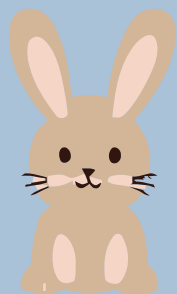


>>> KNOCKANEAN N.S.

easTeR NeWSLeTTeR



*Take a look back at several events
and activities that occurred
during the second term of the
2023/2024 school year in
Knockanean N.S.*



>>> World Book Day 2024





We celebrated World Book Day in school on Thursday the 7th of March. To celebrate this day, we all dressed up as our favourite characters from a book or a movie. Some of us chose to dress up as superheroes like Batman and Spiderman. There were a lot of costumes from movies too like Willy Wonka, Fantastic Mr. Fox and Wednesday Adams. Many pupils also dressed up as sport stars, like Clare players and soccer stars. In the infant classes, we all came together to listen to stories and play a few games. We also showed off our costumes and some of us brought in books that had our characters in them. At break time there was music playing and we had a little disco outside! We really enjoyed World Book Day and our favourite parts included reading books together and dressing up.

By Cian O'Sullivan and Clara O'Brien.



>> Credit Union Schools Quiz

On Friday the 26th of January, the senior and junior quiz teams from Knockanean N.S. travelled to the West County hotel in Ennis to participate in the Credit Union Schools Quiz competition. The junior quiz team comprised of Maya, Luke, Abi and Séan. The senior team comprised of Ayda, Daire, David and Aidan. When we arrived, we were shown to our seats and we got settled. Colm came to support us on the night. There were ten rounds in the quiz and there were six questions in each round. The senior teams also had to do an extra two rounds in the quiz. The questions were very random, some were about sport, countries, history, music, and a variety of other topics. After five rounds, they showed us our scores. We were happy with our positions at this point. The quiz progressed and towards the end we didn't know what place we were in, but we were hopeful!

Then at the end of all the rounds, they announced first and second place in the senior and junior categories. Although we didn't get first or second place, we were very happy with our performance, especially the senior team as we were only one point off qualifying for the next stage! After the winners had been announced, each team was given mentos and pens as a treat. Overall, we enjoyed the experience and it was fun to compete against the other schools.

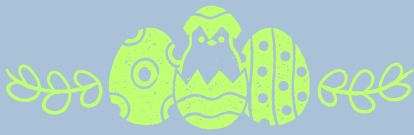
By Aidan Hogan, Abi O'Donnell and Maya Dowling.



»» Pancake Tuesday/ Máirt na hInide

On Tuesday the 13th of February, several classes in the school celebrated Pancake Tuesday. Pupils had great fun mixing ingredients, cooking the pancakes and most importantly choosing their favourite toppings!





First Class Museum Trip

On Tuesday the 30th of January, first class went to Clare museum in Ennis. We left school at break time. When we got there we all gathered in a line to enter the museum. The first thing that we saw were stones with crosses on them. There was also a well with lots of water in it. After this we went into a room and we met a woman called Ruth. She told us a story about St. Brigid. In the story we learned that Brigid was born through a door way. Ruth also revealed that when Brigid was born, her family saw a purple flame on her forehead. This meant that Brigid was blessed. As Brigid grew up, she began to love the season of spring. Ruth then showed us how to make a St. Brigid's cross out of rushes. We then got the chance to listen to stories through headphones. After this, Ruth brought out some oatmeal bread that is traditionally made on St. Brigid's day. Everyone got the chance to taste the bread and most of us thought it was disgusting! Before we left the museum, we got to look around the area outside, and there were huge rocks everywhere. Finally, we took a class photo and headed back on the bus. We really enjoyed visiting the museum and it was nice to learn more about St. Brigid!

By Ava Ryan, Max Callinan, Oran Malone and Katelyn Davren.



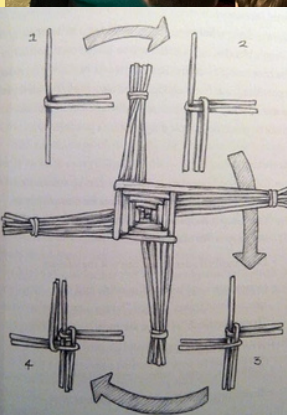


>>> Third Class Museum Trip

On Wednesday the 31st of January, third class went to Clare museum and library. We left the school at around half nine. We went to the library first and we got the chance to explore the library and pick a few books to read. We were given about an hour to do this. Some of us chose novels like Roald Dahl books, or sports books about basketball or soccer. After our time in the library we walked over to the museum. Firstly, we went into a room and met a lady called Ruth Martial. She told us stories about St. Brigid, and we were surprised because we had not heard some of them before. One of the stories that we had not heard was that St. Brigid was born in a doorway and she had one foot inside the door and one foot outside the door. We also learned that one day St. Brigid's house went on fire. Brigid's mother called for help, and a brave man went into the house to save Brigid. When they went into the house, they found that there were no real flames, and the only flames found were on Brigid's forehead. After this moment, everyone knew that Brigid was special.

Ruth then showed us how to make a St. Brigid's cross out of rushes. This was useful to see as the following day in school we made our own St. Brigid's crosses. She also explained the tradition of leaving out a piece of cloth for St. Brigid to bless on St. Brigid's eve and this cloth can then be used to cure people who are ill. Following this, we went upstairs and saw some ancient artefacts. There was an old telephone, a canon ball and old jerseys. We then left the museum and returned to school. We really enjoyed our trip and our favourite parts of the day included picking out books to read and seeing the deep well in the museum.

By Nathan O'Connor, Adam Duggan, Aoibhinn Hedigan and Ciara Reynolds.



Waltons Music for Schools Competition

Pupils from the music club and choir began practising for the Waltons Music for Schools competition when we came back to school after the Christmas holidays. The teachers who worked with us were Amy, Tina, Louise and Conor. Firstly, we started picking out our favourite pieces of music and we also looked at the theme of the competition which was 'Music Moves Us'. We thought it would be nice to move through the different genres of music from contemporary to traditional, to jazz to classical, to rap and to pop. After this we chose songs that would suit each genre and put them together so that they would flow nicely. After some discussion we chose who would be able to rap, play traditional music, play jazz, etc. It was hard at first to practise all of the genres together, but eventually we put them together and it began to sound great. For the beginning section of the piece we changed the lyrics of a song from Frozen to be about the theme of 'Music Moves Us'. Then it lead into the traditional music part where we had fiddles, concertinas, tin whistles and an Irish dancer performing. After this section two pupils were rapping and street dancing. Then came a classical section called Pachelbell's canon. After this we played Viva la Vida for the pop section with pop dancing and we finished the piece with Hit the Road Jack for the jazz section. The final piece was just under five minutes long. We brought everything back together by finishing with the opening song that we sang at the beginning. Overall, we practised about three times a week leading up to the closing date and we also did a lot of practise ourselves at home.

On the week of the closing date, we recorded the finished piece a few times until we were happy with the final video. Then we nervously awaited the results which were released on Friday March 1st. Most of the pupils from the group gathered to listen to Lyric FM to hear the announcement of the finalists. We couldn't believe when they called out Knockanean N.S.! We are one of six finalists chosen from the whole country, and we will be performing in the National Concert Hall in Dublin on April 8th in front of a huge audience. We have really enjoyed the experience and our favourite parts included hearing our school's name being called out live on radio and having the chance to come together to play many types of music. We are really looking forward to performing in the National Concert Hall in April.

By Cadhan O'Loughlin, Mila Rose Flannery, Harrison O'Doherty and Niamh O'Reilly.

Watch our performance here: <https://youtu.be/aUtNv6yvlhc?feature=shared>





>>> Fifth Class Podcast

Before Christmas in fifth class we participated in a project called GLOBE. This project was about checking the air quality in schools in a number of areas around the country. We decided to test the air quality around our school in Knockanean. We set up test tubes around the school in the back field and near the road. We left the tubes outside for about a month and we then sent them off to a laboratory to be tested. After a while we received the results back. We found out that on the roadside of the school the level of nitrogen dioxide was 4.72 micrograms per cubic metre and at the back field the level of nitrogen dioxide was 3.23 micrograms per cubic metre. This indicated that the air quality at the back field was better than at the roadside. We thought that this may be due to more cars travelling near the roadside and there are more plants around the back field to clean the air.

As part of our action plan for this GLOBE project, we decided to record a podcast about the experiment. We firstly wrote a rap with Mrs. McNamara, who used to teach in Knockanean, and she helped us to perfect the rap and to put it together. She worked with us for six weeks and the rap was mainly about the environment and what we should do to protect the planet. We then recorded this rap to be included in our podcast. To prepare for the podcast, we set up a podcast recording studio in the store room where we placed a laptop on a table with a blanket over it to contain the sound. We then went into the studio in groups to record the different parts of the podcast. The parts of the podcast included an introduction, funky facts, question of the week, news, a section about the GLOBE project, riddles, haiku poetry and the rap that we composed with Mrs. McNamara. We really enjoyed recording the podcast as it was something really different that none of us had tried before. It was also fun to write and perform a rap together as a class.

By Róise Byrnes O'Donoghue and Aoife Kirrane.



>>> Girls Basketball



The girls basketball team travelled to Gurteen in early February to play in a series of basketball matches. We had a number of training sessions during and after school in January and February to prepare for this day in Gurteen. The teachers that accompanied us were Anne and Louise. We arrived to Gurteen at 9 o'clock. We firstly began to warm up and practised a few drills. Once the other teams arrived we got our jerseys. We watched a few games before getting our turn to play.

We then played the Gaelscoil for our first game and we thankfully won this game. We had the same colour jerseys as the Gaelscoil so we had to wear ours inside out to be able to tell the teams apart! We then had a small break and refuelled with some lunch. Our second game of the day was against Crusheen and we won this game also! Our final game was against Barefield, and we sadly lost this match by only two points. Some of the games were very competitive and even required extra time. Overall, we enjoyed the matches and thought that we played well. Unfortunately, we didn't make it through on the day but we enjoyed our matches nevertheless.

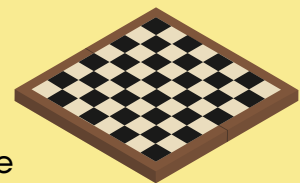
By Amy Fahy and Caoimhe Mockler.





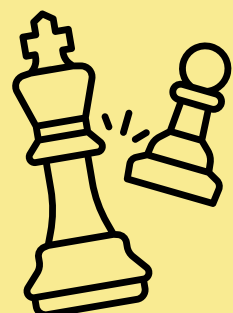
»» Chess Tournament

On Thursday the 7th of March, the chess team went to Ennis N.S. to participate in a chess tournament. There are around 25 pupils on the school's chess team. Conor prepared us for the chess tournament and we also practised ourselves at home. When we arrived we went to the hall and set down our bags. There were rows of tables with chess boards on them, and we were shown to our seats. We were then told if we would play with black or white chess pieces and we met our first opponent from another school. In a game of chess, the people playing with the white pieces go first. The different pieces are the knight, the pawn, the rook, the bishop, the king or the queen.



Each match was played for twenty minutes, and when the bell rang we had to stop. We then had to calculate the scores and the winning person was recorded on a sheet. Overall, we played six matches each. There was no winner on the day because it was a tournament, but they recorded the highest scores. We found that the other teams were very good and some of the matches were very competitive. The tournament lasted most of the day and we arrived back to school around half two. We had a great time at the chess tournament and it was fun to compete against the other schools.

By David Sheridan, Eve Davern and Ronan McDonogh.



»» Indoor Hurling



The school's indoor hurling team is made up of boys from both fourth classes. We started training when we came back to school after the Christmas holidays. Conor trained us for the matches. In February we travelled to Gurteen to play a few matches against other schools in the hall. Our first game was against Barefield and this was a very competitive match which we unfortunately lost by a point. We then had a short break and our second match was against Clarecastle. After a tough match we beat them by three points and we were delighted.

Our final match of the day was against the Gaelscoil and we narrowly lost this match. We won't be progressing to the next round but we really enjoyed the day. We liked the indoor hurling but it is very hard not to rise the ball and using rubber hurleys can be tricky as well! After our matches we came back to school and it was almost home time.

By Hugh Garvey, Vinny McMahon, Cillian Fahy and Sam Smith.

»» Indoor Camogie

In February, the indoor camogie team travelled to Gurteen to play a few matches against other schools. There are about 15 girls on the indoor camogie team from the fourth and fifth classes. Mr. Curran and Michelle came with us on the day. We played the Gaelscoil first and it was a really tough game to start out with, but luckily we came out with a win. After this we played Clarecastle and we lost this match as they were a very strong team.

Our final match of the day was against Barefield and we came out with a victory after this match. We did not come out as the top team on the day, and therefore we won't be progressing to the next round of matches. Overall, we enjoyed the day and it was fun to play indoor camogie because it is really different to outdoor matches where you can rise the ball.

By Amy Mangan and Lily McMahon.



>>> Soccer Blitz

On Wednesday the 6th of March third to sixth classes went to a soccer blitz in Gurteen. When we arrived we split into a boys group and a girls group. We were then divided into teams of seven. Each team had pupils from different classes. The sixth class chose names of countries for the teams. We then organised a League A and a League B. We began playing a series of matches, and there were four matches playing at a time. The teachers were the referees for the games. Each match was half an hour long.

After a few games we had lunch and then we played the final matches. In the boys final Canada played against Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe came out as the winners! In the girls final Ireland were against Poland and Ireland were victorious! Overall we each played four or five matches on the day. It was great fun getting to play a lot of matches. After the day a number of pupils were selected to play on the school's FAI team and these pupils will play against other schools at an FAI Soccer Blitz in the near future. We enjoyed the day out in Gurteen and there were some excellent goals scored by pupils on the day.

By Abi O'Donnell, Mark Reynolds, Teddy Courtney and Adam Duggan.

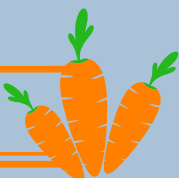
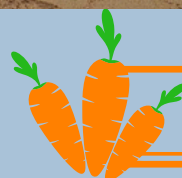
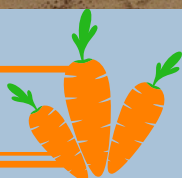
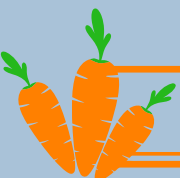


»» Fifth Class Trip to Lahinch

On Monday the 11th of March fifth class went on a trip to Lahinch beach. We left school at around ten in the morning. Anne, Claire and Fiona came with us on the day. When we arrived at the beach, we had a small snack and then headed onto the sand. We changed into our wellies and met the instructor Claire from the Explorers Programme. We were then divided into groups. She gave each group some buckets and nets. She began by telling us about the rock pools on the beach and some of the secrets that might be in them like sea shells, little crabs, periwinkles or sea weed. We were then given time to explore and we brought back anything that we found to Claire and she told us about it.

We found a variety of crabs, shells and periwinkles. One group found a bone about the size of our hand. We also found a really slimy shell with an orange pattern on it. We gathered anything that we found and kept it in a bucket filled with water. Overall, we explored for about two hours. After the exploration we did some sand art where we drew pictures in the sand with sticks and we made sand castles. The weather was good and it didn't rain thankfully! To finish our day we went to the shop for a few treats. We then got on the bus and headed back to school. We arrived back to school at around two o'clock. We enjoyed our day in Lahinch and we learned a lot of new things, such as the names of different types of shells like razor shells and periwinkles. We also found some interesting items during our exploration like a credit card, an old phone and a golf ball!

By Jonah Harte, Callan Urquhart and Zoey Speak.





7-Aside Girls Football



The girls seven aside football team travelled to Gurteen during the last week of February to play the first round of Mini 7's Gaelic football matches. When we arrived we warmed up for a few minutes. We played against Holy Family first and we won this game. Then we watched a few matches where the other teams played. Our second match was against the Gaelscoil. We felt that we played very well in this game, and we came out with a victory which we were delighted with!

Our final match of the day was against Barefield and we won this match as well. The top team after this day goes through to the next round, and we thankfully came out as the top team on the day, so we will be progressing to the next round which will be against other schools in Clare at a later date. Our coaches are Michelle, Colm and Mr. Curran. We are looking forward to the next round of matches which will take place soon.

By Ruby Courtney and Isabelle Mangan.

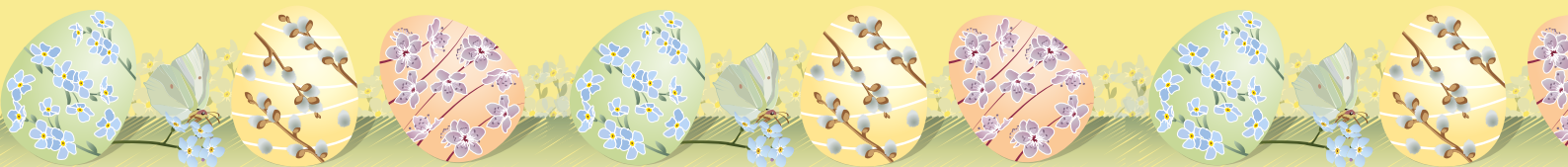


7-Aside Boys Football



There are about twenty boys on the school's seven aside football team. In February we travelled to the astro pitch in Gurteen to play a series of matches. Colm, Cillian and Mr. Curran accompanied us. There were five other schools there on the day. Firstly we played Barefield and we thankfully came out with a victory. After this we progressed to playing Doora in a semi-final, and we won this match also. The final then took place between us and Barefield and we won this match. The final score was 2.06 to 1.04. It was a tight match and we were delighted to come out with a win. We were the top team on the day and this means we will play more matches against other schools at a later date.

By Daire Cullinan and Orrin Woods.

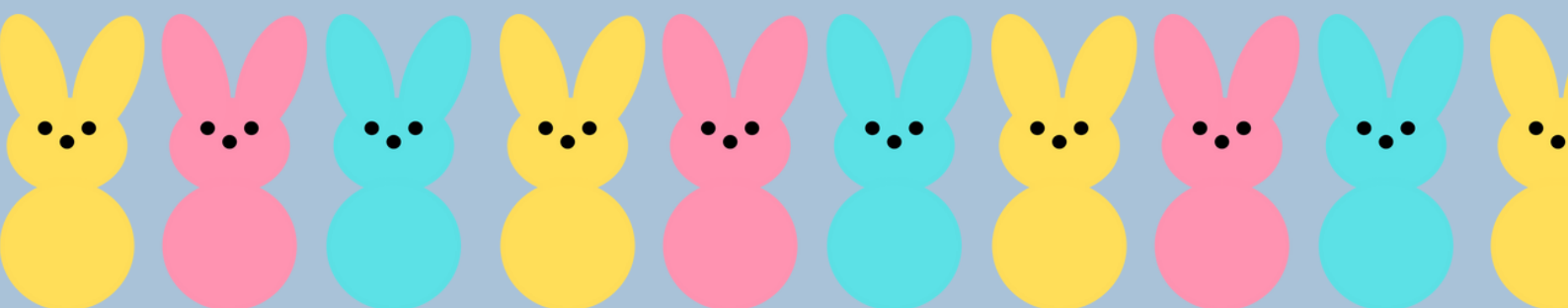


»» Intel Mini-Scientist National Final

On Monday the 11th of March, our team travelled to the Intel campus in Leixlip for the Mini-Scientist National Final. We travelled up to Kildare early in the morning and arrived at the campus at around ten. Louise, Souhila and Mr. Curran accompanied us on the day. We had an hour to set up our project called 'The Four States of Matter'. In our display we had posters and boxes showing the different experiments. The first round of judging then began and a number of judges circled around the room to view the projects.

After this, we had a buffet for lunch with delicious foods like wedges, chicken goujons, mini-burgers and cocktail sausages! The second round of judging then began. During the second round of judging, a photographer brought us away and took photos of us with our plasma lamp in a dark room. Due to this, we missed the second round of judging but the photos turned out really cool! When we arrived back, the entertainment began and there was music. We learned a lot of facts about music also. In the end, we got to see another judge thankfully as we had missed the second round of judging. Finally they announced the winners, and unfortunately we did not place, but we thoroughly enjoyed the day. To finish the day we went to Kildare Village and treated ourselves to a few nice things. We had so much fun creating our project, and it was great to work as a team throughout the whole experience.

By Kiela Ahearne, Aurora Haziri, Emily Mulcaire and Alex Haugh.





>>> Sixth Class Cycling

In the middle of March both sixth classes participated in a cycling safety course with two instructors who came to the school. We all brought in our own bikes for the workshop. We began the two day course by learning how to start and stop correctly on the bike. This included learning about an emergency stop where we had to stop fast and make sure we didn't fall off the bike. Then we learned about the signals for turning left and right and looking over our shoulders. The weather was quite wet for the first few days but luckily we got to complete the course.

On the second day of the course, we learned about turning and junctions. We also learned about how to ride a bike on the minor roads and the national roads, and how there are different rules for the different roads. The course took place outside for most of the day, and we also went inside to learn about road signs and road markings at the end of each day. All of us learned a lot of new skills and we enjoyed spending time outside on the bikes.

By Eoin McInerney and Abdul Samad Khan.

>>> Fiddler Visit

On Friday the 15th of March, a fiddler called River McGann came to visit the school. He is a cousin of some of the pupils in the school- Lucy, Noah and Evie McGann. He is an excellent fiddle player and he has won many trophies and competitions in Ireland and abroad. He currently attends Rice College in Ennis. The junior end of the school and the senior end of the school gathered together at separate times to hear him play. River first began by telling us that he began to play the fiddle at 7 years of age, and he said that his grandfather was a huge influence in his life and his fiddle playing. He then began playing a few tunes for us, some slow tunes and fast paced ones also. We were all amazed by his playing, and his fingers were moving so fast!

After he played the few pieces, we clapped for ages, and then he asked us if anyone plays the fiddle in the class. At the end we asked him a few questions. Lucy also joined River when he performed for the senior end of the school and they played the tin whistle and the fiddle together. We enjoyed River's visit to the school and it was amazing to see him play!

By Louis Ryan and Lucy McGann.





Camogie Champions



Three past pupils from the school visited on Friday the 15th of March. They were three camogie players from Doora-Barefield GAA club and they had recently won trophies for the championship, the league and the Munster finals in camogie. They brought their shiny trophies with them which were all different sizes.

They visited each class and spoke about when they had won the trophies.

They had won many matches and only lost a few games. For a few minutes they let us hold the trophies to feel how heavy they were! They then answered a few questions about when they started camogie and why they like the sport. It was great to have them over and we were proud of them for winning the big trophies!

By Remi Hill and Jack Mangan.



I want to 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 over the last term.

Have a wonderful Easter and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on April 8th.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Curran'.

