

# School News

November 2024



Congratulations to Yvanna Wong, 4<sup>th</sup> class who was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Hollywood Music Festival of the Year 2024 under "Strings Grade 4-5" session.

Congratulations also to Simeon Wong, 2<sup>nd</sup> class who was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the INTA Open International I.T.F. Taekwon-Do Tournament under "Junior Sparring 8 years & under Yellow Belt 130cm" division.



## SAPA

The Sapa team was delighted this month to be able to spend some money that had been raised over the previous year on a worthy need for our school. Four classrooms received a make-over with painters coming in over several weekends to paint the walls, ceilings and doors. The classrooms hadn't been painted for more than ten years so were looking a little bit tired and in need of some attention. We've had lots of feedback about how fresh looking the classrooms now are and we are trying to arrange for the painters to come back soon to paint the remaining four classrooms.

Some dates for your diary....

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Kids' Movie Night
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Charity Coffee Morning

Look out for details on Aladdin and class WhatsApp groups.



## Garda Band

We were very lucky to have the Garda Band visit us on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Children from Junior Infants to 3<sup>rd</sup> class were treated to a wonderful performance of show stopping tunes.

There were super sing-a-longs to Frozen, Ghostbusters, Barbie Girl and SpongeBob SquarePants to name a few. There was even a sing-a-long competition between teachers and the children - can you guess who won?!!



## Around the Classes



**Junior Infants** have had a super November. The first theme of the month in play and learn was the construction site and vehicles. They played with construction vehicles and blocks in kinetic sand, built houses with blocks, made beautiful patchwork houses and programmed Beebots to travel along a road. They then moved on to the theme of polar regions. They learned about the Arctic and the Antarctic and about the animals that live in these polar regions. The children played with polar animals in small world, made beautiful bear silhouette paintings and made their own penguins. They sorted



solid and liquid objects and investigated the effect heat has on solids by heating chocolate, butter and ice-cream and using straws to blow holes in ice cubes. In Irish they learned all about 'Bia'. They sang lots of songs, played fun games and learned lots of new words and phrases. They love telling each other what they have in their bosca lóin each day. In maths they explored 3D shapes. They made ramps and investigated how the different shapes travelled down the ramps and they used a variety of 3D shapes



to build towers. They started learning their Jolly Phonics sounds this month and are loving singing the songs and doing the actions for each sound. Ali and Eoin from Fingal Prosper have been coming in to teach the children Lámh. They are practising their signs lots every day and are looking forward to learning more in the coming weeks. They have worked and played so well again this month and should be very proud of themselves!



**Senior Infants** have had a fantastic November. The children have worked really hard at their writing this month, learning some new tricky words and using them in sentences. They have also been doing the number 7 and data in maths! They have been learning all about the theme of space this month in play and learn. They learned all the vocabulary for the space station and used it in their own rocket ship in the classroom! The



children made some space themed playdough creations, such as asteroids and planets. They built rocket ships in their construction station using a variety of materials. They also built a solar system jigsaw. This month in Gaeilge the class have been learning all about 'Caitheamh Aimsire!' The children have loved performing their songs about hobbies as Gaeilge. Senior Infants also have also started to learn all about the Arctic and Antarctic and can name where the different animals live. They did some lovely winter themed artwork of the Northern Lights using chalk pastels. Senior Infants are looking forward to a festive December!



**1<sup>st</sup> Class** have had a busy and fun month of November! They have loved their new



topic of houses, which has seen the class dive into the world of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In English they hot seated the characters, as well as acting out the story, before using this to write their own retelling of it. Their writing was fantastic and they have put it together to make a new book for their book corner! The children were tasked with building their own houses out of junk modelling, which had to withstand the Big Bad Wolf blowing it down! They did a brilliant job with their creative and sturdy creations. In maths

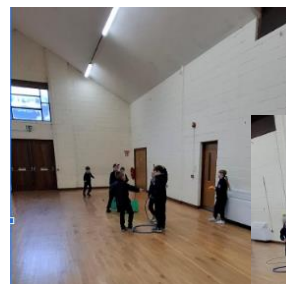


they continued to build on their knowledge of place value, using ten frames and place value grids to make numbers, before turning their attention to 3D shapes which the children began exploring this week. They also loved reading Roddy Doyle's 'The Giggler Treatment' as the class book and are thrilled at being able to go and watch the performance in a week's time! Well done for another great month 1<sup>st</sup> class!



The children are really getting into the festive spirit here in **2<sup>nd</sup> Class**, with rehearsals for their Christmas play well and truly underway. They are excited to share all their hard work with you in their upcoming performance of 'The Stars Are Coming Out for Christmas'. The class created their own obstacle courses for PE this month and put a huge effort into their teamwork. In maths they enjoyed a lot of fun activities and used many incredible resources such as magnets and problem solving games to extend their knowledge and broaden their mathematical minds. Their Gaeilge topic is 'Bia' and they had fun role playing 'An Bialann'. In English they have worked hard on their letter writing skills, just in time to write their letter to Santa. 2<sup>nd</sup> class learnt all about Alexander Graham Bell and had fun looking at all the different telephones throughout the decades. The anti-bullying topic this month is all about the different types of bullying, which inspired interesting conversations in

class regarding self-control and peer pressure. They celebrated another yearly tradition that is The Late Late Toy Show in our visual art lessons with some funky festive Christmas jumper paintings and they put their engineering brains to work by inventing their very own Christmas toys. 2<sup>nd</sup> class cannot wait to see what December brings.





**3<sup>rd</sup> Class** have been very busy for the month of November.

They have been learning all about coastal seas and the negative effects water pollution can have on them. The children are currently researching facts about sea creatures to create an informational report to share to the class. With the help of David Attenborough, they gained a deeper insight into the various sea creatures that live within our coastal seas. 3<sup>rd</sup> class also had the opportunity to visit

the National Museum of Archaeology and examine some fascinating artefacts found during the Viking Age! The children have been engaging in the STEPS engineering project since the beginning of September. With the closing date fast approaching, everyone has been working hard to build their prototypes. They were also fortunate to have an engineer visit the class last week to provide some expert advice. With Christmas just around the corner, they have started their "Countdown to Christmas" where everyone takes part in a whole class activity to celebrate their time together before they break for the holidays. Some of the activities so far have included, singing Christmas carols, making Christmas art and reading a festive story together. 3<sup>rd</sup> class have worked really hard this month and are looking forward to more fun activities over the coming weeks.



**4<sup>th</sup> Class** had a busy month of November after the Halloween break. In maths, they focused on fractions, division tables and some charts and statistics. In English, they started their group



station work, practising their reading, comprehension skills and grammar skills. In Gaeilge they have explored the topics of 'Bia' and 'Scoil' looking closely at school and classroom equipment in particular. In PE, they started their GAA sessions in the castle while also playing games with Mr. Blake such as soccer, javelin, obstacle course hurdles, hula hoops and switch. In SESE, the school community and our local surroundings was the topic of study for November. The children have enjoyed learning about what school was like in the past and how it has changed so much over time. In drama, they have been practising their Christmas play of 'Scrooge' which is going really well with everyone taking part in their unique roles so well. In SPHE, they've explored the topic 'types of bullying' which was the theme of the whole school assembly. The children have discussed the different types there are such as cyber, physical and emotional and they've taken on board that we need to take care of ourselves and be careful with how we behave around others to ensure everyone feels included and supported.

**5<sup>th</sup> Class** spent November focusing on the narrative writing genre. They learned about different aspects of narrative writing, the importance of using an appropriate setting, and how to plan colourful story characters. The class will start writing their own stories next week. In maths the class tackled the tricky topic of long division and have now moved on to learn about equivalent fractions. The children focused on the artistic technique of one-point perspective and created some beautiful streetscapes. The class also learned about various different explorers in history and created booklets about each explorer. 5<sup>th</sup> class also began the Junior Entrepreneur Programme this month.



**6<sup>th</sup> Class** have had a very productive month. They celebrated their running efforts over the past 8 weeks by attending the Marathon Kids final mile event in Morton Stadium. It was a fantastic morning where the class, along with dozens of other schools, ran their final mile through Santry park and onto the track in the stadium. They were presented with medals from the Lord Mayor of Dublin and Olympic athlete David Gillick and loved being in the spotlight,

being photographed and filmed by RTE's News today programme! They really did our school proud! In other sports, they practised indoor hockey skills and played mini matches and took a trip down memory lane by playing parachute games from Junior Infants! The class have started a block of literacy stations and are enjoying a wealth of activities such as planning a narrative, oral language games and refining their spelling and grammar skills. They worked really hard on the topic of decimals in maths and are exploring shape and symmetry. In geography they have been exploring counties, towns, rivers & mountains of Ireland and enjoying lots of quizzes. There was beautiful 'Zentangle' artwork produced as well as cute comic strips. It's wonderful to see the variety of unique art styles amongst the class. They were reminded, through SPHE, that we are good enough as we are, and we should embrace our individuality and shouldn't compare ourselves to others.



## Assemblies

Ms. Gillen and 5th class led November's assembly. They talked to us about understanding the different types of bullying and they finished the assembly with a rap which told us how we should treat each other with respect.

## November Anti-Bullying Topic

Our November anti-bullying topic was learning and understanding about the different types of bullying.

