Parents' Association for its hard work and dedication throughout the year. We are indebted to you for your selfless service to our school.

The preparations for our 'Beauty and the Beast' musical continue apace and we look forward to sterling performances from a most dedicated cast of students from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes in the New Year. The cast and directors spend every lunch break and evening rehearsing songs, dance sequences and lines. Director Ms. Dixon, Musical Director Ms. Donohoe and Choreographer Ms. Lee are leading the way and are investing enormous energy into the show. Our PE hall will be converted into a professional theatre with a stage, lights, amplification, orchestra and banks of tiered seating for the show's run on the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th February. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year and this will be a show not to be missed as our school performs its very first Disney musical!

I would like to thank our school cleaners Esther, Sandra and Tina for revamping the quad garden at the reception area of our school. Their voluntary efforts brought a new vibrancy to this area and we thank them sincerely. I would also like to thank SNA Ms. Sarah Byrne for her work in the school and wish her the best of luck in her new role as she leaves us after four years of service. I would like to welcome SNA Ms. Barbara Farrelly to our school community as she begins working in our Coiscéim 1 class.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere gratitude to all who continue to support our school community. We are blessed to have a dedicated and hard working staff, supportive parents/guardians and kind, caring and inspiring boys and girls. I would like to thank the Board of Management, Deputy Principal Mr. Harty, our teachers, our SNAs, our *Bean an Tí* Tina, our cleaning staff, our lollipop ladies Vera and Terri, our secretary Carmel, our caretaker Michael and our Parents' Association for all of their efforts throughout the year. I wish you all joy, happiness and peace for Christmas. Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

*Kieran Lyons, Principal.*

## Blanchardstown Library Visit



In October, the students in Ms. Fortune's fourth class were treated to a day of activities in Blanchardstown Library. They enjoyed a coding workshop which focused on building simple computer programmes. They played language themed quizzes. Peace, serenity and relaxation were explored through a mindfulness workshop.

Afterwards the children were given a comprehensive tour of the library and learned all about the wonderful resources that are available to us all. They were shown the new National Libraries tablet app which opens up a whole world of possibility. There are books, language courses, audio books and a whole range of online resources available.

## Athletics



Currently our Athletics team is taking part in the 'Fingal Athletics League'. Children from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes have taken part in 300m, 400m, 500m and 600m races. The children have completed two races so far this year in Porterstown Park. Our third race will be held at the beginning of March with the finals day to take place at the end of March in Morton Stadium, Santry. Children train at big break on the all-weather pitch every Monday with Ms. O'Dea and Ms. O'Sullivan and every Thursday with Ms. Mulcahy and Ms. E. O'Connor. Children often brave the colder days showing great enthusiasm and determination to improve week to week. Points are calculated for schools in every race that takes place. However the ethos of the league is participation based. Sacred Heart of Jesus can take great pride when it comes to participation and our performances at these races. There is always fantastic school spirit on display at every race meeting. Thank you to our wonderful teachers who train the students and coordinate the events.

## Enrolment 2020

Enrolment for incoming Junior Infants (September 2020) will be held in the school atrium on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd January 2020: 10am - 12noon**
- **Thursday 23rd January 2020: 7.30pm - 8.30pm**

Please bring the following documentation with you on the day: One original copy and one photocopy of your child's birth certificate, proof of address in the form of two original utility bills dated within the previous two months, your child's PPS number, any relevant reports (e.g. Medical, Speech & Language, Clinical or Educational Psychologist, Assessment of Need etc.) and one original copy and one photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (if your child has been baptised Roman Catholic and if you would like your child to receive Sacraments in 2nd and 6th class).

## Soccer Blitz

The annual soccer blitz took place between September and October, every Wednesday and Friday on the school soccer pitch. There were two groups with four teams in each and the matches were played at big break or after school. Every team began in the group stages, followed by quarter finals, semi-finals and the final. The final was held on Wednesday 23rd October at 11am. It was between Holland and Germany. The team captains were Senan Stynes and Camille Decroix. Both goalkeepers (Karl Callaghan and Leonel Gago) made some great saves, but finally Senan Stynes broke the deadlock for Holland. Just after half-time, Ellie Dunne scored a second for Holland. Aaron Doyle's goal for Germany made things exciting, but late in the game Victor Warda scored to settle the win for Holland with a final score of 3-1.

By Adam McCrum and Ross Therville

# School Calendar 2020 – Terms 2 and 3

School will reopen after the Christmas break on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**.

**Primary Language Curriculum In-service school closure:** Friday 24th January.

**February Mid-term Break:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 inclusive.

**St. Patrick's Day Holiday:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 inclusive.

**Easter Break:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 inclusive.

Changes to the Easter holidays may occur if the school is forced to close owing to exceptional circumstances. The school may remain open up to and including Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**May Public Holiday:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**June Mid-term Break:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 inclusive.



## Hartstown Visit

Sixth class students visited Hartstown Community School as part of Science Week 2019.



## Competition Winner

Congratulations and well done to our Folens Sonas Halloween Drawing Competition winner from Mr. Herity's 6th class who won a €50 Smyths voucher for herself and a set of Sonas annuals and pens for the class. Remember if you're not in, you can't win!

## Beauty and the Beast

There is an extraordinary amount of excitement and anticipation in our school as we prepare for the upcoming musical 'Beauty and the Beast'. Since September, the cast, under the guidance of Ms. Dixon, Ms. Donohoe and Ms. Lee, has been rehearsing each day at lunch breaks and after school.

The musical will, for the first time in the school's history, be held in the school hall. This is a new departure and we look forward to inspiring our community with the wealth of talent that characterises Huntstown.

Three students, Hazel Jones, Cara Brennan and Stephanie Chen designed the logo above.

The show will run on the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th February in the school hall and tickets will go on sale in the New Year.



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Follow us on <https://twitter.com/sacredheartsns>



## Student Council 2020

Once again, we are delighted to have an amazing Student Council elected by our students. The council is responsible for representing the voice of the larger student body. They work to improve the life of the school and support different events throughout the year. Already they have organised and run a Halloween fundraiser. The funds from the fundraiser will go to support the upcoming musical. We are always amazed by their ingenuity and their motivation to help everyone in our school.