

Newsletter

March 2019

St. Patrick's Junior School Parents Association



WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

We have had a very busy few weeks, with lots of great events taking place, and with lots more coming up too before the school year ends.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and helpers with all our events so far. Without your help, we would not be able to run them as smoothly and successfully.

We would also like to welcome two new members to the Parents' Association Committee: Lorna Ryan and Michelle Spillane (Ms Ryan and Ms Spillane as they are known to our children), have very kindly come on board. As both are teachers in the school, it is great to have their input, views and suggestions.

Be sure to follow and like our [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date on all our events and activities taking place.

RECENT EVENTS

• *Cake Sale*

Our cake sale was a huge success again this year. The smell of fresh yummy treats as you walked in the Halla that morning was enough to get everyone buying something to enjoy on the spot or to bring home.

From buns to tarts, freshly baked breads to cupcakes, every one came in their droves to support this much loved annual event.

Thank you to everyone for all your donations of tasty cakes and buns and for buying them too.

**Together, you all helped
raise a grand total of**



• *Celebration of World Book Day with Niamh Sharkey*

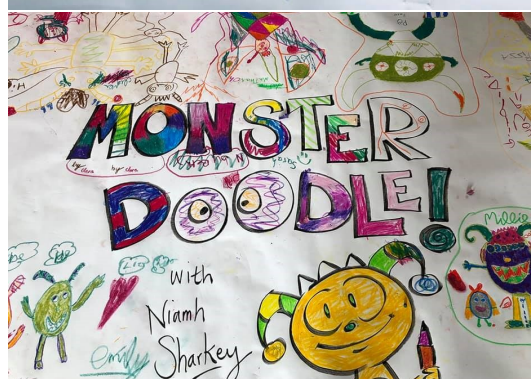
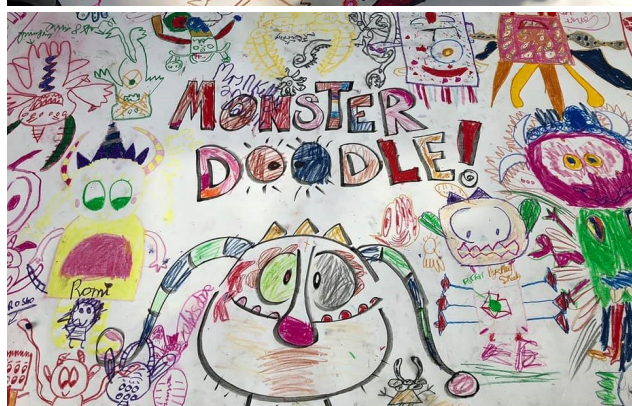
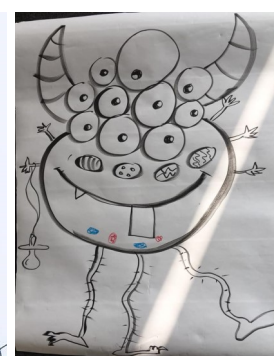
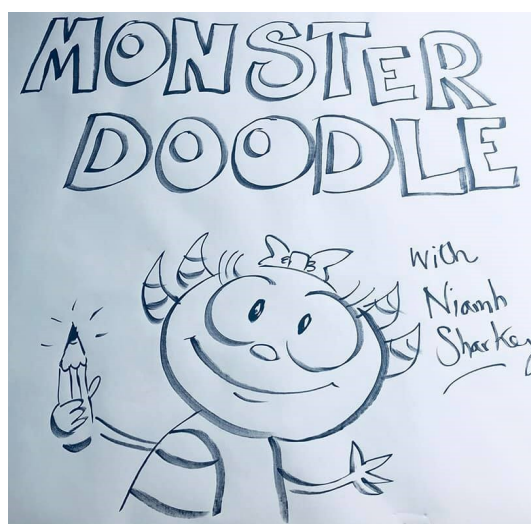
We were delighted to have Niamh Sharkey join us this year to mark the beginning of the celebration of World Book Day.

Niamh is an award winning author and illustrator of children's picture books, having won numerous awards both in Ireland and Internationally. She is also the creator of the famous *Henry Hugglemonster* television series on the Disney Junior channel.

Our children had a super day, creating a wonderful “Monster Doodle” together with Niamh. The children engaged really well with her and she adapted the workshop to suit the ages of each group, as well as including lots of story telling in the workshop.

The children really enjoyed this event, with some parents reporting back to say that their children were still talking about it weeks after the event. So we think we can safely say it was a big hit! This event was funded by the Parents' Association. So thank you once again to everyone who supports all our fundraising events for the school. It's support like this that helps us make these kind of magical events come alive and happen.

We continued to celebrate World Book Day on Friday March the 8th, with all the children having the option to dress up as characters from their favourite books. It was a great day of fun!



• *St Patrick's Day Fun Walk*

Our annual St Patrick's Day Fun Walk took place last week.

The weather was kind to us this year and the rain stayed at bay. Our junior classes had a lovely morning walking around the beautiful town of Skerries while the 1st and 2nd classes also walked the head lands with their teachers and their friends. Some opted to dress up in their green colours to mark the start of the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who walked with us and helped make this event happen.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for the following events coming up:

• *Table Quiz—4th April*

The St Patrick's Junior School Table Quiz night will take place on Thursday April 4th in Skerries GAA Club from 8pm. This promises to be a night of fun, with lots of amazing prizes to be won.

Tickets cost €15 per person (4 people per table), with all proceeds of this event going towards purchasing a stage for the school hall.

If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Lorraine or Aisling, or any of our committee members.

A promotional poster for the St. Patrick's Junior School Parents Association Table Quiz. The poster features a stylized owl wearing glasses and the text: "ST. PATRICK'S JUNIOR SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION Table Quiz THURSDAY APRIL 4TH SKERRIES GAA CLUB, 8PM €15 PER PERSON (FOUR PEOPLE PER TABLE) PLEASE CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: LORRAINE (087) 141 3458 AISLING (086) 105 0556 RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT! ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS PURCHASING A STAGE FOR THE SCHOOL HALL". The owl is orange and yellow with large, expressive eyes and black-rimmed glasses. The background is dark with white and yellow text.

- ***First Holy Communion Breakfast— May 18th***

We are delighted once again this year to host the First Holy Communion breakfast on Saturday May 18th.

All 2nd class children and their parents are invited to join us for some light refreshments straight after the church. We look forward to seeing you then.

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELL-BEING WEEK 25TH March

As you are aware St. Patrick's Junior School is currently working toward achieving the 'Pieta House Amber Flag'. This initiative recognises the individual effort of schools, clubs and organisations to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being (<https://www.pieta.ie/training/amber-flag/>). As part of this initiative Well-Being week is taking place in the school next week 25th March.

Planned activities include:

- ◆ Daily in class activities on the themes of mindfulness, kindness to self/others, friendship and gratitude.
- ◆ Well-being talk/workshop for the children on Wednesday March 27th facilitated by a member of our parent body.
- ◆ Mental Fitness and Resilience talk for parents at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday March 27th delivered by Séana O'Rodaigh.



Feel Good Friday – This is a non-uniform day and the children are encouraged to **wear bright clothes and odd socks.** A school assembly will take place in the halla.

Many thanks to Ms. Daly, who is leading the Amber Flag initiative.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE:

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great success again this year. Lots of activities took place in every classroom. Each class had an Irish Dancing lesson with Mrs. Keane. Junior classes were treated to a concert of Irish music from some of our past pupils who are now in the Senior School, while musicians from the Community College played for an appreciative audience of 1st and 2nd class pupils and answered questions about learning music. Ms. Warnock & Ms. Meehan played a short recital on fiddle & concertina and Ms. Ní Chróinín sang a couple of songs for the children. Everyone in the school enjoyed speaking as much Irish as possible and many pupils received stickers for their efforts. Maith sibh a pháistí!! Special thanks to Ms. Keane for organising all our Seachtain na Gaeilge activities – Maith thú Ms. Keane!

GREEN SCHOOLS NEWS

All pupils in First & Second classes entered the Fingal CoCo Marine Environment Poster competition. The competition was to raise awareness of the importance of keeping our beaches clean and plastic free. School winners were announced at a short Green Schools Assembly on Friday the 22nd of March. Some of the posters will be displayed on the Green Schools noticeboard in the Halla in the coming week. Well done to all pupils who participated in this competition— all the posters submitted were of a very high standard and show great understanding of the issues highlighted. Maith sibh! Well done and thanks to Ms. Grimes and Ms. Spillane for their continuing hard work towards our **eighth** Green Schools Flag.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTION

Many thanks to the parents who have paid their school supplies contribution. All this money goes directly to provide resources (including licences for the online element of the Gaeilge, English and Maths programmes used in the school). Unfortunately some payments are still outstanding. Payments can be made online or directly to the office.

ROAD SAFETY

As the evenings are lengthening and children are able to play outside for longer, we ask parents to remind all children about safe behaviour around traffic, when using bicycles, tri-cycles, scooters or Flickr's, and when crossing the road. We want all our pupils to be safe this spring!

SCOOTERS

A gentle reminder that scooters/bikes/Flickr's etc must be collected before or after children are brought to the gate to avoid the accidents and injuries that can be caused by a child trying to steer a bike or scooter through crowds of children at collection times.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Thanks to Leinster Hockey/Hockey Ireland for running the “tricks with sticks” short hockey skills course in the school. The children have really enjoyed it and even the teachers have learned some new moves! Thanks also to Ms. Todd for suggesting this course for our pupils.