**Annagh Hill Easter Newsletter, 2019**

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Welcome to our Easter newsletter, 2019. The children have all been working very hard and deserve a well-earned break over the Easter holidays. Following are a few of the events which our school has taken part in during the last term.

**Sacraments/R.E.**

**Confirmation Retreat 25/01/2019:**  The 6th class children travelled to Esker on January 25th as part of their preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a lovely day of reflection for them. Thanks to all the facilitators who looked after the children on the day.

**Sacrament of Confirmation 18/02/19:**  Many congratulations to the children in 6th class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, February 18th. It was a very special ceremony and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks to Mr. Greaney, Fr. Mullins and Archbishop Michael Neary for their input in making it such a wonderful occasion for the children and their families. Thanks also to Mrs. Martin for helping to prepare the choir for the day.

**Sacrament of Penance 26/03/2017:** The boys and girls in 2nd class made their First Confession on Tuesday, March 26th. Thanks to Mrs. Grealish for preparing the children for the sacrament. Thanks also to Fr. Mullins for celebrating the sacrament with the children. They are now busy preparing for their First Holy Communion which will take place on May 4th next.

**Art**

**Artist Partnership in School 2019:** On Tuesday January 8th, Ms. Flynn and Mrs Grealish welcomed artist Ester Kiely to the school. Ester is a textiles artist whom the teachers met while on a course during the Summer. Our school was chosen as one of the few lucky schools to work in partnership with a local artist. This first meeting was very positive.

Since January 8th last, Ester has come each week to work with the children from Junior Infants to Second class. The children thoroughly enjoyed the classes and have done a range of activities such as sowing seeds, dying fabrics and sewing fabrics using a sewing machine. Our overall theme for this Art Project was the Environment and each activity/skill, was related to that.

All the hard work was rewarded on April 3rd when the children hosted an Art Exhibition for the whole school community. It was called ‘Annagh Hill Sowing the Seed.’ The beautiful hand-made quilt was displayed for the first time and all of the cildren’s names are on the label at the back of it. The exhibition also included our home made bunting, a bottle installation and a variety of pictures and sketchbooks. Visitors were invited to do some sowing themselves and the children did a great job describing their wears to all there. The exhibition ended with a coffee concert with music from the National Children’s Choir participants. It was a wonderful success and we wish to give huge thanks to our artist in residence Ester Kiely for all her help and kindness.

**Music**

**National Children’s Choir:**The children from 4th to 6th class have been working hard and singing their hearts out for the National Children’s Choir. They have learned fifteen challenging but beautiful songs throughout the last two terms. Practices for the National Children’s Choir took place in the school, in the Presentation and Mercy primary schools in Tuam and in Leisureland.

All of their efforts came to fruition at the most wonderful concert which took place in Leisureland on Thursday 11th of April at 8.00pm. Many thanks to Ms. Flynn and Mrs. Martin for directing the choir and helping to prepare the children for this memorable event.

**Sport**

**Indoor Soccer Tournament 24/01/2019:** Well done to the boys and girls in fifth and sixth class who took part in an indoor soccer tournament hosted by Coláiste Mhuire Secondary School in Ballygar. Both teams reached the quarter final stage and were very unfortunate not to progress further as they played so well. They can be very proud of themselves.

**Cumann na mBunscoil Handball: 2/2/19:** Congratulations to Caleb and Freya on representing our school in the u11 and u13 Cumann na mBunscol Handball County Finals.

**U 13 Mini Olympic Handball 28/3/2019** We took part in the preliminary round of the under 13 mni-Olympic handball competition in Knocknacarra Hall on Thursday, March 28th. We won our first two games against Cregmore and Scoil Roise. In our two other games against Belclare and Anaaghdown we drew and this meant that we qualified for the finals. Knocknacarra was the venue again for the finals on Wednesday, April 3rd. We won against Doorus in the semi-final and played Clarenbridge in the final. Great credit must go to the girls as they played superbly. They played their hearts out and we are all very proud of them. Thanks to Mrs. Hughes for training the girls throughout the year.

**FAI 5 a side 2/4/19:** Congratulations to our boys and girls who reached the quarter finals of the FAI 5 a side in Newbridge. They all played very well.

**Cumann na mBunscol Football: 5/4/19:** Our girls played very well when they took part in the Cumann na mBunscol 9 a side competition in Caherlistrane. They represented our school very well and played some great football. Although they did not make the final, we are very proud of them.

**Raftery Cup: 8/4/19:** The Raftery Cup campaign got off to the best possible start for us. We won three matches out of three. Our next match will take place in Belclare On April 30th.

**Other events taking place in our School**

**Open Day:14/2/1**9: Our Open Day was held on Thursday March 7th last. It was a lovely day and new parents were treated to a variety of talents from all of the classes in the school.

**Amber Flag:** Congratulations to Mrs. Grealish, who organised a most successful day of yoga and healthy treats for the children as part of the Amber Flag. This was also a fundraiser for Pieta House and we raised a whopping €469.07. Many thanks to Claudia Vanoli for facilitating the much worthy yoga classes with each class. The children really enjoyed the day. Sincere thanks to the Amber Flag committee for all their work and especially to Mrs. Grealish for orgainsing and managing the Amber Flag meetings.

**Spelling Bee:26/3/19:** Well done to MacDara on reaching the fourth round of the Eason Spelling Bee in Tuam on Tuesday, March 26th.

**ICA Art Competition:** Congratulations to Catherine in 3rd class and Blaine in 6th class who both came in second place in the ICA Art Competition. This competition is sponsored by Cregal Art and the children will be presented with their prizes at a ceremony in the Menlo Park Hotel on April 13th next.

**Readathon:** All children in the school have been taking part in a Readathon since World Book Day on March 7th last. It has been a huge success and has encouraged a great love of reading for many of the children.

**Polytunnel:** After a very kind donation from Mrs. Flaherty, we invested in a beautiful polytunnel. It is large enough for every class to work in and no doubt, exciting times lie ahead for all of the children when it comes to gardening.

**Parents’ Association:** We are delighted that our school now has a Parents’ Association and the first meeting took place on Thursday, April 4th last. Many thanks to all of the parents who have joined the committee and to all who have agreed to help out with events at our school. It was a very positive first meeting and we look forward to working with the members.

**Walking Wednesday 1/5/19:** Walking Wednesday will resume on Wednesday May, 1st, weather permitting. Please ensure all children have a high visibility jacket for this exercise.

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Schools reopens on April 29th.**

**Raftery Cup Fixtures:** April 30th, May 2nd and May 9th (Finals).

**Swimming Dates:**  May 3rd, 10th & 17th. June 7th, 14th & 21st.

**First Holy Communion:** May 4th.

**Standardised Tests:** Week beginning May 20th.

**Infant Induction Morning:** May 23rd.

**Bank Holidays:** Monday May 6th and Monday June 3rd.

**Election (School Closed):** May 24th.

**School Tours:** May 31st.

**School Closure:** June 4th.

**Active Week/Sports Day:** June 7th.

**Annual Walk/Irish Dancing Display:** TBC

**Graduation Mass:** June 20th.

**Summer holidays:** June 27th.

**We wish to thank you all for your continued support for our school and wish you a very happy, healthy and safe Easter break.**