

## Principals Report 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Pupils

There are **418** pupils in the school, 228 boys and 190 girls.

We will be taking in 27 in each of the Junior Infants.

We need a minimum of 411 next year and we are very likely to have more than that.

EAL appeal rejected. We intend to re-appeal in September

### Testing

All testing complete. Report on Sigma-T and Micra-T results will be made at the next BOM meeting either in July or September. Haven't been analysed yet. They will be made known to the DES this week. Similar results to last year.

### Final term was very busy. Many exciting activities

**Grandparents Day** on Thursday 12th May. Very well attended, great fun

**Relationships and Sexuality Parents (4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) Information evening** Wednesday 18th May at 7:30pm: May consider doing whole course in all classes ourselves next year. Very well attended as always.

**New Junior Infants parents night** on Tuesday 24th May at 7:30pm. Again great turnout

**Mary Poppins: A spectacular show:** A great big congratulations to all staff, crew and cast of Mary Poppins. It was a spectacular event, much appreciated by all of our four audiences. The children were genuinely magnificent and the production was of the very highest standard. The acting, dancing and singing were wonderful. The set, costumes and props added enormously to the high standard of the show. We can be really proud of the effort of the whole staff who supported the director, Deirdre, the choreographer Catherine and choir director and music co-ordinator, Paula. The singers were uplifted by the Mary Poppins Band which also consisted of teachers in the school. Tom on keyboard, Deirdre and Etaoin on violin and Aoife on accordion. It was a huge collaborative effort from all teachers, SNAs and Barry our caretaker, and his brother! It was a great success. We hope to do a performance on this scale once every three years, so that each child in the school will get the chance to perform in such a major, gala performance.

**Congratulations to all our athletes:** The Cumann na mBunscol team did very well and brought home three individual medals. Fade won bronze medal for the hurdles, Malvina won silver medal for a spectacular jump of 3 metre and 50 cm and Frank brought home a gold medal for shot putt. Congratulations to all involved, the athletes who represented our school so well and a very big thank you to their teacher trainers, Karen M, Seona, Rob and Sinead.

**More congratulations: Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Plaque of STEM Excellence for the 2015/16:** Esker Educate Together National School has just been awarded a third Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Plaque. We are thrilled to see that all of the science, technology, engineering and maths work, carried out in our school has been acknowledged and celebrated with this award. I know that the children really enjoyed taking part in the Awards programme this year. A most hearty congratulations to 6th Class Green and their teacher Deirdre who organised and led the programme in the school this year. I know that Deirdre also wanted to

thank Niamh for her support with this scheme Niamh has spearheaded the award for the previous two years.

### **Congratulations to our Green School Committee: Second Green School flag Award**

Our extremely hardworking and dedicated Green School Committee has been awarded their second Green school flag. After two years of meetings, action plans, reading electrical and gas meters, and reminding our school to 'Do what is right and turn off the light', the time finally came to collect our beautiful new Green Flag for Energy. The award ceremony was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May in DCU at the Helix. Our two pupil representatives were Denisa and John for 6<sup>th</sup> class green. During the ceremony, we heard lots about the work that An Taisce does in protecting the environment, and lots about how schools make a difference when they commit to making a change in behaviour and attitude. This change is then brought home and positive differences can be seen in reducing the amount of waste, litter, and non-renewable resources we use. Make the change!

We are very proud of our school, our committee and our parents who helped us get this award. We will be raising the flag for the first time in our school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of June. And ice cream

School closed for inservice new Language Curriculum: introduced to staff by Catherine and Colette

**Internet safety Evening:** We had a good turn out for a very important meeting here in the school last night. A speaker from the National Parents Council, Bonita, talked to the parents about internet safety for our children and gave them great tips as to how to manage social media sites and cyber bullying. She particularly recommended [webwise.ie](http://webwise.ie)

**Global Citizenship School Award.** A delegation from our school was invited to attend the Mansion House on Tuesday 31st May to celebrate the unveiling of our Global Citizenship School Initiative with the President of Ireland Mr. Michael J Higgins and his wife Ms Sabine Higgins and the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Luqman from 6th and Jessie from 5th represented the children at the ceremony. They were accompanied by Paula, who spearheaded the initiative in our school and by Colette. Our school was congratulated by the President for the important work we do in the school to promote positive relations and for our long term commitment to work for a better and fairer world. We are one of the first twenty schools in the country to be involved in this very important initiative.

**Individual school Reports** were be issued to parents, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> posted.

**Sports Day** due to be held on 16th June, postponed and re held Tuesday (rained off) and Wednesday this week. medal ceremony tomorrow

**6th Class graduation, Thursday 23rd June.** great day Winner of Paul Kilgarriff Croi na Scoile award Denisa Cirdei . PTA hosted a disco for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class that evening. Also a great success by all accounts. Catherine and myself stayed around in case of trouble

**Attendance:** Colette Gemma and The Education Welfare Officer met with parents of 6 children who are chronic attenders. In most cases chronic attendance is due to extended holidays back yo home countries. EWO warns these parents that they face a fine of up to

**Next year:** Please let us know if your child will not be returning to our school next year for any reason, moving house, going abroad etc. We have waiting lists for all our classes and very anxious parents and children who want to attend our school. If you know that your child will not be back in September you must let us know immediately.

**Chess team:** Congratulations to our chess team who secured a great victory in an interschool completion held yesterday in Lucan East. Our team of four boys (Frank, Fade, John and Oscar) and one sole girl (Denisa) were the ultimate winners in a four school tournament against 4 teams from Lucan East Educate Together, Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada and Newbridge Educate Together. Congratulations to the team and to Tom who teaches and trains the team every Monday afternoon in the chess club and organises inter school tournaments. Well done to all involved.

**Curriculum issues: School self-evaluation**

The INTO has issued a moratorium on school self-evaluation. Teachers have been told not to engage with it due to the loss of middle and senior, management posts in primary schools.

**Class Allocation**