

## Spotlight on the Junior Room!

It's been a busy few months in the Junior Room!!! All of our lovely Junior Infants settled in to school life easily and it has been a pleasure to watch them grow and adapt to their new classroom with smiles on their faces each day!

One of the highlights this term has been Science Week. Lots of lovely, fun experiments were conducted, including making our very own playdough with the help of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. Our special guest Helena Wilson-Ryan very kindly visited our room on the Friday of Science Week. Helena guided us through some fantastic experiments, including exploring buoyancy, surface tension and making our very own bouncy balls. The children adored the hands-on, fun experiments, making memories for life, while at the same time learning lots.



## Meet Múnteoir Aoife!

*An interview by Eshal & Rabiát*

### Did you always want to be a teacher?

Yes, from when I was very small I always knew I was going to become a teacher.

### How do you find teaching in BCNS?

I find it absolutely great! The classes are small, the students are well behaved and the teamwork amongst the staff is terrific.

### What is the funniest thing a student has said to you?

I think the funniest thing a student has said to me is when they told me I was the same age as someone's grandmother.

### What is the most rewarding thing as a teacher?

Seeing the students come out of their shell and develop more confidence within themselves.

### What is a fun fact about you?

I have seven sisters with one brother and I'm the youngest.



## Santa's Workshop

A major highlight of the term was Santa's Workshop in Aistear and the fun we had! Each day the children had the chance to dress up as elves or Santa and get to work in the workshop. Others were busy in the construction station, designing and building Santa's factory and a sleigh for Santa. There were lots of reindeer on the loose in the classroom and Mrs. Claus was busy sorting through presents and helping Santa prepare the list for the big night. Lucky for him there were so many busy elves to help him get the presents ready too!!

## Spotlight on 1st & 2nd Class!

### Garden Updates

Supervalu/Centra kindly donated two hazel trees to Brannoxtown CNS. Robyn, Edith and Hunter planted the trees, lovingly covered them with a tyre and tucked them into bed for the winter with a blanket of fallen leaves. For our next job, we took cuttings from our Magical Willow Hut for future planting in our school garden. The children climbed the ladder and cut the new willow shoots. They trimmed off the leaves and planted directly into pots of soil & sand mixture. The children had great fun and worked cooperatively to collect fallen leaves for composting. We also planted many daffodil bulbs which were kindly donated by Kilcullen Tidy Towns. They will provide much needed colour come springtime – Suzanne Dowling, SNA & the Green Fingered Students in 1st & 2nd Class.



### Amazing Authors

The students of first and second class are developing and improving on their writing skills daily. During this term, they worked with great enthusiasm on writing a detailed report on an animal of their choice. They planned, wrote and edited their report. They shared the report with their classmates and complimented each other on their amazing work. There was big excitement when they shared their reports with the students in the Junior Room. The students felt such pride in their writing skills and the Junior Room students were seriously impressed with the amazing authors from 1st & 2nd Class!



### Maths Week: 4th - 22nd October (a shared writing piece)

Maths Week was so much fun. We created and designed Maths hats. We had to put as much maths information as possible on the hats. We wrote doubles facts, number sentences, odd numbers, even numbers and more! Fifth and sixth class visited our classroom and they played maths board games with us. It was a total blast. We had an estimation station at the entrance to the school and we had to estimate how many creepy critters were in a jar – Robyn, Billy, Imran & Leon (2nd Class)

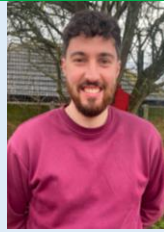
During Maths Week we created maths hats. We were so proud of our work. We put so much maths information on the hats. It was a really fun project. We loved the estimation station. We had to guess the correct amount of creepy critters in a glass jar. 5th and 6th class students did maths games with us and it was such a fun morning in school. We also did a fun table quiz with the junior room students. We were really proud because we were like mini teachers – Edith, Jamie, Kendall & Tad (2nd Class)

## Meet Múinteoir Eoin!

*An interview by Eshal & Rabiya*

### Did you always want to be teacher?

Yes, I always wanted to be a teacher.



### How do you find teaching a multigrade class at BCNS?

I love it because you can do a lot of different learning stations and activities.

### “What is the funniest thing a student has ever said to you?”

A senior infant could not pronounce my last name, so he called me Mr. Steak Man for the whole year.

### What is the most rewarding thing as a teacher?

Seeing the development of students from the beginning until the end of the year and seeing them grow.

### What is a fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I was caught on camera in Croke Park, and my reaction to seeing myself in the footage was hilarious.

## Sports

The boys and girls of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class are very excited about the upcoming sports competitions that the school has entered into. Training for Gaelic Football and Soccer will start in January with blitz competitions taking place over February and March.

One pupil had this to say about the importance of playing sport in school:

“Playing sports is super fun because it feels like being part of a big team and you get to make new friends. It's like having a secret power because running, jumping, and scoring make you feel strong and happy. Plus, sports teach you about teamwork, so you learn how to work together and share with your friends”.

## Quiz Team

The school's quiz team is gearing up for exciting challenges, we are going to compete in the Kildare Credit Union quiz and Cumann na mBunscol quiz. Múinteoir Aoife and Múinteoir Eoin will be guiding and shaping our team's knowledge after Christmas. Being part of the quiz team brings numerous benefits, enhancing our critical thinking, teamwork, and general knowledge. It's not just about answering questions – we learn to collaborate, communicate, and tackle diverse topics. The thrill of competition boosts our confidence and motivates us to learn about various subjects, making learning an adventurous journey.



## Pumpkin Carving!

So far, a big highlight was carving pumpkins with Múinteoir Eoin/Lyndsey in October. First, we drew a design for our pumpkins and we voted for our favourite. The person who had the most votes on each table would use that design. I was with Killian, Issac and Aria. There were three more groups all with five people or less. To carve our pumpkin we needed four things. First, we got a rubbish bag for taking out the guts and seeds. Second thing was a big knife for carving big details like a smiley face. Third thing was a small knife for designs like a scar. Last thing was a plastic bag for collecting pumpkin seeds and roasting them.

After, we finished getting everything, we took out the seeds, designed the main parts and took out the guts. When we finished the person who made the design got to display the pumpkin on their table. Congratulations to Aria for winning the contest.

# Spotlight on 5th & 6th Class & our Parents' Association!

## Luminous Lanterns!

Recently, we've been crafting our festive paper lanterns for one of our winter art projects. Each lantern was carved carefully and uniquely with craft knives. Some lanterns we made had Christmassy designs for the season, while others had glamorous winter ones like swans or lovely, simple curvy lines. We all had lovely choices for our preferred crepe paper colour for the insides of our lanterns, like baby pink and silk blue. We also had the choice to keep the lantern colour white or paint it black. Not only that, all of the lanterns created were uniquely magical, but with the help of LED candles, they can beautifully light up and set a cozy feeling in any dark room during the winter season. We highly enjoyed forming our own winter-themed paper lanterns and we would happily do it again.

By Kitty

## School Calendar : Important Dates

**8<sup>th</sup> of January:** Back to School

**5<sup>th</sup> of February:** No School (St. Brigid's Day)

**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> of February:** Parent Teacher Meetings

**15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of February:** Mid-Term Break

**18<sup>th</sup> of March:** No School: St. Patrick's Weekend



## Build a Civilisation

After learning about ancient civilisations, 5th & 6th Class created our very own! In groups, we created a location, climate and terrain and built our own economy, culture and language. We brought our creations to life using clay and cardboard! Magna Villa, Makibam, Snowy Forest and Astronomica are some of the names we came up with!

Makibam, created by MacKenna, Makayl and Mimi, was inspired by Hindi and South Asian culture. They had a language called Ibam and their national anthem was called 'Ooh we Makibam'. Astromica, made by Nida, Kitty and Rabiab was split into a hot, a cold and a temperate region. The hot region was covered by desert and volcanoes while the cold region was covered by frozen lakes and littered with snowmen. The temperate region was a perfect mix of the two, inhabited with farmers. All of the civilisations were equally as unique with beautiful cultures and creativity and was our favourite part of the year.

By Makayla and Mackenna.



## Pyjamas & Movie Day!

We recently had a movie day with hot chocolate and popcorn thanks to our incredible Parents' Association! 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes worked with our PA to create a special atmosphere by serving hot chocolate and popcorn. The students were allowed to wear their pyjamas to school and could donate €2 or more! It was very successful and loads of fun. We want to give a huge thank you to everyone who donated money and to the PA who organised the event. It was very exciting for everyone to see one other in their pyjamas. A whopping €338.52 was raised bringing the total amount raised by the P.A. since September to €621.52!

By Oisín and Sebastian.