

# Drimnagh Castle Primary School



School Newsletter

November and December 2022



## The Castle School Leagues

After a long awaited break due to Covid, The Castle School Leagues returned before Christmas. This is an internal GAA competition open to all boys from 3rd to 5th class. Boys are put into teams at random and given a not so random group of managers! Our senior football boys act as coaches and mentors to the teams with two or three boys looking after each team. Games took place during break-time with many gathering a large crowd to the railings.

After a hotly contested group stage, Loch Garman and Maigh Eo were the early pace setters. In a first for School Leagues, two quarter finals ended in a draw after many shouts of "Last minute!" from the referee Mr. O'Connor. The semi finals saw Áth Cliath take on Maigh Eo and Loch Garman face off against Ros Comáin. Unlike recent history, Maigh Eo got one over Áth Cliath and Ros Comáin upset all the odds to overturn a fancied Loch Garman side.

In a sun soaked December afternoon, the whole school lined the pitch for the final. After a very tight first half, Maigh Eo exerted dominance to win out by a couple of points. The Mr. Toher Cup was presented to the victorious Maigh Eo team much to the delight of their managers Mr. Gillespie, Ms. Tarpey and Ms. McDonnell along with their helper coaches, Alfie and Jack. A special mention must go to Mr. O'Connor's Room 13 who acted as security, kit-men, sweepers, umpires, linesmen, reporters and cameramen throughout the leagues! Our award winners were Jack B, Cillian M, Frankie M and Brody M.

## Trinity Access School



We, as you may have noticed from the poster in Mr. Kirwan's window, are a Trinity Access School. This means that we are part of the Trinity Access Programme (T.A.P.) which was created to help young students reach their potential when they leave school.

T.A.P. aims to see as many children as possible going to college and university when they finish secondary, and so they run a number of initiatives and programmes in primary and secondary schools like ours.

They want every boy to know that going to college is an option and that there are many, many different fields you can study in, and also many ways to get into college. There is funding and guidance for students and T.A.P. want to ensure that our boys know about it!

In November, we hosted a College Awareness Week with guest speakers coming in to talk to our 6th classes about their chosen careers. In December, some of our boys visited the Trinity Sports Centre for a Reindeer Fun Run and got to use the beautiful facilities there.

We will take part in activities for Maths & Science Week this term and our 6th classes will be visiting the Trinity Campus again before the end of the year.

## Digital Literacy



Drimnagh Castle Primary school is introducing a new initiative as part of the Primary Language Curriculum to explicitly teach functional, critical and creative digital skills. These skills will be taught from 2nd to 6th with each year group focusing on one major skill in each area.

Using our new laptops and iPads the children will be encouraged to think critically about information online, search information, make presentations using Google Slides, enhance their typing skills, edit their work and create posters and cartoons and much more. The aim is to ensure that each child leaving Drimnagh Castle at the end of 6th class will have a bank of digital knowledge and skills to take with them, something that is so important in today's educational landscape.



**Carambola** was introduced to our school after midterm through the Hot School Meals Programme.

We are so delighted with the lovely lunches that Carambola are providing for the boys in our school and how great the response has been.

Reminder that you can change your order online at any time or contact Amanda in the office on 014552066 and she will help you.

# Roots of Empathy Programme



## Rebecca, Mossie and Mr Grehan's 6th Class

This year, boys in sixth class have been fortunate enough to take part in a program called Roots of Empathy. This program has been delivered internationally to over one million children but this is the very first time it has been run here in Drimnagh Castle and the boys are really enjoying it, as well as developing new life skills and experiences.

Roots of Empathy is designed to reduce aggression, increase sharing, caring, and inclusion, and promote resilience, well-being, and positive mental health. It is led by Brenda who comes in every week and she helps our boys develop empathy and kindness for others through various activities.

However the main focus of the programme is learning all about the lives of new-born babies and how to look out for them. The boys are very excited when they get to catch up with baby Mossie every few weeks who is brought in by his mother Rebecca. The boys get to see Mossie grow and develop from the start of the year to the end and there is always great excitement whenever he is in. The boys have been kind and caring to baby Mossie (they even bought him a Christmas outfit) and he makes them feel calm and happy too.

So far Roots of Empathy has been a great success and it has been a real privilege for the boys to work with baby Mossie and to see him grow.



## Dates for your Diary

### Primary Language Curriculum Planning Day

Friday, 27th of January (school closure)

### Catholic Schools Week

29th of January to the 5th of February

### Midterm Break

13th to 17th of February

### Seachtaine na Gaeilge

1st to 17th of March

### World Book Day

Thursday, 2nd of March

### Engineers' Week

6th to 10th March

### Easter Holidays

School closes at 11:45 on Friday 31st of March  
School reopens on Monday, 17th of April

### Confirmation Day:

Thursday, 27th of April

### First Holy Communion Day:

Friday, 19th of May

### Communion Masses at 11:00:

Sunday, 26th of February  
Sunday, 23rd of April

### Confirmation Masses at 17:30:

Saturday, 21st of January  
Saturday, 25th of February  
Saturday, 11th of March

## Behaviour Draw



On our last day of school before the Christmas holidays we gathered in the hall to celebrate our many achievements throughout the term. The highlight of our assembly was the announcing of our Good Behaviour Draw prizes.

Here is a list of the winners from this term:

**2nd Class:**

Aaron O'Brien

**3rd Class:**

Nathan Ross de Torres

**4th Class:**

Alexander Rooney

**5th Class:**

Nathan O'Neill

**6th Class:**

Alex Olteanu

**GAA Winner:**

Glen McClean

**Overall Winner:**

Jake Gannon

Well done boys!!!

## Book Fair



We were delighted to be able to open the doors of The Castle again and welcome you all to our Book Fair in December. It was a wonderful opportunity for the boys to develop their love of reading and to also raise some funds for the school. The amount of money raised has exceeded all our expectations, a massive €2,033.49. This money will be used to promote reading in our school. We will buy new picture books and novels. There was a lovely buzz around the school and the boys really enjoyed it. Please continue to encourage your son to read and consider joining your local library if you are not a member already.



Our Student Council is one of the ways that we ensure that the opinions and the voice of the boys are heard in an authentic and meaningful manner.

There are elected representatives in each of the classes who bring the ideas from their own class each term to discuss and debate them at a sitting of the council. The boys evaluate all of the ideas and prioritise their targets for school development and put a plan in place to enact this. This term, under the guidance of Ms Timbs, the Student Council are working on:

1. Raising hidden disability awareness
2. Organising lunchtime activities for the boys
3. Researching and planning for the building of a new sensory room.

## Boxing



Boxing has returned to The Castle every Friday with Ed putting the 6th class boys through their paces.

This is a twelve-week programme, culminating with some of the boys participating in a box-off in the National Stadium.



A reminder to parents and guardians that Ciara Cole is the Home School Community Liaison Coordinator in our school. Ciara's main role is to support parents and guardians when they need it. Her phone number is 083 164 5822 and email is [hsccl@drimnaghwalkinstown.com](mailto:hsccl@drimnaghwalkinstown.com)