

# Notre Dame Junior School

Newsletter, Term 2, Easter 2014



## *A message from Ms. Sisk*

Since our last newsletter, there have been several exciting developments. Many pupils enjoyed the Young Scientist's Exhibition, Engineers Week, the Wesley Music Festival, Feis Ceoil, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Children Helping Children...all classes have been a hive of activity! Our newsletter contains many important updates and good news items that the girls enjoyed this term. We welcome back Mrs Gumisiriza and bid a fond farewell to Ms. Orla Dooley, whom I would like to thank for her hard work and dedication with the Prep 5 girls.

The students have taken part in several competitions, quizzes and fun trips this term; representing the school in many areas. The P6 Confirmation was a huge success and the P2 girls can't wait for their special day coming up on May 4th.

This newsletter will update you on a range of activities and events that have taken place throughout the school this term and also let you know of some dates for your diary, which I hope you will find helpful. Many thanks to our 'Wonder Woman' Chantelle Johnson who keeps us all on our toes and runs the school office with such panache. I would also like to thank Miss McNiffe for her technical talents amongst many other skills, and to all the staff of Notre Dame Junior School. Finally a huge thank you to you, the parents and the guardians of our girls, we greatly appreciate your continued support and co-operation.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter,

*Gilda*



**Prep 2 & Prep 6 with their Write A Book Project entries.**



**Some of the fantastic Easter bonnets created by Prep 6!**



**We are well on our way to our 4<sup>th</sup> green flag...keep up the walking, cycling and scooting to school!**

# P2

Wow! Whis term has flown! P2 have been very busy preparing for their First Holy Communion on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone has an important job to do and we are all so excited in anticipation for our special day!

In preparation we have been doing R.A.C.K nominations. R.A.C.K. stands for Random Acts of Classroom Kindness. As a class we discussed different ways we could perform random acts of kindness at home and at school. We picked lollipop sticks and each had to nominate a fellow classmate to do something kind, even Miss McNiffe took part and was nominated to give us no homework! We all enjoyed doing our nominations and we hope that our small acts help others pay it forward.

In February we brought in our 'Something Special to Us'...it was difficult to choose just one thing that meant a lot to us! We brought in a range of special treasures from teddies to jewellery to first shoes. It was really interesting to hear everyones' stories about their special treasures.

We have a new member in our class, well two actually! We have two worms named Squirmer and Gary who are currently residing in our 'worm hotel'. They have been very well behaved and we are looking forward to learning more about them.

We are growing sunflowers in our classroom. We have been learning all about plants, their lifecycle and how they grow. We are keeping Sunflower Diaries and recording their growth and progress. When they are big enough we are going to plant them outside...we wonder whose sunflower will grow the tallest!?

A big congratulations to Ellie Monaghan and Rebecca Neary. Ellie did amazingly well and got through to the semi final of the Doodle 4 Google competition. Ellie is a very talented artist and her doodle on space was very creative. Rebecca won the Write a Book Project with her book, titled 'The Haunted House'. It was a well written, enjoyable read that left us all in suspense! Well done girls!

Wishing the P2 girls lots of luck and love on their Communion day, we all know you will have a great day filled with special memories.



*Ellie with her Doodle 4 Google Certificate.*



*Kate with a treasured photo of her grandad.*



*Rebecca at the Write A Book award ceremony.*





*Maya, Georgie & Claire investigating!*



*Enjoying the liquid nitrogen experiments.*

## P4

On Thursday we went to W5 Belfast. Our instructor Dave brought us up to the top floor where all the labs were.

The first experiment we did was making plaster of Paris. We needed water, powder, a mould and a jug. The next experiment was with a balloon and liquid nitrogen. We had a balloon full of water that was dipped into the liquid nitrogen. It became really hard. The third experiment was with a candle and ice. You had to light the candle and place it under the ice, then the ice melted.

The fourth and last experiment was with vinegar, baking soda and water. You add the water with the soda and then add the vinegar with the water and soda. Then it will over flow.

After lunch, we had free time to explore the exhibitions. My favourite bit was when we got to pull ourselves up on a chair with a rope.

By Claire Crowley.



# P1

Yesterday Luky Leonard came to our class to tell us about the farm. When she arrived we could hear a small cheeping sound. Luky was holding a big popcorn box and inside there were chicks, one yellow chick and three brownie black chicks. K2 were with us too. When Luky took out the chicks they ran all over the place. We had to make sure they didn't escape. Then it was time to put the chicks back in the box but a brownie black coloured chick was still out. Then she put him back in the box.

Then Luky showed us some pictures of her farm on our whiteboard. While she did this she explained what they meant. One picture was a picture of a calf in a box under a red light. She said that the calf was sick so it stayed in the shed. It was getting cold so the red light warmed him up.

After all the pictures, Luky told us a story. When she was a baby living on the farm her mum put her in a buggy on the grass. Then a big tractor came along spraying poo everywhere and it got on Luky. Then her mum came back and was very surprised because her baby was covered in poo!

It was great fun having Luky in to our class.

Bv Katie de Marco



# P5

Children Helping Children was a great success. We raised €1297!!

We were very sad to see Miss Dooley leave but were happy that Mrs Gumisiriza came back.

We had a blast at the W5 Science Museum with P4. Well done to the choir girls for doing very well in Feis Ceoil!

On Thursday, the whole school went outside and around the school to pick up all the rubbish we could find. There was an unbelievable amount of rubbish. We hope to win the Tidy Schools Competition. We love the newly sprayed tyres outside in our yard.

The school has been giving out rewards for girls who have cycled, walked or scooted to school. Some girls are really enjoying the fresh air in the mornings.

By Sophie Hyland and Chloe Ivory in P5



*Children Helping Children Fun!*



# P3

Prep 3 have been very busy this term. We were so excited to go swimming for the first time as we really enjoy this time together.

We worked really hard at our songs for St. Patrick's Day. We managed to learn the Irish National Anthem and it was funny to see Jaeun and Rosangel sing in Irish.

We learned lots of new things this term. We learned all about the clever crow family, bats, the animal kingdom and also about the Vikings and round towers. We even did a very big project on the Vikings and created a Viking longship in art class. During our science classes we made boats, planes and cars. We had lots of races to see which one was the fastest. We held a strong boat competition to see whose boat could hold the most marbles. It made learning about science lots of fun.

We made lovely 'Dream Bedrooms' from a shoe box and we are presently building robots. We are looking forward to doing more projects on birds and trees. This week Ms Kiernan said she would show us how to make ice-cream in a zip-lock bag. We can't wait!



*Rebecca & Elizabeth with their molecular structure.*



*Laura & Jamie testing out their handbuilt boats.*

# The Titanic

The Titanic by Kate , Beth and Amelia, P1

In our class we learned about the Titanic. It was very interesting but a bit sad.

Some of the girls in our class have been to the Titanic exhibitions in Cobh and in Belfast. They said that they were really fun to see. Cobh was the last stop of the Titanic before it set off into the Atlantic Ocean.

Some of us made models of the Titanic boat. We went to Miss Sisk's class to show the girls our ships and to tell them the story.

It was fun learning about the Tianiic.

*Thoughts from Prep 1 about our Mothers;*

**MY MUM IS SO GREAT BECAUSE...**

*She is the best mum ever.*

*She is the best at giving hugs.*

*She helps me with my homework, she makes my dinner, lunch and my breakfast.*

*She gives me hugs and kisses.*

*When I am sick she looks after me.*

*She reads me books.*

*She always has surprise for me.*

*When I am sad she makes me laugh and my mum is very pretty. I love my mum.*

*She takes care of me and she is kind to me too.*

*She is nice to me.*



**Rosie & Laura with their fantastic Titanic ships.**

*She always helps me choose stories and we always end up with a good one.*

*She gives me warm hugs.*

*She is good at snuggles.*

*She is helpful and nice to me and she loves me and my sister.*

*She makes dinner for the family even my dad.*

*She is really nice to me and gives me lots of hugs and kisses.*

We arrived back, rested after the Christmas holidays...just as well as we had a jam-packed term! The first week back we attended the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS. Our favourite part was the Robot Wars. We saw lots of great exhibitors. P4's project was AMAZING! We felt it was definitely the best there. We did a lot of work on our Confirmation books and we will treasure our books for the rest of our lives! We learned lots of songs for our Ceremony Of Light like "Shine Jesus Shine" and "Christ be Our Light". We made fruits and gifts which are presented outside our classroom on the wall. We also made doves with our names and Confirmation names on them which represented our seats at our Confirmation Mass.

We all made FABULOUS master pieces for the school art exhibition! We wrote and illustrated our very own books for the Blackrock Education Centre Write A Book Competition. Ms.Walsh told us they took a LONG time to correct but it was all worth it. Sarah O' Dea won the merit award in our class and was invited to Killiney Castle for an award ceremony. It was our last year of swimming and to conclude our lessons the swimming teachers organised a swimming gala and Anna came in first place.

Then came the dreaded entrance exams. DUN-DUN-DUUUN!! Luckily they weren't as bad as we thought they would be and everyone got on well. We had an Energy Workshop about sustainable energy. Our class went on our Confirmation Retreat in St.Benildus Pastoral Centre. We were in three separate groups and we talked about what Confirmation means to us. We helped ourselves to tea and biscuits at lunch and break in the kitchen. We felt so grown up! To end our lovely day we gathered once again in the Oratory for a small ceremony. After all our preparation, the Ceremony Of Light came. We processed around the church with our Baptismal candles which represented our parents passing on of their faith to us.

There was love in the air on Valentine's Day, we all looked stunning in our onezies! During Engineers week a man from ESB came in and showed us a PowerPoint presentation about what kind of work he does. Next we had a well-deserved Mid-Term break. A student teacher named Ms.O' Donohue came to teach us. She taught us about Alexander the Great, Dream Catchers, Greece, Celtic Writing and lots more. We all very sad when she had to go and we miss her very much. Niesha and Hannah represented our class in the Dublin Finals of the Eason's Spelling Bee and did really well. The Hockey Team played many league matches and life was very busy indeed!

The big day finally came...Our Confirmation Day! It took place in Holy Cross Church and we shared the big day with Our Lady's Grove school. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin performed the ceremony. Now we are perfect Christians. We all had a lovely day!

The Gardaí came in and gave us an internet safety talk and reminded us of the dangers to look out for when online. We did our first PowerPoint Presentations and look forward to presenting some more next term!

St. Patricks Day came and we all made a special effort to speak a cúpla focail during Seachtain na Gaeilge. We enjoyed singing songs as gaeilge and loved the special concert in the hall. Next, we took to the roads of Dundrum and Churchtown on our Cycling Safety Course. Motorists were very patient with us indeed!



Our final activity of term two was the Easter Bonnet Parade. Ms. Walsh said it had to be one of the most creative ones ever and that we all looked fabulous. We are very sad as we write this as it means we have only one term left in the junior school! We know that it will be the best one ever!

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh...

Slán go foill

Ó rang a sé...

By Eva McCartney & Ruth Purcell



*Jeewon, Sarah & Ruth enjoying their cyclina course.*



*Rachael & Caoimhe with their dreamcatchers.*



*Anna our 2013/2014 Swimming Champ!*



*P5 & P6 working together to tidy up our community.*

# Montessori

*'Children are our greatest natural resource' – Herbert Hoover*

From the time we arrived back to school last January, the classroom has been a hive of activity. We began the New Year with a few lessons and activities relating to Birds and Winter Weather. After that we got busy painting our masterpieces for The School Art Exhibition, because our paintings had to be sent off for framing and mounting by the end of January.

Chinese New Year was next on the agenda and what a fun filled topic that turned out to be! The delights of the Asian culture were in abundance. As well as trying to eat using chopsticks (ably demonstrated by Jeewon P6), the girls sampled fortune cookies and learned how to say 'hello' (Nǐ-hǎo) in Chinese. We also talked about some Asian animals and the panda was undoubtedly their favourite. Art activities for this topic included Chinese lanterns and wonderful masquerade masks to mark the Year of the Horse.



*Celebrating the Year of the Horse.*



*Montessori's Safari Park Trip!*

Then it was time to welcome Spring and hear about St. Valentine's quest to keep the spirit of love and friendship alive, despite Emperor Claudius' best efforts to thwart him! The half-term break then ensued, which gave everyone a chance to recharge the batteries and launch back into the second half of term with renewed energy and vigour.

The latter part of the term included some work on animals in Africa, which was very well received. The girls thoroughly enjoyed piecing together their Safari Trip display, complete with a naughty monkey on the bonnet of the jeep!



Seachtain na Gaeilge and The Story of St. Patrick allowed for a small introduction to the continent of Europe and the girls performed a really sweet rendition of Teidí Beag Álainn and Rolaí Polaí for their class presentation to mark the event.

Additionally The Life Cycle of the Frog, The Seatbelt Sheriff lessons and The Easter Story were also topics that we covered in the second half of term.

The Mother's Day Teapots were probably the highlight of the term, as they were made with such love and dedication. However, the Easter Egg Hunt has yet to come, so I reckon that will also be well up there in terms of the preferred activities this term!

Overall a great term, with lots of progress, fun and enthusiasm. Well done girls!



*Spraoi Lá Fhéile Pádraig!*



*Aoife & Mia busy building words with the large moveable alphabet.*



*Matilda trying out her chopstick talents!*





*Waiting patiently for...*



**ICE-CREAM!!!!**



**Artists at work!!**

## K2

We have had a great term filled with lots of gummy girls and very busy tooth Fairies!

We enjoyed our trip to Holy Cross Church in Dundrum to find out the difference between crosses and crucifixes. We have to admit the trip on the Luas was even more fun. We went to visit the National Gallery and created some of our own masterpieces there. Miss Sisk hopes that one day we too might have our art hanging in the gallery and she will bring more children to visit.

We are very busy getting ready for Prep 1 and are nearly ready but there is just a little bit of tweeking to be done. We have also been working really hard on our play with Miss Sandra and might...if they are VERY lucky, invite our mums and dads to see it at assembly next term!



**Excitement on the Luas!**

# K1

## Baby Arrivals

Congratulations to Gemma and Emilie (P1) on the arrival of their baby brother Dillon, last November and to Alesha on the birth of her little sister Holly, in February. Lucky babies to have such wonderful big sisters!

## Bird Feeders

In January the K1 class had a fun, if messy, day making very tasty peanut and seed bird feeders. We hung them from the playground railings! Unfortunately, before the tweet got out about the K1 feast some naughty squirrels helped themselves! Many thanks to Alesha (and her mum) for the lovely tree cones.

## St. Valentine's Day

St. Valentine's Day was very exciting. We had made a valentine craft for our mums and dads with lots of pink and red hearts and, on the day, we went to school dressed up in pink and ... red! Extra exciting because we did not have to wear our smocks!



*Alannah, Meena & Molly dressed up in red for St. Valentine's Day.*



*The sneaky squirrels enjoying our bird feeders.*



*We discovered that they are very good gymnasts too!*



# Some dates for your diary. . .

## April

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - Back to school, 12.30 finish, aftercare available

## May

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> - First Holy Communion, Holy Cross Church Dundrum at 10.30a.m.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Bank Holiday, school closed

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - Navan Choral Festival

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - First Communion photos

May 13<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - P6 overnight school trip to Newgrange and

- P1 & p2 school trip to Fort Lucan

- P3 school trip to Causey Farm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> - K1 school trip to Leonard's Farm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Montessori school trip to Airfield Farm

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - P4, P5 & P6 End of Year show at 7.30p.m.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – K2 school trip to Newbridge Farm

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> - P6 Graduation at 1.30p.m.

## June

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - *Uniformity* uniform sale 9a.m. – 12.30p.m.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Summer Holidays, school finishes at 12.30p.m.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - Montessori Induction Day for new students, 11a.m. - 12p.m.

- K1 Induction Day, 10.45a.m. – 12.15p.m.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Summer camps start for all classes from pre Montessori to P6

(For further details contact Chantelle or information at end of newsletter.)

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Summer Holidays for Montessori / ECCE students



*And finally we came across this poem...  
...a thought on how to spend/prioritise your time over the Easter  
break...*

*I wish I could travel to **Later**,  
I know where to find it and how.  
It's somewhere between 'In a minute',  
'I'm busy', 'One day' and 'Not now'.*

***Later's** where everything happens,  
Where Dad takes me out on my bike.  
Where Mum reads the story she promised,  
And we bake the cakes that I like.*

*In **Later** you colour together,  
The board games come out of their box.  
In **Later** a trip to the playground,  
Comes first, before folding the socks.*

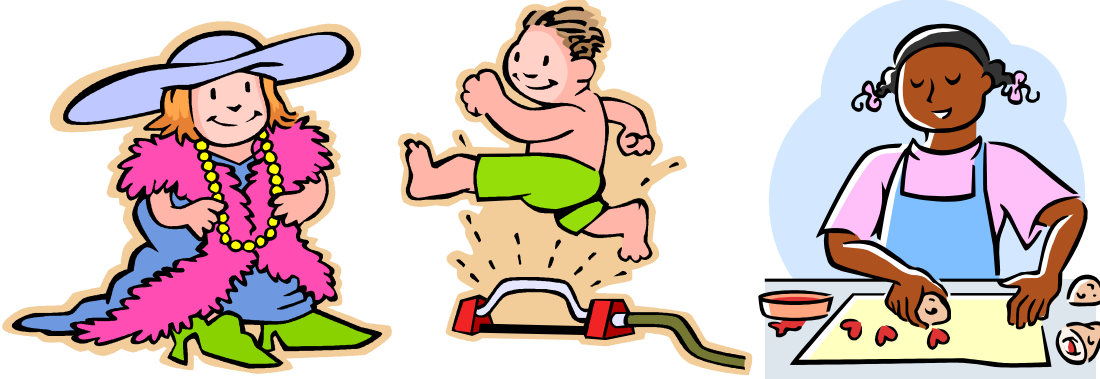
*The ironing stacks up in **Later**,  
As everyone's out on a walk.  
In **Later** whole families play football,  
Or just sit around for a talk.*

*There's so much to fit in to **Later**,  
I sometimes don't think we'll know how.  
I wish I could travel to **Later**,  
Or **Later** could travel to **Now!***

*Happy Easter  
from all the staff  
in Notre Dame  
Junior School*



# *Summer Scamps at Notre Dame*



Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Creativity, Outdoor Activities and plenty more will take place in  
Notre Dame Junior School in June 2014.

**The cost:** €125 per week. Family discount available.

**The dates:**

<b>Week 1</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Week 2</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Week 3</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June

**Age Groups:** From 3 ½ years to 8  
(Pre Montessori to Prep 2)

**Time:** 9.30am. To 2.00pm.

For application forms please contact :  
Gilda Sisk,  
Notre Dame Junior School,  
Upper Churchtown Road,  
Dublin 14 . 01 2989851





## Summer Scamps Booking Form

Name ..... Age.....

Address .....

.....

Contact numbers

Home.

Mobile.

Allergies .....

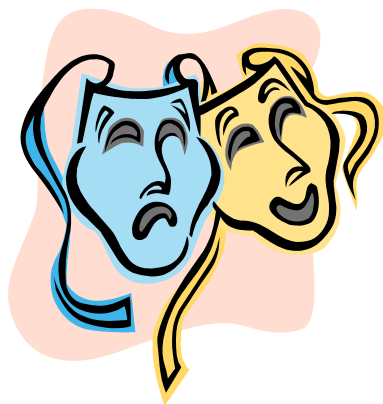
Deposit of € 50 paid not paid

Balance to be paid on first day of camp .....

Week[s] I wish to attend .....

Signed .....

# Churchtown Summer Activity Camp



Join, us for an action packed, fun filled activity camp with thrilling indoor activities including arts, crafts, jewellery making, cooking, tie-dying and drama. Exciting outdoor activities include basketball, unihoc, tip rugby, treasure hunts, rounders, dodgeball, mystery tours and lots, lots more.

When? Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Where? Notre Dame Junior School, Churchtown.

Who? Girls and boys aged 9 to 12 years.

What time? 9.30am to 2.00pm

How much? 1st Week: €90.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Week: €90.00

Two Weeks: €160.00  
(deposit €20.00)

So come on down and see some old friends and meet some new ones! Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Please complete the application form and return to Lisa Walsh, Notre Dame Junior School, Upper Churchtown Road, Dublin 14. **Cheques** made payable to 'Churchtown Summer Activity Camp'.

\*\*\* Discount available for family booking\*\*\*

# Churchtown Summer Activity Camp

## APPLICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick:

Week 1	Week 2	Wk 1 & 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Contact Numbers;*

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Balance to be paid on first day of camp.\*\*\*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_