

Note from the Principal



Wow, what a fast year...again!!

I just want to say thank you to the pupils, parents, teachers, staff, Parents Council and Board of Management for all the hard work throughout the 2015/2016 school year. It was quite a busy one with:

- Getting to grips with our new Astra Turf
- First Student Council being elected
- a Christmas concert,
- 1916 commemoration celebrations and march through the village
- gardening, stone painting to safeguarding trees
- sports of every kind,
- being awarded our Fourth Green Flag for Travel, and renewing the waste, water and energy flags
- Being awarded a Health Promoting School Flag
- Bernard Casey for Drama
- School tour to Mallow
- Confirmation
- First Holy Communion
- Swimming in Reencaheragh
- Cooking in our new ovens
- Garden Audit with Ian from Gortbrack Farm
- New Safety measures in the school
- New school website going live
- Participating in school choir in all celebrations both in and out of church
- Took part in GAA show
- Began our Mindfulness lessons
- World book day
- Visiting speaker
- First year of school league
- Maths and literacy activities and games

- Focus on different genres and artists throughout the year
- I'm sure there is more, but we simply couldn't think of them

So I think we all deserve a bit of a rest over the summer!

Be safe everyone, especially on the road and around water. See you all on 1st September

Le gach dea-ghuí, Karen

Isabel, our Swiss student

I'm a student from Switzerland, who's studying at a Swiss university to become a teacher. A part of our studies is an internship in a French- or English-speaking country. After my holiday in Dublin 8 months ago it didn't take long to decide to come to Ireland again. That's the reason why I worked as an assistant in the School in Portmagee for the last three weeks.

On May the 22th I flew from Zurich to London, where I changed the plane to travel to Cork. There I caught the train to travel to Kerry Airport, where a taxi waited for me to give me a lift to Cahersiveen, the town I stayed in a host family for the next 21 days. First, it was really hard to understand the Irish people because of their accent, although I've been learning English for many years in my native country. But after a few days I was used to the Irish accent and could understand more or less what the people I was surrounded with said. The contract we got to carry out from our university contained observing the classes on their working day business to get to know the foreign school system, supporting the teachers and also, if it's possible, teaching a few lessons on our own. I often had the possibility to give the teachers a hand and I was also allowed to teach on my own, which was a great experience I will never forget. For example I presented Switzerland with its traditions and famous places, I taught the kids a few words in Swiss-German, I told them the story of "Heidi", a Swiss girl who lives in the Alps and we tried to sing a song about a goat in Swiss-German together, which was absolutely great fun. During my stay in Kerry I got an insight in the Irish School System and I noticed a lot of difference to the Swiss one. In Switzerland for example school starts at 7:45 in the mornings, during the big break every child goes home for having lunch and we have subjects like handicraft, wooden work and we go every single week for three lessons to the gym hall for physical education.

Thanks to all the students and teacher for welcoming me so warmly, I felt at home after only a few days and I always will look back with pleasure to this three amazing weeks in Ireland!

Soccer Blitz 2016

On the third of June spar hosted the 2016 soccer blitz with all the schools in South Kerry. We left the school at 9:20 and arrived back at school at 2:45. We only had one team but the majority of the other schools had two or more.

We played Foilmore first we drew with them

Then we played then glen we won. Then we played Caherdaniel and we lost. Reenard School won it out and so did Watterville girls.

At around half twelve we got the surprise of pizzas chips and nuggets. The day was very good and very competitive. The day was roasting. If anyone enjoyed the games very much the Iveragh soccer club will be looking for players it will start in August.

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Brazil 2015-2016

Last year in November we set off on a long journey to Brazil for 6 and a half months. I'm doing a project on it and I hope you enjoy it! I was looking forward to the plane ride but was soon trying to get off! I hoped that Brazil was worth a 13 and a half hour plane journey! When we got to Brazil the door opened and the heat literally melted my face! And I was in the shade! When we got into the airport my two uncles were there waiting for us. When I got into my uncle Alizandro's car the first thing I did was open my window! Brazil was much different than Ireland; I saw people selling giant water melons at the side of the motorway, and saw crazy motorcyclists weaving alongside the cars. When we got to our granny's house we were welcomed warmly. We stayed at her house for a month and then we went to Paraty a town near the sea which was a real treat to go into the cool water. (Not as cool as Irish water!) We went back to our granny's house and stayed there for a couple of weeks then we went to RIO! Rio was the best we stayed in an apartment that had a pool! The beach was not too far away so we went there every day. On the last day of Rio we went to Copacabana and we all went swimming. When we went back to our granny's house we had a party and the next day we went home to Ireland. I loved Brazil and I hope to go again someday. Thanks for listening Gabriella.



Skills

This year the girls GAA skills was held in Cahersiveen. There was a big surprise... Jolynn Moll won the skills! When she came back she said that she was bad. Jolynn didn't even want to tell the school. Gabriella and I helped her and we told everyone! We wished her Congratulations. Jolynn went to Tralee for the County Final. Jolynn was in 4th place. 2 other girls won from Tralee and the other girl from Killarney won. But still she tried her best. Jolynn is our skills winner.

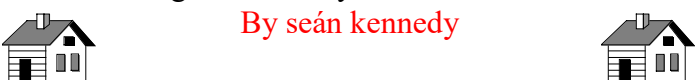
By Neringa



Basketball blitz 2016

On the 29 of April our school had the basketball blitz in colaiste. We had a boys team and a girls team. The boys played Valentia, Bally and the glen school joined together and foilmore coars and we lost them all. The girls played Bally and the glen school joined together they played Aghartubrid and Valentia. They won against bally the glen and aghartubrid. They got to the semi-finals but they lost against Valentia. Aghartubrid boys won out of the boys and town girls won out of the girls. Aghartubrid boys won against town boys in the final and town girls won against Valentia girls. I had a good time even though we lost all our games. I really like basketball and I hope the basketball blitz go's on next year.

By seán kennedy



Sports day

Our annual sports day took place in our GAA ground. We had 3 teams the green, red and the blue. We started our day off with the 100 m run it was exciting and very healthy. The welly throw was very funny some were thrown very far. The 3 legged race was very good to watch people were falling and people were flying it. The long run was tiring but we all did it for some classes we had to do a lap and a half of the field. The spoon and spud race was tricky. Before the last race which was the obstacle course, the score were very close. The obstacle course included two items you had to jump over. Sports day was very enjoyable. At the end of the day the red team came first, the blue second and the green in third place. It was a fun day!

By Siobhan Murphy

GREEN SCHOOLS.

We are doing the GREEN SCHOOLS and are now on our 4th flag the travel flag. This is a great addition to the school as it is so big and the school is quite small compared to other schools. Most other schools are only on their first so this is great, but getting four flags has required a lot of work. We set up a GREEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE with Megan, Jolynn, Julie, Bryan and me on it. I hope we get a lot more flags too. Some of the we did was walking to school every Thursday, being healthy and much much more. Every Thursday morning we meet at the car-park. Miss. Nugent would be down to walk with us and we walked or cycled up to school and when we got there we would count who walked, cycled etc. We are going to have a big celebration when we get the flag and I am really looking forward to it. CATE.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the study of all living things. It is like a game of jenga, if you take out one thing the whole thing could collapse. A man named Ian and a lady named Niamh came into our school and talked to us about biodiversity. He told us to stop spraying as it kills weeds but it also poisons the trees and plants. He guided us around the garden and told us what the names of the plants were. He also taught us how to recognise if a plant is dead or not by scratching a piece of bark of the plant and if it is brown or a dark colour it is probably dead and if it is green it is alive. He gave out two cameras to a few people to take pictures of what we were doing. On that day I found out the big tree in front of the school is a willow tree and there are a few ash trees as well that are used to make Hurley sticks. Niamh was following us around with a clipboard and drawing a map or a plan of some sort. When we came back down to the class she started to re draw it onto two big sheets. You can see the map/plan outside the school office. We started to chop down pieces of willow off the tree. All the good long sticks were used to make the willow wind breaker fence beside the path. We bent the rods into each other so it was like plaits; we then secured it by tying the rods together with string.

Michael Murphy

There's a boy in the girl's bathroom!!

A few weeks ago our classroom read a novel called there's a boy in the girl's bathroom. I think it should of had a different name because it didn't really have anything to do with a boy in the girls bathroom. The story is about a boy named Bradley who's in fourth grade and is doing really bad at school and was held back once. He has no friends and no-one likes him. But everything changes when his teacher Mrs. Ebbel recommends for him to start seeing the new counsellor Carla Davis. Carla is very nice to Bradley. Soon after that he starts to improve in school and makes more friends. It is an exciting story with a lot of twists to it. The whole class really enjoyed it. we did a really big novel work book on it. By Bryan Bolger

Exciting News!

We now have a school website! Michael Murphy from this years current Sixth Class designed a website for the school for the first time, we would be delighted if you would visit it regularly. We will update it with newsletters and notes as well as policies every now and then. Well done to Michael. You can find it by going to **portmageens.wix.com/home**

First Holy Communion

It was on May 21st. We had loads of fun that day. We had to bring up gifts, do prayers and songs. We were all nervous because there was only three of us. The whole school sang in the choir and Fr Gunn gave us a present of Rosary beads. By Paris McCarthy

Cooking

This year we are taking up cooking as a subject. We got two new electric ovens and new worktops installed so now it is easy. The first thing we made was brown bread. Here's the

recipe:

INGREDIENTS:

325g wholemeal flour.
125g plain white flour.
1 half teaspoon salt.
1 rounded teaspoon bread soda.
{sieved}
A handful of: Pumpkin seeds,
Sunflower seeds,
Sesame seeds,
Linseeds, Oats.

35g butter.
2 dessert spoons of honey.
500ml of buttermilk.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Put all dry ingredients in bowl. Mix.
In a jug, melt butter and honey. Add buttermilk.
Put wet milk and honey into centre of dry ingredients.
Spoon wet mixture into loaf tin.
Bake in pre-heated oven at 170 degrees Celsius or gas mark 6 for approximately 50 minutes. This recipe was fun. The preparation was long, though. The next thing we are making is fruit smoothies. I am looking forward to it.
By Sarah Coffey.

Learn...
and
Grow...
Together!