

St Mary's Primary School Newsletter



ST MARY'S CELEBRATES 100TH SCHOOL DAY

The children in St. Mary's Primary School (Nursery, Junior and Senior Sites) decided to celebrate the 100th day at their new school. So on Friday 8th February the school launched a 100 balloons, 50 from each site. The balloons were sponsored by Asda. It was a lovely event which celebrated the success of the amalgamation. The children also enjoyed a range of 100 day activities throughout the day.



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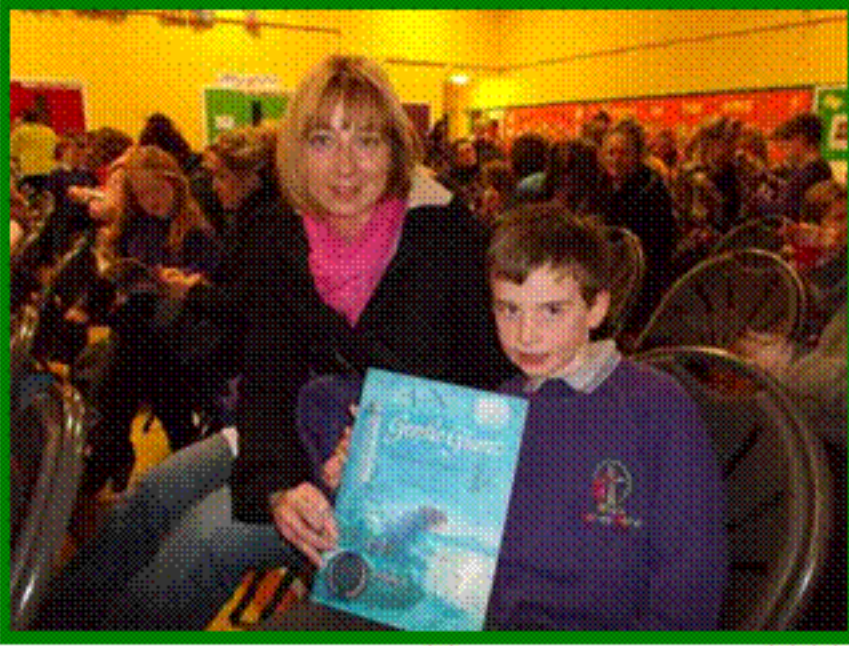
PRIMARY 7'S MAKE THEIR CONFIRMATION



The year 7 pupils in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation spent a day at a retreat at the ISOS centre in Muff, Co Donegal. Congratulations to all the Primary 7 pupils who made their confirmation on Saturday 9th February. St Mary's would like to extend our gratitude to Bishop Lagan, Father Doherty and the Year 7 Teachers, Mr McLaughlin, Mrs Devine and Mrs McHugh for all their support in preparing the children.



PAIRED READING



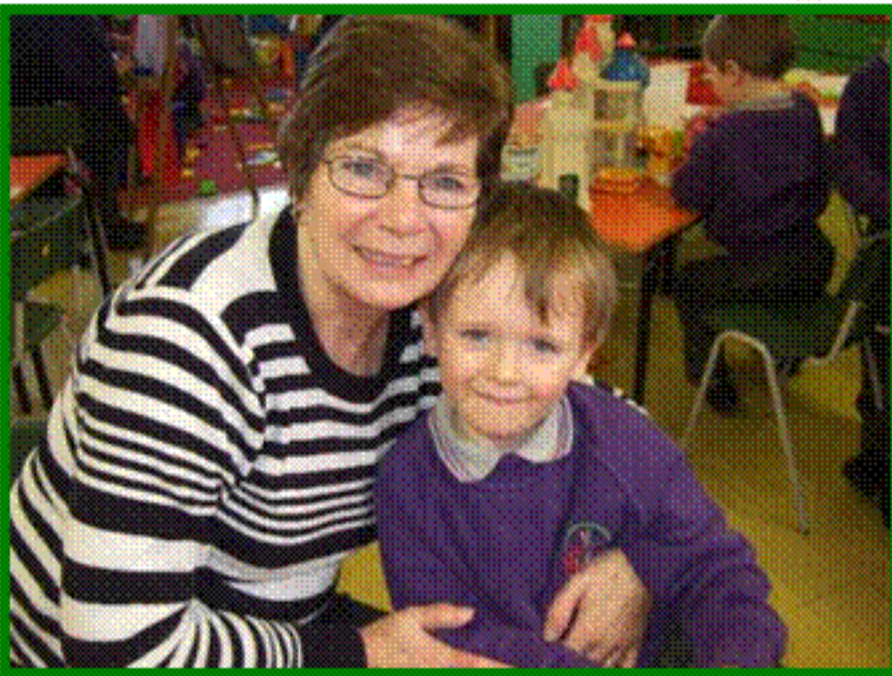
On Tuesday 29th of January the P3 pupils began a 6 week paired reading project. During the project pupils will be able to choose their own reading books and parents will use specific strategies aimed at improving pupils reading skills and encouraging them to read more. Parents and pupils signed a paired reading contract agreeing to commit ten minutes paired reading every night and had a first opportunity to try out this new approach .

The children were very excited about being able to choose books according to their own interests and about being able to “do their reading “ in a more relaxed way.

This project has proved very successful in previous years and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of this years P3 pupils.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY AT ST MARY'S



An invite was extended to all the Grandparents to visit their grandchildren in the P.1, P.2, P3 and P4 classes. The grandparents toured the school and visited the classrooms on Wednesday 30th January between 9.30 – 10.30am. The children were just delighted to see them and had a chance to show off their work. The children made St. Brigid's Crosses, cards, bookmarks and pictures for their Grandparents. The teachers enjoyed chatting to them about their grandchild. It was a lovely morning. Afterwards the Grandparents went over to the school canteen where light refreshments were served. The Grandparents thoroughly enjoyed the morning!



HEALTHY EATING



Sherree Wilson, from Cancer Focus Northern Ireland visited the P.1 and P.2 children on Friday 18th January. She discussed with the children the importance of eating healthy. She read stories and showed a variety of picture cards to show them all the healthy foods that they should be eating every day. Sherree, introduced Genevieve the Goat who also promoted healthy eating and keeping fit.

Sherree and Genevieve the Goat promote healthy eating

WELL DONE NOAH MULLEN



Noah Mullen, P.3C entered a 'colouring in' competition in a local newspaper. This competition was sponsored by MYRO - The smallest plane in the world! (The Alpha Newspapers Group). Noah came 1st in the competition. He won a set of 6 'Myro Audio' reading books and an activity pack. Noah also won 'Myro and the Railcar' picture storybook for every pupil in his class. Noah's teacher, Mrs O' Hara received a 'Myro English Teaching Kit' to use in the classroom. Mrs O' Hara was delighted with this resource. She explained how it would enhance future English lessons. The children in P.3C were delighted with Noah's success. Noah, spoke of his delight at winning. The school is very proud of his efforts. Well done Noah!

SAFER INTERNET DAY

St Mary's Primary School supports Safer Internet Day, the campaign to make the internet safer for young people. On Tuesday 5th February a series of presentations were held by the PSNI to pupils in the senior site. The focus of this years campaign was "Connect with Respect" and focused on how we show respect for others when we use the internet. The Presentation looked at what pupils do online; the things you can create, the games you play, how you interact with each other, the websites they use. The seminar also got the pupils think about what every child should be able to do online, and the responsibilities you have when using online services. Topics such as using your manners online, being honest and



other ideas such as cyberbullying and bad language were discussed.



STAGEWRITE II PROGRAM

A group of year 6 and 7 pupils are currently participating in the StageWrite II Program which will culminate in a stage production in the Alley Theatre on Thursday 7th March . StageWrite allows primary pupils to write, direct and perform their own plays under the direction of NWRC Performing Arts students. We wish them good luck and look forward to seeing them on stage. Break a leg!



Primary 6 Chinese Project

All the P6 classes have started a new project which is all about China

On February 10th the Chinese started celebrating New Year and that will last until February 25th. Even though we celebrated ours in January, the Chinese have theirs at a different time every year.

New Year is also the Chinese favourite festival.

The P6's have already done a PowerPoint about China. Did you know that China has about one fifth of the world's population because China has 1,356,875,858 people living in it? Families are only allowed to have one child in order to reduce the population and if they have more than one, the parents are fined.

China also invented Ice-Cream, Paper, Chopsticks, Carpet, the Crossbow, Silk, PS3, Nintendo, Wii and Xbox.

By Adam Moore P.6.C



All the P6 classes started a new project at the start of the 2nd term. Our new project is all about China. It's a very interesting topic. One of the things we learnt about is the Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year is the Chinese favourite festival. The celebration goes on for 15 days and this year it started on 10th February. If you were to go on a holiday to China at that time of year the streets would be jam packed. Well, I suppose it's packed all the time. China land is crowded with so many people that it can't hold any more. So in China you're not allowed more than one child. But China still has the biggest population of people in the world. In China, lots of people still live in poverty despite the fact that it is the second richest nation in the world.

Our class and the other P6's have been doing a PowerPoint on China. We had to include lots of facts about China. Then we had to insert music and animations. We also did lots of other things about China - art and the Willow Pattern story.

By Eve Mc Crea P6C

恭禧发财

(Happy New Year)

Western Education and Library Board Winners



Congratulations to Majella, Ellen and Charlie who received an award for their fundraising efforts following a sponsored walk organised last year by St Mary's Girls' Primary School, in aid of the MS Society. Not only did the three girls receive individual awards but due to the magnificent efforts of all the girls at the former St Mary's Girls P.S. the school emerged the Western Education Area winners in the Primary sector. The children were accompanied to the award ceremony in Belfast on 16th January by Mrs Flanagan and Mrs Patton. A great day was enjoyed by all.