

Knockanean N.S. Christmas Newsletter

December 2022



Intel Mini Scientist

4th /5th and 6th classes took part in this project. We could work individually or in groups of up to 4 people. We had to come up with a science project of our choice and investigate that topic. On Wed 26th Oct we displayed and explained our projects to all the other classes in the school. They really enjoyed viewing our projects. On Thurs 27th Oct judges from Intel in Shannon came in to judge our projects. They looked at all the projects in great detail and the overall winners were Jack O'Driscoll and Mark Reynolds from 4th class with their project called "How to generate electricity for our new school using playground equipment and food waste". They will now go on to represent the school at the regional final in Intel Shannon on Nov 30th.

By Tara Whelan, Alex Fennell and Eoin O' Connor





Cross country running

On Thurs Oct 6th we went to Lees Road for Cross country running. We got the bus at 10.15 and when we got there we set up our tent. There was a different competition for the small schools and the big schools. We were in the big school category. There were races for u8's, u10's and over 10's. We had a lot of success winning 4 team medals. Under 8 girls came 1st, Under 10 girls came 2nd, Over 10 girls were 3rd and over 10 boys were 1st. We also had 8 individual medals.

By Erin Kennedy, Sophie O Connor and Ava Dowling



Clare cross country running final

On Nov 15th we went to Lees Road for the finals of the cross country running. Before the races started we did some warm ups on the astro turf. The first races were the under 8's then u10's and finally over 10's. We had great success on the day, winning 7 individual medals. The u8 girls team came first, the u10 girls team came third and the over 10 boys team came first. In the overall schools competition Knockanean finished second! Thanks to all that helped out providing a tent and hot chocolate. The chocolate really warmed us up on a cold day!

By Jonah Quinn, Isabelle Kelleher and Cillian Sullivan



Cumann na mBunscol final

On Wed 9th of November we went to Cusack Park to play the school's football final. Our opponents were Kildysart N.S. It was a really tight and exciting 1st half. At half time the score was 3 points to 1 with Kildysart leading. We did lead at one stage in the 2nd half but unfortunately for us Kildysart finished strongly and won the match. Despite losing we loved playing in Cusack Park and had an enjoyable day.

By Nathan Dixon, Dylan Price and Liam Hanrahan

“Despite losing we loved playing in Cusack Park and had an enjoyable day”



Polish Independence Day

On Nov 11th we marked Polish Independence Day. Ewelina Pasinska came in to talk to the classes from 1st – 6th. We learned about the Polish culture and language. We also learned about places in Poland and how they are unique. We also learned about Polish food (such as: Pierogi, Rosol, Placki, Ziemniak). She showed us a PowerPoint on Poland which explained their traditional dance, music and national anthem. She showed us the size of Poland and how long it takes to go from Ireland to Poland by car. It takes roughly 36 hours with breaks. It was really enjoyable for us.

By Fionnan O' Connor, Dawid Andrалоjc, Michael Barry and Agata Otreba



Science Show

On Nov 16th Simon Hill a science and maths teacher came in to do some experiments with 2nd and 3rd classes as part of Science Week. We all gathered in Michelle's room. He showed us stuff about Physics, Biology and Chemistry. He showed us how energy worked and he used a plasma ball to show us how energy can get transferred. We went outside and he showed us elephant toothpaste. He used yeast, washing up liquid, hot water and hydrogen peroxide to create foam. He showed us how the human body works. Using a dummy, he showed us where all the different body parts are located and he took them apart. Using a gravity table and marbles he showed us how the Solar System works. He had a large ball in the middle and he showed us how the planets go around the sun. There was no magnet inside the marbles yet gravity pulled them together. We had a really exciting and interesting demonstration.

By Archie Hill, Maya Dowling, Megan Downes and Jack Lehane

“We went outside and he showed us elephant toothpaste”





SEAI energy workshop

On Nov 17th Aine Ni Fhlatharta came in and did energy workshops with 1st, 4th and 6th. She talked to us about energy and how energy is made by fossil fuels. She then talked about CO₂ and how it's affecting our climate and how global warming is affecting the planet. Instead of burning fossil fuel we should use electric cars. We should also be using heat pumps and solar panels. She talked about Newton's cradle and she used 6 pupils to show how it worked. She also did experiments with a basketball and a tennis ball to show us how energy worked. She also did an experiment with vitamin C and water which caused an explosion. We really enjoyed her visit.

By Amy Mangan, Ronan Mc Donogh and Róise Byrnes



seai SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AUTHORITY
OF IRELAND

**“Instead of
burning fossil fuel
we should use
electric cars”**



Robotics/Lego

All classes from 1st – 6th have had an opportunity over the past few weeks to work with “Lego we do” which we borrowed from the Clare Education Centre. It allows us to build multiple Lego projects like snails, cars, robotic people, helicopters and much more. After we have them built, we can programme them to move in many different ways. We did this by using the Lego we do website on the iPads’ or we could also program them on Scratch. We really enjoy programming and making our creations come to life. Regeneron in Limerick also very kindly bought the school 8 Lego Essential kits and 5 laptops

By Jack O Driscoll and Mark Reynolds

“Regeneron in Limerick also very kindly bought the school 8 Lego Essential kits and 5 laptops



Choir and Music Club

The music club meet every Tuesday in Amy’s room. We have approximately 20 musicians there every week. We learn new tunes, practice our instruments and play as part of a group. In the group we have a selection of instruments such as tinwhistles, fiddles, banjos, guitars, concertinas and Amy plays the keyboard. Sometimes if there is a sub teacher in the school they come and join in. The choir meet every Wed, again in Amy’s room. There are approximately 35 pupils there every week. We learn a new song every week. At the moment we are learning songs that the elderly might like as we are visiting nursing homes coming up to Christmas. Tina also helps out with the choir. In the week before Christmas both the choir and the music club will be visiting nursing homes and day care centres to perform for the residents. We will be visiting Cahercalla, Carrigorian, St Joseph’s Hospital and Clarecastle Day Care Centre. We are very grateful to Amy and Tina for this opportunity as we really enjoy it.

By Tiernan Garvey, Lena Palgan, Ava Dowling, Olivia Prendeville and Chloe Cosgrove



Green schools report

There are 7 pupils on the Green Schools Committee. We go to Amy every week to see if she has any jobs for us. We do a lot of work in the garden like cleaning it, taking out the weeds, getting the soil ready and planting the bulbs. Every Friday we bring the plants to the front of the school and water them. We also have lots of indoor plants and we regularly check that they have enough water and if not we water them. We are going to be much busier in spring when the weather starts to get better and warmer.

By Julia Pawlowska, Kieran Fitzpatrick and Alison Dixon

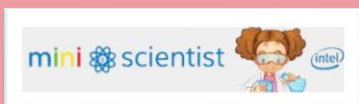
“We do a lot of work in the garden like cleaning it, taking out the weeds, getting the soil ready and planting the bulbs.”



Student Council report

There are 7 pupils on the student council from 2nd class to 6th class. We meet approximately every two weeks with Anne and Mr Curran. At our last meeting we discussed our roles and we elected Jessica Hassett as our chairperson, Declan Keane as our secretary and Ava O' Halloran as our treasurer. Any suggestions that people in our class have they come and tell us and we take the suggestions back to our meeting and discuss them. Mr Curran told all the classes who the student council members are and we're looking forward to hearing great suggestions from our classmates.

By Jessica Hassett, Ava O'Halloran and Declan Keane



**“We will now go
onto the Grand
Final in
Maynooth
University in
February”**



Intel Mini Scientist Regional Final

On Nov 30th we went to the regional final in Intel Shannon. The winning project from each school in the Shannon catchment area was there. We went in and set up our display. They asked all the teachers to leave and go into the staffroom. Then the judges came to look at all the projects. Two sets of judges and different Intel workers came to question us on our project. After the judges had done all that they left to make their decision. While they were doing this a man called Phil did a science quiz with us. He also showed us how to make a tornado in a bottle. Then the judges came back and announced the 5 winners and we were delighted to hear Knockanean called out! We will now go onto the Grand Final in Maynooth University in February.

By Jack O Driscoll and Mark Reynolds





Intergenerational letter writing

All classes from infants to 6th class are writing letters, sending Christmas cards to old people in nursing homes. We are sending them this year to St Joseph's, Cahercalla, Carrigoran and Clarecastle Daycare Centre. Each pupil is paired with a person in the nursing homes and they write a letter to this person. We tell them what class we're in, a bit about our self, our family traditions. We ask them questions about their traditions, their family and their favourite thing about Christmas. We draw pictures for them, make cards and decorate them and some put a small gift inside. The idea behind this is to make somebody happy at Christmas. By making somebody else happy at Christmas it also makes us happy!

By Melissa Turtokova, Eilbhe O'Gara and Eve Sheridan

“The idea behind this is to make somebody happy at Christmas”



Ice Skating

On 13th Dec 6th class went ice skating in Limerick. We left at 9.45 am and arrived at 10.30 am. We got there early so we could have a snack before we put on our skates. When we first went on the ice it was very slippy! It was also quite cold, so we wrapped up in warm clothes. We were allowed on the ice rink for one hour, before we had a snack and headed back on the bus. Most of us fell a few times, but we got back up again. We had lots of fun! On the way home we were surprised with a visit to Newmarket on Fergus playground. We played hide and seek in the playground. We really enjoyed our day out.

By Isabelle O' Doherty and Ava Harte



Winter Wonderland

On the 7th of December infants – 2nd went to Glór to see this music show. They told us the story of the Nutcracker and at the end they gave us instruments and we got turns to play them. They were playing the saxophone, the trumpet, the violin, the bells and the piano. They played all Christmas tunes. We also got to learn the rhythm of the song. There were lots of other schools there. We really enjoyed it!

By Elsie Mc Inerney,
Lucy Mc Gann, Mia
Connellan, Naoise
Murphy and Ellie Ford

Carol singing

We went carol singing in Carrigoran, Clarecastle Daycare Centre, St Joseph's Hospital and Cahercalla the week before the holidays. It was absolutely brilliant. We loved how they all joined in and sang with us. The song they loved most was "Go Lassie Go". It was a pretty old song. When we sang it, it touched their hearts. In Clarecastle a lovely man called Joe sang a song with us. He was a brilliant singer and the choir was amazing too. The old folks sang all the songs they knew. On Wednesday evening last we were in O'Keeffe's Spar. We sang lots of Christmas songs. Amy our music teacher was great. She took her time to teach us and we all did amazing. We were very proud to be representing our school Knockanean, carol singing in nursing homes around Clare this Christmas.

By Layla Moloney and Salma O'Doherty



This newsletter is a look back at some of the events of the past term as seen by the pupils. More photos of these events can be seen on our website.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our school community- parents, pupils, Board of Management, Parents Association and staff for all their hard work, dedication, commitment and help, in what has been a very busy term.

On behalf of everybody here I want to wish Joyce Purcell and her family all the best as she leaves us today and I want to thank her for her years of service to the pupils and families of Knockanean.

Have a wonderful Christmas everybody and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on January 5th.

Yours sincerely,

