

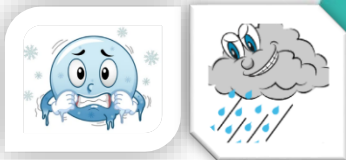
Mercy Primary Newsletter January 2024



December
2024

Edition

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Dear parents and guardians,

What an action packed January we've had! Our school community settled back into term 2 with happy smiles and infectious enthusiasm. We started off by celebrating Science week, Friendship day and Catholic Schools Week to mention a few. We celebrated the many talents in fifth and sixth with our first ever school musical! Our girls' excelled making "Alice" spectacular. This week ended beautifully with a whole school mass in Our Lady and St. David's Church to celebrate St. Brigid's day. Wishing you a very happy and healthy 2024.

Cathal Ruane Irish Kelly



Our fifth and sixth class girls produced a most spectacular Alice!

We never thought we'd take over the Moat for a week. More information about our fantastic musical on our back page.



Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Communities of Service



LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE
ST BRIGID'S DAY

This years' Catholic Schools Week 2024 started Sunday January 21st and ran until Saturday January 27th. The theme of this years' Catholic Schools was Schools as communities of service. Always an opportunity to highlight our Mercy Values, we used this as an time to focus on the well-being of all our girls; nurturing and fostering friendships and inclusivity in our school community.

Today we celebrated St. Brigid's Day. Our whole school went to mass to mark this special event in our school calendar. Our senior classes also made St. Brigid's Day crosses.



Congratulations to our **Debating team** on their success in winning the Concern Primary Shield Debate final, held in Kildare Education Centre last Friday 19th January. Our girls were proposing the motion "Sports always brings communities together". Our team put in stellar performances both in their research and presentations; we could not be more proud. Congratulations to Shreya, Neol, Eleanor, Grace, April and Clodagh. Many thanks to Ms. Loughnane and Ms. Kelly in preparing the girls.



Our Mercy Value for **January** was **goal setting, celebrating diversity and individuality**. Our classes jumped on board and wrote about how they're all unique and about their goals for 2024.

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS**

Our school attendance from August '23 - Jan '24 was **93.9%**. We saw an improvement this January where attendance was **93.2%**. In comparison, in January 2023 attendance was 92%.



Our Under 11 team had great fun at the annual Credit Union Quiz in Toughers on Friday, 26th January. Whilst they didn't win they did really well and we were extremely proud of them.



Our confirmation pupils celebrated the Ceremony of Light on January 9th. They are busy preparing for their confirmation which also takes place in Our Lady and St. David's Church on March 8th.



Our Science Week improves from year to year – this year was no exception. Our amazing Green Schools Committee who were masters at the demonstrations; from diffusing skittle colours in Junior Infants, pepper and water mixing in Senior Infants, the dancing raisins in 1st, creating string telephones in 2nd, exploring starch in 3rd, launching rockets in 4th, designing and creating periscopes in 5th and making circuits in 6th – there was something for everyone. The home-challenge of designing a mini catapults proved great fun too and all classes had great fun testing them out. A huge thanks to Ms. Woulfe and the Green Schools Committee for organizing such an exciting, fun-filled and engaging week.



History was made this week when our school produced its first ever school musical. All the talents of our fifth and sixth class girls guided by a dedicated team of staff members culminated into a most phenomenal production of "Alice the Musical". The production showcased the many gifts of our senior students; from the artwork that was used for tickets right up to the stage props, every effort was made to highlight and involve our entire class groups.

It was a most magical, memorable, inspiring and team building experience for all involved. Under the guidance of Ms. MacNerney and Ms. Donnan, the girls did the school and most importantly themselves proud.

The sense of teamwork, camaraderie and friendships made over the few weeks will remain with the girls forever; they have left and started the musical legacy of the Mercy Convent fifth and sixth class girls.

Sincerest thanks to the entire production team for making this possible.



Coming in February

- Peace Proms for our School Choir February 3rd
- BLAST Art Workshops for our 4th Classes
- Eason's Spelling Bee 2024 for 5th & 6th classes
- 6th Class Valentine Bake Sale February 13th; €2
- Handwriting Heroes Initiative Starting February 21st



What is BLAST?

BLAST stands for Bringing Live Arts to Students and teachers. The aim of the scheme is to give pupils in schools to work with a professional artist on a creative, imaginative and fun project. It fosters collaboration, critical thinking and practices inclusivity among participants.



School Closures

March 1st : In-service training for staff in the Primary Math Curriculum

March 8th : School is used as a polling station