



## Biodiversity Poster Competition

In January 2017, the Green Team ran a competition asking students to create a 'slogan' and/or design a 'logo' to represent biodiversity.

We had a large number of entries from classes throughout the school, with winners in every class.

**Sharon Okanume** in Mr. Herity's 6<sup>th</sup> class designed the overall winning logo. **Esther Kabouet** in Mr. Costello's 5<sup>th</sup> class was the creator of the overall winning slogan ; "*Biodiversity is cool, so let's protect it at Sacred Heart School!*".

Both the slogan and logo were combined to form our 'Biodiversity Code' (above) which is on display throughout the school.



*The star cast of our school musical 'Back to the 80's!' which played to sell-out audiences in Draíocht Theatre, Blanchardstown in February.*

## Primary Science Fair



The students involved in our after school science club were thrilled to be selected to present their project at the Primary Science Fair in the RDS in January.

From the 100's of schools that submitted entries it was a great honour for the school to be selected to present the project entitled '**Does age have an influence on how we see optical illusions?**'

The judges were very impressed with the quality of the investigation and with the high level of enthusiasm and knowledge that the students showed in their descriptions.

Well done to all the boys and girls involved and a big thank you to the teachers Ms. Carr, Ms. Coady, Ms. Heslin, Mr. O' Callaghan and Ms. O' Dea.



*The UEFA Champions League Trophy visited our school this term and the boys and girls from Ms. Gallagher's junior infant class were super excited to see it!*

## A Message from our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This school term has proven to be a very busy period and illustrates the incredibly vibrant school community that we are part of here in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa. We have had notable achievements in academic, arts and sporting areas over the past number of months, with our pupils and staff continuing to do us proud.

In February pupils from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes staged five performances of the *“Back to the 80’s!”* musical in Draíocht Theatre, Blanchardstown. The performances and production were at a truly incredible level for a primary school, with the sell-out audiences being mesmerised by the talents of the pupils on display. Thank you and well done to all staff and pupils involved, and in particular to Ms. Donohoe, Ms. Lee and Mr. Sullivan who led the project from beginning to end.

The school’s musical endeavours were also on show in the National Basketball Arena on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April when our 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils performed as part of the National Children’s Choir. It was a most enjoyable evening with all the hard work that the children and teachers put in to preparing for the concert certainly paying off. There was barely a dry eye in the house as family and staff were bursting with pride throughout the evening.

Our school’s Science Club had the prestigious honour of displaying their project entitled *“Does age have an impact on how we perceive optical illusions?”* at the Primary Science Fair in the RDS as part of the Young Scientist Exhibition in January. The judges were extremely complimentary of the children’s project, their research and presentation of their results. Well done to all of the pupils involved and their teachers Ms. Carr, Ms. Coady, Ms. Heslin, Mr. O’Callaghan and Ms. O’Dea.

The strong sporting traditions in our school continue at pace with our school’s athletics, Gaelic football and soccer teams continuing to train and take part in inter-school competitions. Our school was also recently crowned *“North Dublin’s Fittest School”* with our boys’ team taking the overall title and our girls’ team finishing as overall runners-up. It was quite an incredible achievement for our school to take the top two spots in this competition which tests a wide range of the children’s sporting skills. I would like to say well done to all the pupils involved in our school teams as they always represent our school in an admirable manner. The extra-curricular sporting opportunities afforded to our pupils are supported by the voluntary efforts of quite a number of our teachers including Mr. Burke, Mr. Costello, Ms. Daly, Ms. Donovan, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Fortune, Mr. Hanley, Ms. Hegarty, Mr. Herity, Mr. Kestell, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Mulcahy, Ms. Quinn, Ms. Shallow, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Thynne and Ms. Valentine. Thank you to all involved.

Our school is currently striving to earn our 5<sup>th</sup> Green Flag, with our present focus being on biodiversity. A central part of our biodiversity endeavours is a joint project between a group of school parents and grandparents and students from Blanchardstown Institute of Technology who together are developing a number of areas in the school grounds. This is a fantastic initiative and particular thanks is due to Ms. Lucey and the parents and grandparents involved.

Many of our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils continue their Confirmation and Communion sacrament preparations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils recently received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time and our 6<sup>th</sup> class children conducted their Ceremony of Light this week. In addition to the teachers I would like to thank Fr. George, Clinton Maher and the Parish committee for helping to prepare the children for the sacraments and for hosting the evening meetings for the 6<sup>th</sup> class children.

We recently celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in the school with the children taking part in a céilí in the school hall and enjoying performances of traditional Irish music by Ms. Donovan, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Heslin and Ms. Murphy. The children enjoyed the celebrations whilst learning about Irish culture and developing their spoken Irish skills.

The school extension project continues as our third Coiscéim classroom for children with ASD, a new mainstream classroom and nine new resource rooms are being built. I will keep you up to date on this development, any disruption it may cause in the short-term and again ask parents and children to be vigilant about safety during the course of the construction project.

As we enter in to the final term of this school year I ask you to ensure that the children reach the required standards with regard to punctuality and wearing of the school uniform. I would also ask you to note that if you need to phone the office, call to the school or collect a pupil early the school office may not be attended between 10.45 – 11.00a.m. and 12.15 – 12.40p.m. so please avoid these times if possible.



You may be aware that there is a shortage of substitute teachers in the primary education system at present. Whilst not all teacher absences (such as certain categories of sick leave, extra personal vacation days and attendance at some professional development courses) qualify for substitute cover we are unfortunately in a situation where substitute teachers cannot be sourced to cover all applicable leave. This has led to classes being split in certain instances and learning support teachers covering mainstream classes in other situations. In a large school these changes can impact frequently on children, but thanks to the cooperation of staff, we try to keep the disruption to a minimum. The Board of Management of the school will continue to endeavour to employ substitute teachers for all applicable absences and utilise all school resources in a flexible manner to benefit all the pupils in our care.

I would like to thank you, the parental body, for your support of the school and for the financial contributions that you make to support the education of our pupils. Thank you to the Parents' Association for their recent initiatives to raise much needed funds for our school, including the co-ordination of the very successful Book Fair. Thank you also to parent Mrs. Ciara Jones whose recent 'Sparkle Ball' raised over €9,000 for our school. This was quite an incredible achievement and I would also like to wish her well on her upcoming parachute jump initiative to raise further funds for our school. Your support of these fund raising initiatives is greatly appreciated.

Finally I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to seeing you when the school re-opens on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Kieran Lyons**

Principal

## Green Team News



The children on the Green Team have been very busy over the last 12 months and recently met with Tony Egan of Fingal County Council to show off all of their hard work in the hope of earning our school its fifth green flag for the theme of 'biodiversity'

Before beginning this theme, less than 1% of our students knew what the 'biodiversity' meant. We now know that biodiversity is 'the huge variety of living organisms on this earth and all of the different habitats in which they live'.

Over the course of the year, the Green Team took on a number of projects to protect and encourage biodiversity in our school ;

- We taught our classmates about the importance of biodiversity and what they can do to help it.
- We built a minibeast hotel with the help of our caretaker Mr. Kestell. We furnished it with sticks, stones, grass, cones, pine needles and other materials and now it is an inviting home for the minibeasts on our school grounds.
- We examined some trees on the school grounds and identified them using a leaf key.
- We visited classes and taught children about trees on our school grounds such as oak, ash and holly.
- We launched our 'Biodiversity Code' poster.

A number of other groups within the school undertook projects aswell:

- Infant classes planted bulbs which came to bloom in Springtime.
- Ms. Kirby's 3<sup>rd</sup> class made bird feeders to feed and attract more birds to the school grounds.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> students did a clean-up of the school grounds.
- Our gardening team took on a number of projects to encourage biodiversity (*see overleaf for more details*).

While we await the results of our Green Flag assessment, we are busy planning our 'Biodiversity Week of Action' which will take place in mid-May.



## School Calendar 2017 – Term 3

**Easter Break:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to Friday 21st April 2017

School will reopen after the Easter break on Monday 24th April 2017.

**May Bank Holiday:** Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

**June Bank Holiday:** Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

School will close for the summer holidays at 12 noon on **Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**.



### Gaelic Football News

Congratulations to the Girls', Senior Boys' and Junior Boys' Gaelic Football teams on taking part in the local blitz hosted in St. Peregrine's G.A.A. Club on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

St. Ciaran's Hartstown, St. Philip's Mountview and Ladyswell N.S were also in attendance.

The Girls were narrowly defeated in a very exciting final. The Junior and Senior Boys' teams won their respective finals and both brought silverware back to Huntstown.

Well done to all children involved who were excellently behaved and a credit to the school. We look forward to continued success in the upcoming Fingal League.

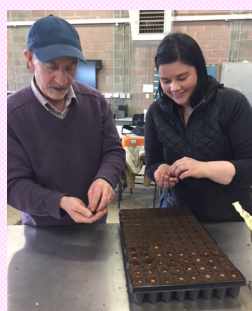
A special word of thanks to the team mentors Ms. Fortune, Ms. Mulcahy, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Burke, Mr. Hanley, Mr. Thynne and Mr. Costello.



### Open A Book

Open a book  
And you will find,  
People and places of every kind;  
Open a book  
And you can be,  
Anything you want to be;  
Open a book  
And you can share,  
Wondrous words you find in there  
Open a book  
And I will too,  
You read to me,  
And I'll read to you!

## School Gardening Project



This year our school was given a wonderful opportunity to engage with horticultural students from Blanchardstown Institute of Technology on a 'community gardening project' on our school grounds.

A request was sent out for volunteers and a group of nine parents and grandparents came forward to kindly offer their time and commitment to this collaborative project which kicked off in February.

The project involves parents and grandparents coming into the school every Wednesday morning and working alongside the horticultural students in the creation of a various gardening projects on our school grounds. Projects include a bee and butterfly maze, a nature trail, a sensory garden and planting of crops!

We are very excited about this project and wish to thank our volunteers and the students for their time, dedication and enthusiasm! We look forward to unveiling the final result in May!