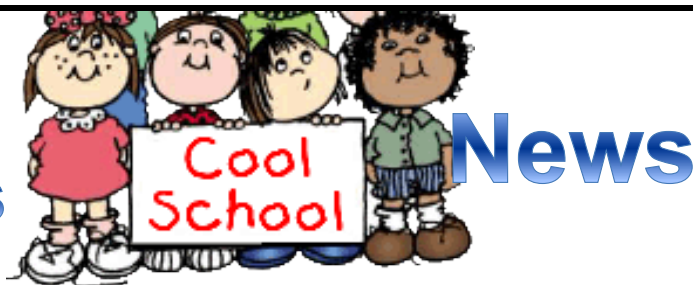




Holy Rosary's



News

Issue 1 April 2015

Dear Readers,

I hope you enjoy the new look Newsletter that celebrates the great work happening around the school.

From time to time you will still receive the traditional newsletter that has been sent home every couple of months but I'm sure that you'll agree that this outshines my black and white version.

Great credit for this especially goes out to Miss Clare Ward who along with the pupils has taken full charge of the compilation and organising of the printing.

If you want more information about life in the Holy Rosary you can follow us on our very active twitter feed @holynosaryps.

Miss Ward and Miss Cooke are also busy updating the school's website which should be ready in June.

Happy Reading, Mr McAllister



DOUBLE AWARD WINNERS

Over the past two years Holy Rosary PS has been focusing on developing a Rights Respecting approach to education. This means that the pupils have been learning about their rights and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. They have agreed Charters for each classroom, dinner hall and playground which is an agreement about how they should treat each other based on rights. Class councils have been developed to link in with the School Councils to give pupils an increased voice in the school. Pupils have been learning about children in other parts of the world that don't have access to rights and recently had a special awareness day linking with the UNICEF 'Outright Day'. They have also been very busy writing letters to a variety of people including the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

In January the school was assessed for the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award by David McGimpsey from UNICEF and Carol Weatherall from the BELB who spent a school day talking to the children, visiting classes, interviewing members of the school team, looking through a portfolio of evidence that was compiled by Holy Rosary's Rights Respecting Schools Leader, Miss Campbell. As a result, a strong recommendation was made to UNICEF that the school should receive the award.

Mr McAllister was thrilled with this news, "I'm absolutely delighted for the whole school community. The pupils are a credit to themselves, their families and their school. This is part of a journey that we are on that will continue over the coming years. I would especially like to thank Miss Campbell for all her tremendous work in relation to the award."



In January 2015 we also welcomed an advisor from Investors In People to assess the school for The Investors in People Award; a mark of excellence which recognises best practice in organisations. This had been as a result of on-going work on the school vision and celebrating success in people. As a result we were presented with an accreditation at Bronze Level. Mr McAllister again would like to pass on his appreciation to all who are involved in making the school so successful in its endeavours.

Celebration Time!



P3 Miss McCarroll

The Spring term has been very busy with getting ready for celebrating the sacraments. In February P7 received the Sacrament of Confirmation.



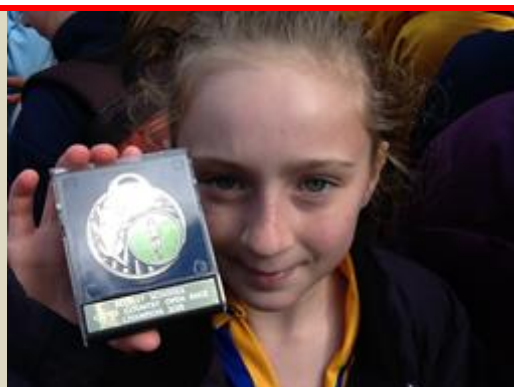
P3 Mrs O'Reilly

Following the service Bishop Farquhar commented on how impressed he was by the pupils and the singing at the mass. He also thanked the teachers involved for their commitment and dedication in preparing the pupil. In March P3 also celebrated their First Sacrament of



P3 Mrs O'Callaghan

Reconciliation in Good Shepherd church. This was another very important service that was made special by the pupils' prayerfulness and beautiful singing. Thank you to everyone who was involved in preparing the pupils for the sacraments this term – parents/carers, sponsors, teachers, classmates and the parish community. We now look forward to First Holy Communion in May.



Well done to all of the pupils who participated in the Belfast City Council Cross Country events. One of our P7 pupils finished 1st place in the Girls Open Race.

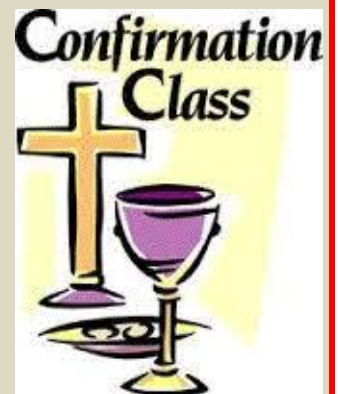


The Fairtrade Council ran a poster competition in March. Pictured is the winner from P4 along with his artwork which was made up of Fairtrade coffee beans.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES



P7 Miss Hyland



P7 Mrs Cooke
Confirmation Class



MUSICAL TALENT



In March Bishop Anthony Farquhar celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest of the Diocese of Down and Connor. Bishop Farquhar has a long association with the parish and a mass was celebrated for this special occasion in Good Shepherd church. Holy Rosary PS were delighted to provide the music and singing for the mass. Pictured is the choir who were involved in the celebration. A special thanks also goes to Miss McGurk for all her hard work with the choir and music for this event.

Happy, Respectful, Progressive, Successful

FUNdraising

Wacky hair for Unicef's Day for Change



What a busy few months we have had fundraising for our chosen charities and raising awareness of global issues. In February we held a Wacky Hair Day and we donated the proceeds to a UNICEF fund which helps children caught in emergencies. Pupils from P1-7 participated in the event and P4SC presented a special 'news' theme assembly to inform others about the concerns surrounding families affected by natural disasters.

During Lent we had several fundraising days including a whole-school slipper day and a P1-4 Easter Bonnet parade as well as individual classes running their own charity events. Trocaire's campaign this year focused on climate change and all proceeds will be forwarded to the appeal.

As well as the major fundraising drives we also had lots of other initiatives being organised to support: Fairtrade charities, St Vincent de Paul and a homeless shelter.



LINKED LEARNING

Outdoor Learning



In February P5 HMcC took part in the Belfast City Council Parklife Education programme. This scheme was devised to encourage children to spend more time outside. These visits focused on: animal & bird survival and how trees change over the seasons.



P6(CM) took parts in the City of Belfast School of Music *Music Makers* scheme. They presented their composed piece to an audience of other schools from across Belfast. The theme of the project was Space & The Planets and the class also provided art-work to be displayed at the event.





CHINESE NEW YEAR

In February the Chinese community celebrated the Year of the Sheep (or Goat.) As part of our on-going work on cultural diversity each class marked the event with art activities, country studies and P1MB even performed the story of the 'Animal Race' at all assemblies. Holy Rosary PS have formed a link with Hejia'ao PS of Zhuzhou in the Hunan province in China and we were able to share our work on this with our partner school. We look forward to developing the link and will update you with details of projects as they are planned.



WILDCATS

During the Spring term Mr Burns' P5 class were invited to take part in the Wildcats Activ8 programme. This project was supported by Sport NI and encouraged children to develop fundamental movement skills as well as meet children from other communities in Belfast.

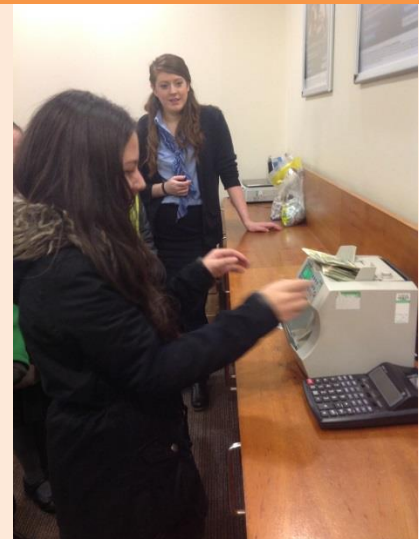


Learning for life



FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Over the last few months the P7 classes have been involved with a Bank of Ireland project to help pupils to build financial knowledge; as well as support numeracy and develop life skills. Employees from the bank visited the classrooms to share banking information and the pupils reciprocated this by going to the local branch to see counter services, count money and look in the safe!! Two P7 pupils wrote about what they learned from the classroom visits:



A visit from the Bank of Ireland by Fionn P7
Breige and Lesley–Anne came to the school on Tuesday to talk about the Bank of Ireland. They talked to us about what a bank is first. The next thing they did was show us real money; there was a £100 note, a £50 note, a £20 note, a £5 note and a £10 note. After the money they talked about the ATM machine. ATM stands for automated teller machine. They talked about credit cards and how you need them to use ATM machines. They said every credit card needs a pin number and a sort code. They talked about all the currencies. They said if you want to go on holiday you can go to the bank and change your money. There are different types of accounts; there is the saving account and a credit account. I learned a lot about banks when Breige and Lesley–Ann came to my class to tell us about banks. I forgot to say that we did a word jumble and a quiz about the bank they told us about. They said we could open a student account if we wanted to. We played a budget game where we say how much money we get for my birthday, pocket money and other things. I chose to buy an owl, a Playstation4 and a big house. I was definitely not within budget. We got a permission slip to say if we go to the Bank of Ireland. I really want to go to the Bank of Ireland to see what it looks like on the inside and that's where you make the student's account. You can lodge money in the bank but I don't really know what that means.

A visit from the Bank of Ireland by Patrick P7
Briege and Lesley–Anne (from the bank) came in to talk about opening a bank account and other banking stuff. First, Briege and Lesley–Anne introduced themselves to the class, then after we talked about what a bank really was. Thirdly, we passed around some notes to look at; there were five, ten, fifteen, twenty, fifty and one hundred pound notes. Then we were asked if we thought the notes were real or fake. People thought they were fake, apart from a few. To figure it out we looked up and put it up to the light and then used a magic pen which didn't show anything on the note but did on normal paper. After that we talked about ID numbers and credit cards. Then they brought up the automatic teller machine (ATM), which you use for taking out money, but if you wanted to change currency you would have to go inside the building, and the ATM doesn't give you coins. They gave us a quiz after and then a sheet to unscramble. Liam was the only one to get the last one and I only got half. I learned quite a lot from this but I also knew a bit. Overall I found it quite enjoyable.



BBC DIGITAL ARTS DAY

A group of P7s also had the opportunity to attend a Digital Arts Day organised by the BBC. The pupils were able to view a live science show, interact with Octopus Rift and they even created their own music using a coding programme.



The School: In Profile

Name: Natalia

Place of birth: Poland

Live: Belfast

Hobbies: Playing football Favourite music: Ariana Grande

Favourite subject(s): Art and maths

Dream holiday destination: Visiting family in Poland

Favourite thing about Holy Rosary PS: The pupils feel happy and we are a Rights Respecting School.



Name: Miss McGrath

Place of birth: Newry

Live: Lawrencetown

Hobbies: Going to the gym Favourite music: pop

Favourite subject(s) at school: Maths

Favourite teacher(s) at school: My P1 teacher

Dream holiday destination: I am going to America and doing a cruise for my honeymoon

Favourite thing about Holy Rosary PS: The staff and pupils

Interviews completed by Natalia



If you want to find out more about school life don't forget to follow us on **twitter: @holyrosaryps**. Plus we have regular reminders in the **Parish Bulletin**. You should also look out for us in the local media: we have an article in the current issue (85) of **The Southside Advertiser**. As well as this we were featured in the April edition of **The Ulster Tatler's** schools guide and we often contribute photos to **The South Belfast News**.

Scan this QR code on any device and it should take you to our current school website.

The website is currently under construction – though we are hoping to bring you the newly launched version before the end of the school year. There you will find regular updates on school news, details of class events and copies of our termly newsletters.

