



# St. Conleth's National School. February 2017

## *Contents*

- P. 1 Green Schools Update **Peace Proms Choir Excel!**
- P. 2 Cancer Fundraiser **World Book Day** F.Y.I SelfieCop
- P. 3 Confirmation
- P. 4 **First Confession** **Trócaire** **Dates for your Diary**

## Green Schools Update

Last month, we revised our flag on Biodiversity. All classes did some work on birds, trees and flowers. Some classes had bug hunts etc. Mrs. Byrne's Junior Infants and Ms. Gannon's 4<sup>th</sup> Class won prizes for their wonderful work on Biodiversity. Well done!

Thanks again to everyone who brought in clothes for our clothes collection in October. We collected a staggering 720kg and we received a cheque for €252 last week. This will help to fund our cycle safety training for 6<sup>th</sup> Class, which will begin in April.

Friendship Week was last week and we managed to raise €684 for Amnesty International by selling Friendship Bracelets. Classes took part in lots of Friendship Activities. The children erected a Friendship Tree, on which they displayed stories about their friendships. Ms. Keown's 2<sup>nd</sup> Class wrote a book of Friendship Stories. These are on display at the entrance to the school.

We are not going to revise our Travel theme until April as we are hoping for much better weather then! We will all have our walking shoes ready!



## Peace Proms Choir Excel!

Our Peace Proms Choir performed brilliantly in the R.D.S. at the beginning of February. Months of practice paid off and the choir did us proud. The children performed songs from the Musical Annie, telling the story of optimism in the face of challenge. They thoroughly enjoyed the Disney medley, which featured such hits as 'I Just Can't Wait To Be King', 'A Friend Like Me', 'Circle of Life' and 'The Bare Necessities'. Other featured songs included Michael Jackson's 'Heal the World' and 'Ireland's Call'. By far the biggest hit with all the children on the night was the Pop Selection, which featured songs by the pop idols Justin Timberlake and One Direction among others. A wonderful evening's entertainment finished with a tremendously powerful rendition of 'You're the Voice.' The children surpassed themselves in the R.D.S and we are incredibly proud of them. Thanks to Mrs. O' Donoghue and Mrs. Curley for all the hard work. We hope to persuade the choir to present a concert for us all at the end of the year. We can't wait!

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## Cancer Fundraiser.

Our Cancer Fundraiser was a huge success. We raised €679 for Breast Cancer Ireland. Thanks to Teresa Kelly for organising the event. We thank all the parents and children for such amazing support of such a worthy cause. As always, your generosity is phenomenal. It is wonderful to see our children helping others. *How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others!* – Pope Francis

## World Book Day

We are delighted to be celebrating the 20th World Book Day in Ireland on **Thursday 2nd March 2015**. Over the last 20 years World Book Day has become firmly established as Ireland's biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading. The main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading by providing them with an opportunity to have a book of their own.

At St. Conleth's National School we have celebrated a Book Fair every year and the children use their World Book Day vouchers at the fair. This year we will hold our Book Fair in March. The children will be able to use their World Book Day vouchers at the fair. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children about the joys of reading. In today's world, we are so flooded with images and videos that we run a very real risk of abandoning reading entirely. Imagination is a child's best friend, so make sure you contribute to keeping that little imagination as active as possible. You will soon receive a letter about our Book Fair. We encourage you all to enjoy reading with your children.



# WORLD BOOK DAY

## F.Y.I. SelfieCop

SelfieCop works by emailing parents a copy of every photo or video taken on their child's smartphone or tablet.

It includes photos and videos captured by popular social networking apps including SnapChat, WhatsApp, Instagram, [Facebook](#) and Twitter.

Promoters of the new technology hope it will prevent children from engaging in unsuitable correspondence by asking them if they are really happy with their parents being able to see the information they are exchanging with friends.

The app is available for all Google, Android smartphones and tablets at €2.99 and an iPhone and iPad version is due to come out in the coming weeks.

Once the app is installed, the parent will be emailed a copy of every photo or video taken on the child's device.

However, the developers behind the security app have given a stark warning that all parents and guardians must inform their children before installing the app and make sure it is clear that SelfieCop is installed in their phone.

With 80pc of teens now owning and operating their own smartphone, a spokesperson for the company said: "The aim is not to spy on them, but to teach them to stay safe."

Research by the iReach Group found that while 80pc of parents are concerned about what their children may access online, just 40pc have active house rules to counteract those threats.

The same research indicates 46pc of Irish children regularly take and post "selfies" online.

*From the Irish Independent – For Your Information*

## Confirmation

On Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> the boys and girls from 6<sup>th</sup> Class will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Often called the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit, Confirmation strengthens and celebrates the presence of the Holy Spirit in one's life. Candidates have already received the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Confirmation renews the presence of the Holy Spirit so that candidates can live their Baptismal call to share God's life with others. As children grow in maturity, they become more aware of themselves as individuals. Confirmation affirms the fact that each individual is a Spirit-filled member of the Church community. Candidates will try to be their best self, the person that God has created them to be. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are bestowed upon the boys and girls. We have tried to explain the gifts so that the parents and friends of the Confirmation children can have a better understanding of the Sacrament and may share in this wonderful occasion.

**Wisdom:** Wisdom is the gift of learning from situations and life experiences. It is the ability to stand in other people's shoes. It is the gift of looking at life from a different perspective, the Gospel perspective. It is about listening to the voice of the Spirit in our hearts and acting accordingly. A wise person is someone who knows who they are and what they are about.

**Understanding:** This involves the ability to see both sides of the story, to listen and understand the feelings of others and not be influenced by prejudice. Understanding is the ability to give meaning to what we experience and learn.

**Right Judgement:** This gift is about making the right choice, according to Christian values. This may mean going against the flow: friends, the culture and trends of the day etc.

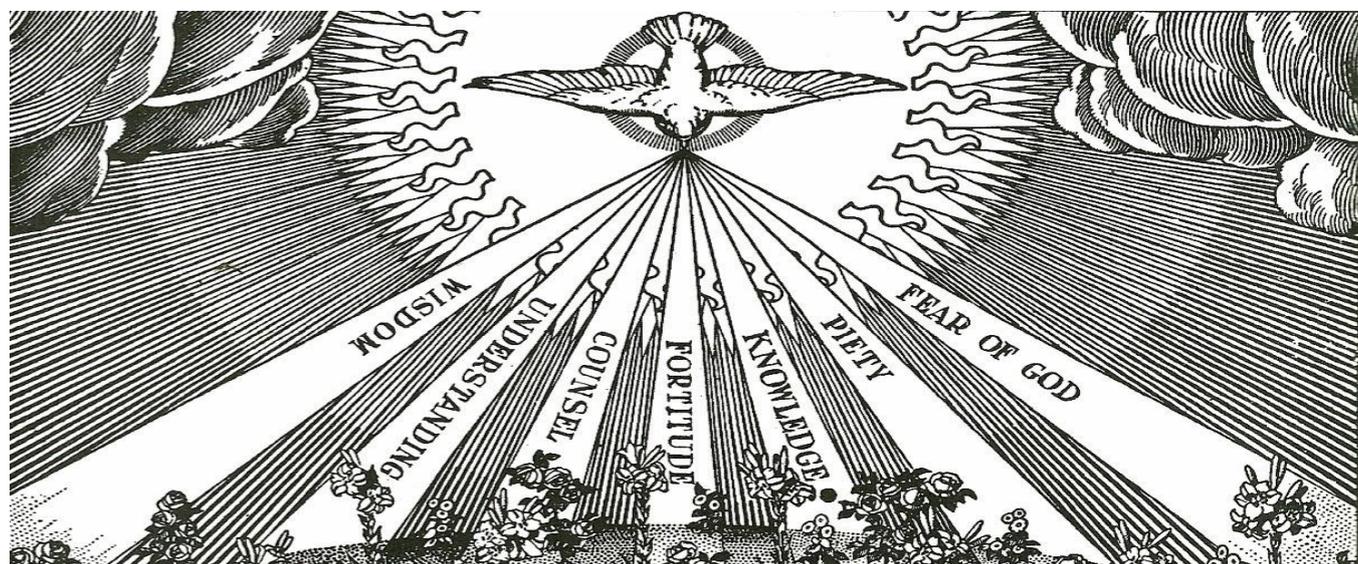
**Courage:** The gift of courage brings the ability to stand on your own feet, to trust your own wisdom and values. It means having the ability to handle the right choices and accept the consequences. This is not easy when under pressure, especially from friends.

**Knowledge:** The gift of knowledge is the ability to reflect and act prudently. Using knowledge, one can consider all aspects of information and be thoughtful and considerate in making decisions.

**Reverence:** This is the gift of having respect for creation, for life, for the environment and for all people, including yourself. We are also called to have respect for all things holy.

**Wonder and Awe in God's Presence:** The gift of wonder and awe inspires the ability to appreciate and celebrate all that is good in oneself, others and creation. It is the gift that helps us to see the work of God in our everyday lives and in ordinary things. It is an acknowledgement of the power of God working through our lives, the lives of others around us and through creation.

These are the gifts that the children will receive on Thursday. We ask you to encourage the children to use these wonderful gifts wisely. Help the children to focus on these gifts and to become aware of the abilities they have. We wish the children every blessing on Thursday. We know that they are mature individuals and that they are ready to receive and utilise the fantastic gifts of the Holy Spirit. We hope they have a pleasant day and that their families and friends share in the celebrations for them. It is a very special day and a special sacrament.



## First Confession

The children from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class made their First Confession on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The children and their families gathered in the chapel to celebrate this beautiful ceremony. Our thanks are extended to the teachers, Ms. Keown and Ms. Justin, who worked so hard preparing the children for this occasion. We thank the parents for helping the children at home and the volunteers that work on the First Communion Preparatory Programme. We were very proud of all the children. They were very well prepared and made very sincere confessions. All the prayers and songs were clear and heartfelt. Congratulations to all the boys and girls and to their very proud families.



## Trócaire

The theme for Trócaire's 2017 campaign is 'Climate Change, Climate Justice, Climate Action.' In school the children will learn about life for children in Honduras and the effects that the changing climate is having on the everyday lives of boys and girls that live there. Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Let's do something about it! Together. Today. Learn from the communities we work with who experience its devastating impacts on how to develop your own solutions to climate change. During Lent, each classroom will have a Trócaire Box and there will be a box at the entrance to the school as well. You are welcome to contribute to the Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2017 by making a donation to any of these boxes. For more information on the campaign, why not visit Trócaire's website at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org).



# Mark Your Calendar



### FEBRUARY

Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>: Shrove Tuesday

### MARCH

Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>: Ash Wednesday – Lent begins.

Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Confirmation for 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

World Book Day.

Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>: Book Fair – All are welcome.

Monday March 13<sup>th</sup>: Final chance for children to buy books at the Book Fair.

Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>: School closed for St. Patrick's Day.

### APRIL

Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>: School closes for the Easter holidays

Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>: School re-opens after the Easter holidays.