



# St Mary's Primary School Newsletter

## ST MARY'S P.S. CELEBRATES

Minister of Education, Mr John O'Dowd officially opened our new school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. He unveiled plaques to mark the occasion in both the Junior and Senior Schools. Mr O'Dowd met staff and pupils and was entertained by some of our children through song, dance and instrumental music. To honour the occasion he planted a tree at the front of the Junior School witnessed by the pupils.

All the pupils were given mementos to mark this historic event. We would like to thank ASDA and Patrick Kelly off Mace, Melmount for providing treats for the children.



*Education Minister John O'Dowd plants a tree to mark the occasion.*

To coincide with the official opening St Mary's celebrated the first beginning of year mass concelebrated by Fr Michael Doherty with our pupils and their extended families.

This was a very special occasion marking new beginnings for all our school community as a Catholic school. We would like to thank all who took part in the mass and who contributed to making it a very special occasion.

EVERYONE AT ST MARYS PRIMARY WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY HALLOWE'EN



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*The Education Minister helps to make a witches potion for Halloween with Mrs Andersons' P1 Class*

## SPONSORED WALK

Congratulations to all the pupils from Nursery and P1 to P7 who took part in our sponsored walk on Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Oct in aid of Foyle Hospice and school funds. We were blessed with a beautiful morning for the event. Thanks to all the parents who assisted in supervising the walk- your support is very much appreciated. A huge thanks to all the sponsors. In total we raised a magnificent £ 4404.15 (well done boys and girls).

A cheque for £1000 was presented to Eugene Gallen who is running the New York marathon in November in aid of Foyle Hospice. We wish him every success in his venture. The remaining funds will be used to purchase much needed resources for our new school.



*Children from the Junior School on the return leg of the sponsored walk*



*Children from the nursery taking part in the sponsored walk*

*Eugene Gallen is presented with a cheque for £1000*



## BREAKFAST CLUB

Our breakfast club runs 5 days a week in the Junior School canteen from 8.20am – 9am. Fridays are 'Big Breakfast' mornings. Everyone welcome!!

*Catch a big breakfast on Friday mornings!*

## A SURPRISE VISITOR

St Mary's P.S was delighted to welcome double Paralympic gold medal winner, Jason Smyth who visited St Mary's in September to surprise his coach's son, Shay Maguire in P2.

Jason took the time to meet all the pupils in both the Junior and Senior School and he answered the questions that the children asked.



*Jason meets Mrs Roartys P2 class*



*Jason Smyth with his coach Stephen Maguire, Mrs O'Doherty and Shay Maguire.*

A range of after schools activities based on the outcomes of the questionnaires completed by our pupils and their parents last May are now in operation and more will be set up after Hallowe'en. These include cookery, homework club, guitar lessons, counselling, Spanish, Gaelic football and multi skills training.



Guitar lessons



*Master chefs of the future*



## FOOTBALL: STMARY'S 5-0 STEELSTOWN



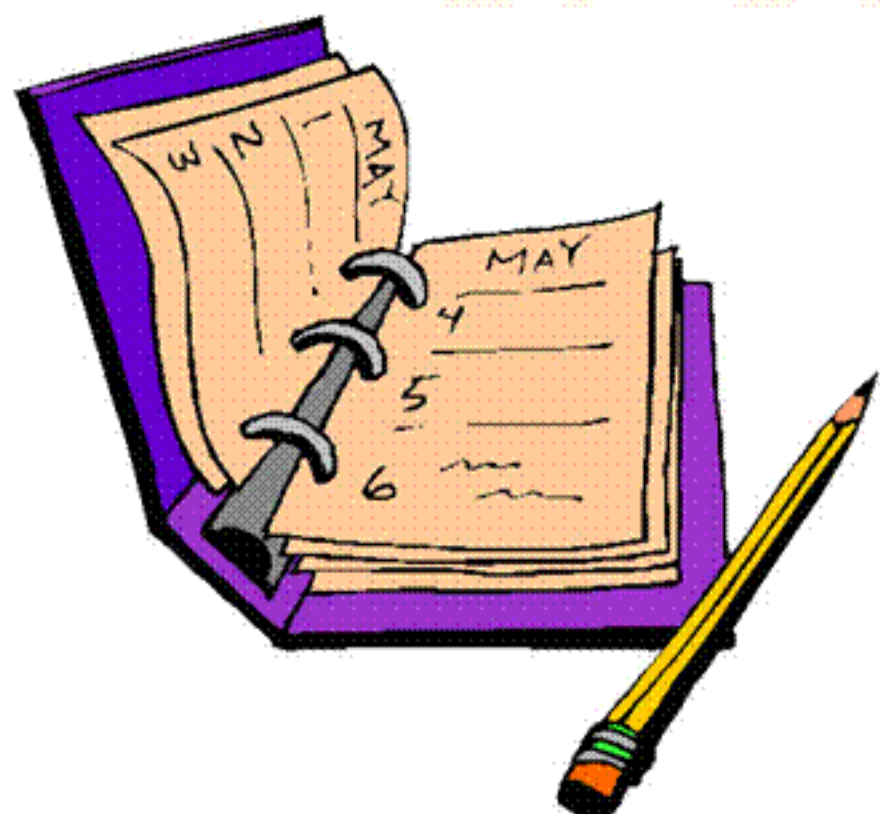
St. Mary's kicked off their Derry and district league campaign with a great performance against Steelstown at Prehen, winning 5 - 0.

The boys played extremely well as a team and their passing and work rate was too much for their opponents.

They scored 4 in the first half, 2 goals each from debutant Jamie Mc Donald and speedster Conor O' Hagan. The

second half was controlled well by the Strabane team and the impressive Jordan O' Doherty added to the score line with a curling finish to the bottom corner. Hopefully this is the start of a successful year for the new school.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2012

Mid term break

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> & Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012

Nursery & P1 - P4 Parent / teacher meetings

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> & Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012

P5- P7 Parent/ teacher meetings

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013

Confirmation @11am

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013

First Holy Communion @11. 30am

## NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The following people will form the Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School:

Rev Fr Michael Doherty

Ms Liz Kavanagh

Mr Paul O'Hare

Mrs Maria Horsburgh

Mr Aidan Mc Grath

Mr Johnathan Mc Gonagle

Mr Mark Quigley

Mrs Emer Mc Hugh (Teacher Rep.)

Mrs Caren Corry (Elected Parent Rep.)

Mrs Sandra O' Doherty