



St. Conleth's N.S.,
Derrinturn.

April 2015

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Thank you all for donating clothing to our clothes collection in early March. The bags of clothes were collected during the staff training day on March 4th and the teachers formed a human chain in order to load up the truck quickly. We were lucky that the truck was big enough as a huge amount was kindly donated. We are very grateful to you all. A cheque for €390.50 has been presented to the Green Schools Committee and this will be used in our Green Schools Activities as we aim for our next flag. We're delighted to be able to raise these funds using the principles learned during the Green Schools Programme. We encourage you to continue to Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. Thank you all so much.

Amnesty International

The school participated in Amnesty International's Friendship Week this year. The week was a wonderful development of our Friendship Week in the first school term and made the children aware of the need for international understanding and community involvement as well as individual friendships. Amnesty International provided an activity pack for the school and as part of our school project we sold Friendship Wristbands. The school raised €400 for Amnesty International through the sale of the wristbands.

We thank the children for their involvement in all the activities of friendship week and especially for their generous contributions towards the work of Amnesty International.



If you wish to continue with the lunch

scheme or if you wish to start availing of school lunches, please fill in the form attached to this newsletter. The cost is €10 per family from now until the



We are delighted to announce that six new chickens have made their home at St. Conleth's National School. The chickens were donated to our children by Biddy Duffy, Sharon Mooney, Sandra Duffy & Jacqueline Duffy. We were all very upset when our chickens flew the coop earlier in the year and our drake was very lonely indeed. However thanks to Biddy, Sharon, Sandra and Jacqueline, we are once again able to enjoy the company and entertainment provided by our resident hens.

The benefits of having chickens for children cannot be overstated. The therapeutic benefits are very obvious. The children feel responsible for the welfare of the chickens and the drake. Research has shown that dogs, cats, dolphins, alpacas, and fish-filled aquariums have positively impacted the children's communication, social and independent living skills as well as developing a sense of kindness and caring. It is plain to see that this is true of the hens too. It is a joy to watch the children when they tend to the hens and the drake. The amount of engagement, communication and interaction that takes place is phenomenal. Plans are made; suggestions are proffered; questions are asked; problems are solved; orders are given; observations are made and incidents are retold. There is a wealth of learning going on. Looking after the chickens is a huge responsibility and taking on such tasks is very important as our students journey through life towards independence.

Keeping chickens gets the children involved in feeding and caring for the chickens which promotes self-help and independent living skills. The chickens serve as a conversation starter for children who are shy and limited socially, thereby helping to improve their social skills with peers and adults. The children feel safe and open around the chickens and are able to play with them.

The children love when their class gets a turn to care for the hens. Eggs are carefully collected and they put a lot of thought into how these eggs might be used. We've had French toast, pancakes, omelettes, sponge cakes, cupcakes....to name but a few. The learning opportunities are endless.

The chickens and the drake provide learning opportunities for the children, but they also are a great source of fun. Everyone at school loves the chickens and we have all become very protective of them.

We thank Biddy, Sharon, Sandra and Jacqueline for their kind gesture.

World Class!

We are exceptionally proud of Luke McCann in sixth class. When we say that he is world class, we are not exaggerating. Luke will represent Ireland in the World Kick-Boxing Championships during the holidays. While everybody else is off enjoying their holidays, Luke will be enduring a strict training regime in preparation for the competition.

Luke won the All-Ireland title in the -37kg category. The photo shows Luke receiving his medal. This is Luke's second time to represent his country. He was third in the World Championships last year. His experience should really help him as he heads for San Sebastian in Spain this summer.

We're very proud of Luke. He is an unassuming young man who doesn't boast about his achievements. He has made his family, his club and his school very proud. We look forward to hearing another success story when Luke returns from San Sebastian in the Summer.

Congratulations to Luke and all his pals in the club. We wish all of them every success in Spain. What an experience it promises to be! Well done, Luke.

You're truly World Class!





Active School Week takes place from April 27th until May 1st 2015. We are proud of our strong sporting tradition at St. Conleth's. The school teams have always represented us proudly and individual students have gone on to great sporting success. There will be an opportunity for all to participate in activities during Active Schools Week. The week will start with our Skipathon. We can't wait to see if the children can remember the skills learned during our Skip Hop Programme last year. Judging by the interest generated at the time, there will be plenty of skill and style on display during the Skipathon.

The school has access to Cyber-coach, an online fitness programme. Many of the classes had a look at this before Easter. The children can use the interactive whiteboard to access the online content. They can also access the programme at home and we invite parents and families to join in. There are all sorts of aerobics, fitness and dance activities in the programme and it provides great exercise and fun.

Our Fit Fifth Class have been in training for the Desk to 3K challenge and on Wednesday 29th April they hope to take on the 3K run around the Slí na Sláinte at 9.45am. The Civil Defence will be on hand on the day. The children have been training hard and they are ready for the challenge. Please come out and encourage them on the day. We ask for your support during Active School Week. The children will have very special homework for the week. All homework will involve physical activity of some sort. We encourage you to join in that activity and reinforce the work being covered at school. Encourage the children to be active. Praise them for all their efforts and ask them what activities are going on at school. Mrs. Kenny has prepared an information sheet so that everybody can be part of our very special week.

As part of our Oral Language Programme we would ask you to discuss the benefits of being active. You'll be surprised at the vocabulary the children have on the topic of sports and fitness. Enjoy Active School Week.

Skipathon



The school is participating in the Irish Heart Foundation's Skipathon again this year. The children enjoy participating and as a result of our great success with the Skip Hop Programme last year, we are involving more children this year. The aim of Skipathon is to get hearts pumping with exercise and excitement. We understand that it can be difficult to raise sponsorship and this is why we have put the emphasis on health and enjoyment. We are raising awareness of the need

for good heart health and fitness. If we manage to raise funds for the Irish Heart Foundation at the same time, we will be delighted.

The Skipathon will take place on Monday 27th April and we look forward to seeing the children enjoying the day. It will be a fitting (and fit!) start to Active Schools Week at St. Conleth's National School.



Confirmation



Confirmation was celebrated by Bishop Nulty on Thursday April 16th in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Derrinturn. It was a beautiful day and a very pleasant ceremony. The Confirmation Class participated well in the ceremony and they played a very important part in the ceremony itself. The Bishop was very impressed by all the preparation and read aloud from some of the childrens' letters. He called upon parents and sponsors to continue to be positive role models for the children as they face great challenges. We congratulate the children on being confirmed. (More photos are being uploaded to the website.)



April 27th – May 1st

Active School Week

Monday May 4th

The school will be closed for the May Bank Holiday.

Saturday May 9th

First Holy Communion (Photos at school on Tuesday May 11th.)

Friday May 22nd

The school will be used as a polling station and will therefore be closed.

Monday June 1st

The school will be closed for the June Bank Holiday.

Thursday June 25th

The school will close for the summer holidays.