

St Mary's Primary School Newsletter

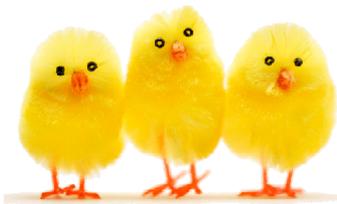


CONFIRMATION AND FIRST CONFESSION



Congratulations to all the boys and girls who recently received the sacrament of Confirmation. The children and their class teachers spent a lot of time in preparation for confirmation including a recent visit to the IOSAS centre. The Primary 4 children also made their First Confession in preparation for Holy Communion which takes place on 17th May.

Happy Easter from everyone at St Mary's Primary School



www.stmaryspsmelmount.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SCHOOL GARDEN	2
CAKE SALE	2
BOOK WEEK	3
SPORT	4

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA



Pictured left the boys and girls who are members of the school orchestra who picked up the first place prize at the Feis.

BARNARDO'S CHEQUE PRESENTATION

St Mary's pupils and school principal Mrs O'Doherty present Sharon Hasson and Ruth Huey with a cheque for over £500, the proceeds of a non-uniform day. Sharon and Ruth are trekking on the Great Wall of China in September in aid of Barnardo's.



SCALLYWAGS PUPPET SHOW



Pupils from Mrs Cooke's P4 class visited the Carlton Drive Community Association on 12th March for a puppet show run by Scallywags in association with Include Youth. The boys and girls really enjoyed the show and would like to thank Scallywags and Include Youth.

P7 GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN

The School recently received a grant of £4800 from NGO Challenge Fund to develop an Outdoor Environmental Classroom. The garden was designed using the children's own ideas. One fine day in March pupils from Primary 7 weighed in and helped the conservation volunteers with their work. The children prepared the raised beds, made bird boxes and built an "insect hotel". Well done to all the children for all their hard work. Video and photos of the day can be seen on the school garden page on the school website:
www.stmaryspsmelmount.com/school-garden.html



CAKE SALE FOR TROCAIRE



A cake sale was held throughout the school and nursery units on Friday 28th March. The grand sum of £997 was raised for Trocaire from the sale of buns, cakes and raffle tickets. A big thank you is extended to everyone who contributed to this annual fundraiser.



ONESIE WEDNESDAY

Congratulations to all the pupils (and staff) who took part in Onesie Wednesday. The event raised £739 for the National Autistic Society and as part of a nationwide campaign helped to raise awareness of a condition that is still relatively unknown and misunderstood by many.



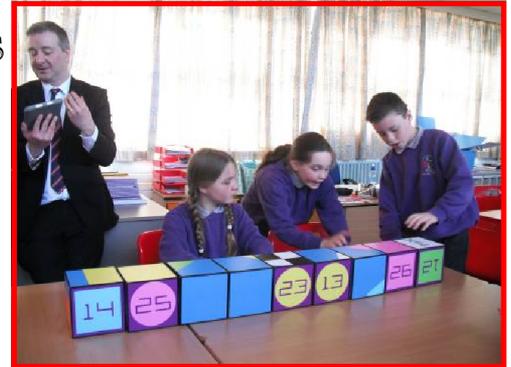
PAIRED MATHS



Congratulations to the children of Primary 4 who celebrated the completion of their Paired Maths project. During the 4 week programme the pupils were given two different maths games every week to improve their mental maths skills and their recall of number bonds. Feedback from the parents showed that it was a very successful programme. Many thanks to the dedication of parents, pupils, Primary 4 teachers and teaching assistants for making Paired Maths a great success. Photos of the children receiving their certificates can be seen online www.stmaryspsmelmount.com/paired-maths.html

LEARNING MATHS THROUGH GROUP ACTIVITIES

The school has recently taken delivery of some new active learning equipment. The system Izak9 helps to build problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills through a variety of tasks and activities. The director of Qubizm, Franz Schindwein, paid a visit to Mrs Scally's P6 class recently to demonstrate the system.



ART CLASS FOR P6 AND P4 STUDENTS



Pupils in Mr O'Neill's P6 and Mrs Cooke's P4 class took part in an art workshop led by local artist Bronagh Corr-McNicoll as part of the Let the Dance Begin project. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and we hope to display their masterpieces throughout the school.



PAIRED READING



Congratulations to the children of Primary 3 and their parents, who celebrated the completion of their Paired Reading project recently. During the 6 week program the pupils thoroughly enjoyed choosing their own reading material and spending quality time each evening reading with their parents. Parents too were delighted with the interest which the pupils had in reading various types of books, their increased reading confidence and the improvements which they made in their reading skills and strategies. The project proved to be a great success due to the commitment of the children, their families and the Primary 3 teachers – Mrs Curran, Mrs Haughey and Mrs McNamee. Photos of the children receiving their certificates can be see on the website: www.stmaryspsmelmount.com/paired-reading.html



ALL IRELAND DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to all the pupils who took part and won awards at the All-Ireland Dance Championships in Dublin recently. The pupils took part in the competition as part of the PopTap dance academy.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



"Spain" winners of the after schools football mini league



Oran Catterson winner of the "player of the tournament" award at the after schools football



Aaron McGrath who won a Gold Medal as part of the boys under 12 Inter County Relay team at the All Ireland Athletics Championships. Aaron also received a bronze in the UK finals in Manchester recently



Liam and Patrick McAneny pictured with their numerous Karate awards that they won at a recent event.



The P6 team who won the local schools mini tournament.



The P7 team who won the local schools mini tournament .



Children who took part in the after schools Karate club pictured receiving their certificates. The classes were funded by Active Schools. Active Schools is a small grants programme developed, funded and administered by Sport Northern Ireland that aims to assist projects that enable the delivery of new and sustained opportunities for children and young people to participate in two hours per week of extra-curricular sports and physical recreation.



Book Week



St Mary's Primary School celebrated Book Week on 7th-11th April with a number of events held throughout the school to encourage the love of reading. On Tuesday 8th April Senior pupils made the short trip up to the Junior school to read books along with the younger pupils. On Wednesday there was a book swap. On Thursday there were a number of storytelling sessions and on Friday there was Fancy dress where the pupils came as their favourite book character.



