

Notre Dame Junior School



Newsletter, Summer 2016

A message from Ms Sisk

It is so hard to believe that another school year has come to a close. This is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our school and its students and acknowledge our committed staff. It is a time to look back at our successes and begin making plans for the year ahead.

The girls have had a remarkable year. This would not have been possible without our committed and enthusiastic staff who work tirelessly to provide a quality, stimulating environment for the education of our students. "Thank you" is not enough for all they consistently give to the girls of Notre Dame Junior School.

Notre Dame is a very special place, where a sense of pride and community is evident in everything we do! Our students have pride in their school, themselves and their families. This shows in the classroom, on the playground, on the hockey pitch, on the stage and through all of our community service projects. Our progress and our desire for continuous school improvement is because of them. We continue to put our girls first!

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our families and volunteers for their dedication, time, energy, generosity and support of our efforts throughout the school year. We could not have done it without you. "Thank you" for partnering with us in the education of our girls.

So, to all of our students, teachers and parents, I would like to say "Well Done" for another amazing school year. My best wishes for a safe, restful and fun-filled summer holiday!

May I take this opportunity to wish our Prep 6 girls well as they embark on the next chapter. They are a very special bunch of girls and have contributed so much to Notre Dame Junior School over the years. We are also very sad to be losing Mrs Riordan this year and we wish her all the best in her future.

The Summer Term is always the most memorable for the girls. Class trips, graduations and shows create a real buzz in the air! So please take a look through this newsletter to experience some of this 'buzz' for yourselves!

Let's hope the sun starts shining over the next few weeks!

Le Gach Dea Ghuí...

Gilda

1916 Celebrations at Notre Dame

2016 is a year that our children will never forget. All classes played their part in celebrating the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The National Anthem could be heard coming from all classrooms, flags were made, Irish songs taught and many history lessons were enjoyed. The highlight, however took place on Wednesday January 27th. We all agree this was a most memorable day for us all in Notre Dame Junior School.

We were paid a very special visit from Lieutenant Áine Mc Donagh and Corporal Dermot O'Leary from The Irish Defence Forces. The purpose of their visit was to deliver our national flag to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. They were greeted by Niamh and Sophia, our head girl and deputy and treated to a very emotional rendition of the song 'Grace'.

100 years later in our school hall, Lt. Mc Donagh, Corporal O'Leary and Georgie from P6 read the proclamation. They spoke to us about the flag and protocol that surrounds it. They presented the flag to Anna and Jade, on behalf of the school.

Megan from P5 told a story about her great grandad and his part in the rising. The whole school, parents and our friends from the senior school stood and sang a rousing rendition of Amhrán na bhfiann. The Defence Forces agreed it was their best welcome yet and we all agreed it was a day we will never forget.

We raised our national flag, along with every school in the country on Proclamation Day, Wednesday 16th March. It was another special occasion, marked by the girls lovely singing. Classes then wrote their own 'proclamations' for a new, modern Ireland. The results were most impressive and who knows.....they may make the history books of the future!!!



K1

Baby Arrival:

Congratulations to Layla on the arrival of her baby sister, Pearl. Layla is a wonderful big sister. Best wishes to the Kelly family.

Fossils:

Kim's mummy, Andrea, treated the K1 class to a very interesting lesson on fossils. She brought in many examples and photographs. Many thanks Andrea.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Órna on receiving a special Merit award in the AIJS Art Competition. The title of her picture was 'My dream world of flowers'.

Sports Day:

Sports Day was a great success. Despite a wet start, the weather cleared and the K1 athletes took part in an obstacle race, a sack race and a running race. No problem! We all received a pretty rosette because we are all winners in K1.

Gardeners:

Sunflower seeds were planted by the gardeners of K1. With lots of care in planting, lots of watering and lots of waiting the plants are thriving and ready to be planted in our gardens. Maybe some will grow taller than the gardeners!

Convent Visit:

On Thursday 19th May the K1 class paid a visit to the Notre Dame Sisters in "the nuns' house". We saw their beautiful stained glass window and the lovely flower arrangements before sitting down in their sitting room (there was a large chair for everyone!). We entertained and were entertained! Many thanks Sisters for a very enjoyable outing.



Green Fingers!



Learning about fossils with Andrea.



Our Debating 'Juliet Cup' Winners 2016



Triple Birthday Celebrations!

P4

Prep 4 had an amazing time this year with Ms G. and Miss Breheny.

We are preparing for our end of year show with Miss Liz, Miss Sandra and Joe. There are lots of rehearsals and we hope it turns out well. Everyone had lots of fun designing their entries for the AIJS Art Competition and Ellie and Dani had their drawings entered. Congratulations to Ellie who won a special merit for her drawing.

There was a big Garden Fête on in the Senior School which the girls really enjoyed. The stalls included a petting zoo, a bouncy castle. There was a tea room, food and much more. P4 are finally finished their summer exams after two weeks of tests (YAY!). We hope we all did well! P4 are really looking forward to their end of year school trip to Fantasia on the 25th and seeing Ms. G go down the water slides. As you can see we have been very busy and the year has flown by.

By Dara, Emily, Rebecca, Ellie, Ali and Zoe.



AIJS Athletics Competition

The AIJS Athletics Competition was an event for 4th, 5th and 6th class, boys and girls, from Junior Schools in Dublin. Alex, Isabel, Jane and Emma represented our class in the competition.

On Wednesday 27th April, we left at 11am and got to Irishtown Stadium at a quarter to 12. The boys participated first and then the girls took part straight after. The races were 50m, 100m, 150m, 200m and the relay.

Jane came 4th in the 50m sprint, Isabel came 5th in the 100m run, Emma came 4th in the 150m run and Alex came 3rd in the 200m run and got a bronze medal.

The 5th and 6th class girls in Notre Dame did very well in their competitions as well. They also had a chance of doing the high jump, long jump and shot putt. Sophia in P6 came 3rd in her 50m sprint and won a bronze medal.

The organizers of the AIJS competition provided all the competitors with refreshments before the relay. After we recharged our batteries, it was time for the big relay. Our team achieved 4th place. It was Emma, Isabel and Jane's first time running against unknown competitors and they really enjoyed the opportunity to take part in such an event.

By Alex, Isabel, Emma, and Jane.



Montessori

'Everybody is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.' – Albert Einstein

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over and the Montessori Class of 2016 are ready to spread their wings and fly off to embrace and explore pastures new. They have been a super little group from start to finish, with good humour, enthusiasm and learning potential in abundance. In short, it has been a privilege to watch this wonderful group of young ladies unfold and develop, as we sang our way through the months of the year since January.

Upon arrival back to school after Christmas, activities predominantly revolved around the world we live in and the living creatures we share it with; the objective being to instil in the girls an appreciation for our natural environment and all that lives in it. With this in mind we had some great fun learning about The Solar System and The Continents of the World. In conjunction with this, we explored the five basic animal groups: Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, Fish and Mammals. We then spent some time looking at Insects and other types of invertebrates such as spiders and worms.

Concurrently and as dictated by the calendar we also celebrated St. Brigid's Day, the arrival of Spring, St. Valentine's Day and Proclamation Day (complete with marching soldiers!). Following on we enjoyed activities to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge, St Patrick's Day and Easter, with the all-important Easter Egg Hunt generating huge excitement.

As always one of the main highlights of the term was our school "Shopping Day" in aid of Children Helping Children, which raised much needed funds for some very deserving children's charities. The girls also enjoyed a terrific Sports Day, despite the weather and everyone was a winner for trying their best and fully participating in all of the races.

All in all a hugely successful year for every child in the class and it's not over yet! We are currently counting down the sleeps to our end of year class outing to Airfield Farm, which promises to be a great day.

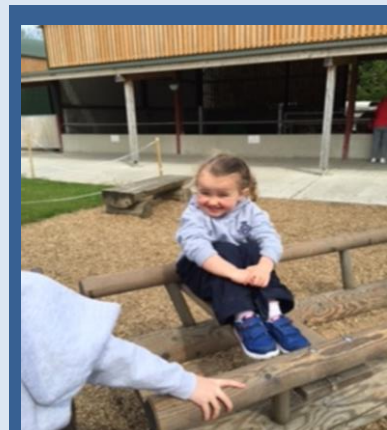
I would like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank you the parents, along with my superb teaching assistants, Ms. McAnaney and Mrs. Hogan for your support and partnership throughout the year. Furthermore, I wish you continued success and wisdom in your all-important parenting roles and suggest that when in doubt take comfort from the fact that:

"A child is like a butterfly in the wind. Some can fly higher than others, but each one flies the best it can. Why compare one against the other? Each one is different. Each one is special. Each one is beautiful."

Mrs Tina Riordan

Montessori

Montessori Fun on the Farm



P2

We can't believe our year in Prep 2 has come to an end, it has been a really busy and fun year.

We made our First Holy Communion on April 17th, it was a super day and lots of memories were made! We all felt very special and everybody told us we did our jobs superbly. Afterwards we went back to school to celebrate. The P1 mums had decorated the hall and made lots of yummy food.

A week later we got to wear our dresses into school for photos and the obligatory tour of the classes. We also walked down to visit the Sisters in the convent. They were delighted to see us and told us we looked beautiful. We sang a couple of songs and were very disappointed when it came time to leave...as their chairs are very comfy!



Regan, Louisa & Kate making themselves at home in the convent!



Fun in Fort Lucan



After all the hard work we put in preparing for our Communion, we earned a well-deserved trip to Fort Lucan. What a day it was; full of fun, giggles and lots of very wet children...and one wet teacher too!!

What a year we have had, we have learned lots; from science, to renaming, to joined writing, to grammar, to writing books, to knitting...to name but a few. We have been busy bees but we have had lots of fun along the way with Fun Fridays, drumming, pottery, trips and much more.

In May we were lucky enough to welcome a new girl to P2. Macarena joined us from Bolivia and the girls are making her feel right at home. Bienvenido Macarena!!

Have a fun filled summer everyone! x

Egg Drop Challenge 2016

There was much hilarity when Prep 2 held their annual 'Egg Drop Challenge' at the end of term. The girls were split into teams of two and were each given an egg to name, protect and save from potential doom from being thrown out of the staff room window!

The challenge was to think of, design and construct a capsule that would keep their egg safe from this 5.5 metre fall! The tricky bit was that they were only allowed to use a certain list and quantity of materials. They had to use their scientific, critical thinking to determine what would slow down their egg and protect the egg from the harsh impact of the 5.5m vertical drop.

The teams worked so well together, coming up with some very clever ideas and techniques. When it came to the 'drop' the teams went up to the staff room (ably assisted by Ms McAnaney & Ms Kiernan) and gently dropped their capsule out of the window, with some landing more smoothly than others. The test then was opening up the capsule to see if firstly, the egg was intact and if it was - going one step further and cracking the egg to ensure that the egg yolk survived too!

There was just one survivor out of our eight eggs...with *Tampoola, Bob, Fred, Coco, Neil Eggstrong* and *Eggy Perry* meeting a scrambled end! So the winners with the only egg to survive were *Macarena & Kate* and their egg *I Don't Know my Name...well done girls!*



Our Egg Drop Challenge Winners 2016...Macarena & Kate!!



Allie the proud potter!



Congratulations Tara...our Write A Book Winner 2016



Fort Lucan Fun!

My Year in P2 by Tara Lennon

My year in P2 was very fun,
There were lots of things to be done.

Like art, work and play,
We had so much fun every day.

But now it's June,
And we will be in P3 very soon.

P2 Poem by Laila Smith

In P2 it's lots of fun,
With Miss Mc Niffe and everyone.
We found a fairy door in the yard,
You have to give Miss Mc Niffe a card.

This year has gone so fast,
I don't want to leave this class.

Children Helping Children Day



P5

It's been all go in Prep 5 since Christmas! Getting organised for Children Helping Children has kept us very busy.

We also had the 1916 Rising commemoration to prepare for. We all learned the national anthem, the history behind our flag and the events that led to the Easter Rising. We got to visit the home of Padraig Pearse in St. Endas Park and learn all about the school he ran and also about the school he ran for boys.

For Seachtain Na Gaeilge, we did a play as gaeilge for the whole school, Bhí sé ar fheabhas!

In science, we learned all about the heart and Gerri Neary very kindly came in to tell us all about how the heart works and also to dissect the heart, it was amazing!

Our end of year school trip was to UCD where we did an activity camp. We did zorbing, an assault course, lacrosse, unihoc, human table football and lots more. It was a fantastic day and we all slept very well that night!

Children Helping Children

This year, Children Helping Children was great. We all set up mini companies such as *The Sugar Shop* who sold lots of sweet treats, *The A and K Balloon Factory* who sold balloons, *Princess Parlour* who sold lip balms and painted nails, *Blitz* who sold smoothies and fizzy drinks, *Cutie Cakes* who sold delicious cakes and cupcakes, *The Craft Corner* who sold homemade bows, *The Raffle* and the *Face Paint Station* who were able to paint loads of different types of animals on your face.

We were delighted with all the sponsorship we received from local businesses. It meant we were able to raise lots of money for our chosen charities. Our charities this year include: Debra Ireland, SIDS Ireland and the Comber Foundation.

We learned so much from doing Children Helping Children such as how to manage a business, talk to managers from different shops, to sort out money

We had our selling day on Friday 29th of April. There was a great atmosphere and lots of people came to support us and buy our produce.

In total we raised €3,136. We would like to thank all our family, friends, school and local businesses who supported us this year. Without their help it would not have been possible.

By Lottie Egan

K2

Trip to the Art Gallery

We went on the Luas to the National Art Gallery with all the girls in K2 and Mrs Hogan and Simone and Teddy visited us there. There was a wobbly bit on the Luas that was fun and silly. It was a long walk and when we got there we put our coats in a big box. Miss Sisk told us a story about a girl that jumped into pictures. You are not allowed jump into pictures in the Art Gallery and you are not allowed touch things but you can draw pictures. We walked around and picked our favourite picture and copied it. We coloured it when we went back to school. You have to be very quiet in the Art Gallery, nobody is noisy.

On the way home we got ice-cream we got any one we wanted. I (Mia) didn't like ice-cream so I got skittles and I ate them in the park. I (Evie) got an ice-cream that was gigantic and yummy but most of it fell on the ground I was crying but Miss Sisk said it was a present for the birds and I could only eat the cone. We went to the playground and it was really fun then we went back to school on the Luas.

By Mia M. and Evie



Artists in Residence!



On 8th April we put 10 eggs into our incubator. We had to wait for 28 days for something to happen. Every day we had to pretend to be a mother duck, this meant we turned the eggs in the morning and turned the eggs at night. One of the days Luky gave us a special torch that let us look through the shell. It was magic. We could see the ducklings growing, it was a bit yucky. At the beginning of May Miss Sisk brought in five ducklings, three hatched in her house and we saw two hatch in school. We called them Sunny, Patch, Poppy and Weak. Weak died on the first day but that's what happens sometimes in nature. Blacky and Patch were the last two to come. They were a bit gooey at the beginning but then they were very cute. Did you know duckling are very messy? They poop everywhere and make lots of noise. We all had a turn of bringing home the ducks and we loved it.

One day the ducks went for a swim in a baby bath in the yard and that was fun too. We gave the ducks back to Luky on the 20th of May. We had a good time with the ducks and we hope they turn into happy adult ducks in Luky's farm. Thank you Luky, we loved them!

By Aoife, Ellie, Evelyn and Grace



Our Feathered Friends!



P1

It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of another year. This year in P1 it has been very busy and lots of fun.

Three new girls have joined us this year and it has been great getting to know them.

We have spent time over the last few days reminiscing over the last year. Here are the girls favourite two memories from P1:

Alannah Smith;

My first favourite time in P1 was going to Fort Lucan. It was so fun. The climbing frames were lots of fun and I loved going on the water slides. I went down the blue water slide with Ms. Conboy, it was great. It was also very fun when the army came to school. They came to talk to us about Ireland and we sang the National Anthem.

Abbie Cosgrave;

One of my favourite things was Fort Lucan. It was so fun. There was a water slide. It was called the waterfall. It was really big. My Mum came and I went down the water slide with her. My 2nd favourite thing was when we went to the Natural History Museum. My favourite animal was the elephant. That was Ms. Conboy's favourite too.

Gracie Monaghan;

Yesterday we went to Fort Lucan. We had great fun. We went on water slides. We went on go carts and all different stuff. We had fun. Many weeks ago we went to the Natural History Museum and saw lots of animals. We had a nature trail. It was fun too.

Mia O Carroll;

Fort Lucan was great. There were go carts, ladders, poles, a big and small slide, crazy golf, climbing frames and water slides. My favourite was the water slides. Around Christmas time we got to bring in our Teddies. I brought in Olaf. We had loads of sweets and I had a dance with Olaf. After that I played with Olaf. He was my pet.

Olivia O Connor;

My favourite memory in P1 was a funny time when we were learning about Mona Lisa. It was funny because Chae Won fell asleep. My 2nd favourite was Fort Lucan. We went on the water slides and everybody said this is not fast ! But the truth is they were very fast. Everyone got scared except me! It was very fun.

Keely Dunney Folan;

In Fort Lucan there were loads of things. My favourite was the waterslides. I also loved when we had Thanksgiving in school. We got to do lots of fun things and to eat ice cream. It was yummy!

Molly Egan;

I really enjoyed going to Fort Lucan. We went on the water slides and we climbed bridges and towers. I also really loved the first day of school. I did a colouring sheet and it was a picture of a butterfly. I liked that day so much because we got to meet Olivia and Caoimhe.

Katie Crowe;

My favourite thing was at the beginning of the year when we did this big sheet. At the top of the sheet it said When I Grow Up. We had to fill in where we live and what I want to be when I grow up. I also loved when we went to Fort Lucan. I went on the water slides. The green one I went on was really scary. I played on the monkey bars. It was really fun.

Alannah Larkin;

My first favourite thing from P1 was Fort Lucan. There was a water slide. It was fun. My other favourite thing was when we did the fashion show in Irish.

Georgia Smith.

My first favourite thing was when we went to Fort Lucan and went on the water slides. My second favourite thing was doing science experiments in class. I loved especially the floating experiment we did with the orange.

Sua Chae;

The first thing that I liked was Fort Lucan because I liked the water slide. My second favourite was going to the Natural History Museum. It was so fun filling in the book.

Emily De Marco;

Yesterday we went to Fort Lucan. At first we went on the bus. When we got there I went on 2 slides and then I went on the go carts. After I did mini golf. When the water slides opened I went on the blue slide and red one and green one 6 times! We had lots of fun !!! One day we learned about the Mona Lisa. We drew her and had to use crayons. We had a blast!

Chae Won Hwang;

My favourite day in P1 was Sports Day. It was so much fun. My 2nd favourite was Children Helping Children. I liked it because we had nice things to eat and played games. I got my nails painted. It was a great day.

Daisy Mc Hugh;

My favourite thing in P1 was going to Fort Lucan. There was a water slide and trampolines. It was fun. My 2nd favourite was going to the Natural History Museum. We had a booklet and saw lots of animals. It was fun too.

Jessica Lee;

My favourite thing in P1 was going to Fort Lucan. It was great fun. I went on all the water slides. I went on the zip line. I got drenched on the green slide. When I got home I was very tired. I also loved doing our Christmas concert this year. At the beginning I was very nervous. At the end of the concert I was very happy.

Aisling Doyle;

My favourite time in P1 was raising the flag. We raised the flag in March to celebrate 1916. 6th class read the proclamation. We sang the Irish National anthem. My second favourite was Sports Day. We were put into groups and we did lots of races. We did a welly toss. We did a big running race too.

Zara Clare;

My favourite thing we did in P1 was go to Fort Lucan. I loved going on the slides and go carts and trampolines. My favourite was going on the water slide. I went loads of times with Keely. We had so much fun.

My next favourite thing was when Aishling's grandad came in to teach us about Canada. He told us a lot about animals in Canada and gave us a Canadian dollar each. It was very interesting.

Caoimhe Green;

My two favourite times in Prep 1 were going to the pantomime and going to Fort Lucan. I loved going on the Luas to see Little Red Hood. I loved the wolf even though he was a bit scary. Joe was Granny Mc Gregor and he was so funny. Fort Lucan was lots of fun. I loved going down the water slide best.

Katie Dunne

My favourite memory of Prep 1 is going to Fort Lucan. We played there and we went on the water slides. My other favourite time in Prep 1 was every Friday because we always had lots of fun in the afternoons.

Alesha Carr;

My favourite time in Prep 1 was my birthday. I got an ice cream cake with smarties on it from Ms. Conboy. It was yummy. My second favourite time was Halloween. We all came to school dressed up. I dressed up as a witch. We had lots of fun.

Kate Pombeiro;

My first favourite time in P1 was Sports Day because I loved skipping and running. My second favourite was going to Fort Lucan. I loved going on the waterslides and the go carts. I loved the ziplines too. Everything was so much fun in Fort Lucan.



'Dead Zoo' Explorers!



Finding Canada with Aishling's Grandad





Fort Lucan Fun...for students...
and Mums!!



PE SNIPPETS

AS Summer approaches we never fail to be amazed at how much all the girls have grown over the year in strength, confidence & skill. From Montessori Class upwards physical literacy skills develop slowly but surely. The aim at Primary level is to develop a good basic set of physical skills & co-ordination in a fun, happy & fair environment. We in Notre Dame are totally committed to encouraging healthy, active lifestyles both in school & at home.

After Christmas P6 narrowly lost to St Brigid's Cabinteely in a fantastic hard fought semi final in the Leinster Hockey League. While we were all disappointed, it was a great achievement & very good experience for the girls to be playing up in such a high league. Big thanks to all you parents, for your unwavering support throughout the season. *Euphrasians Hockey Club* has had a very positive impact on our school hockey. Many of our parents & past pupils are totally committed to the running & supporting of this Club, involving a huge amount of time every Sunday. Thank you, & may your club continue to go from strength to strength in the future.

P6 won the 2016 Gold Star Hockey award, which is awarded to the best organised class throughout the Hockey season, for the 2nd year in a row. Amazing, well done all!

In February, the race for our Perpetual Swimming Trophy was hotly contested as always by P6. Our 2016 champion is Cristina Kennedy Rodriguez. Runners up were Rachael Neary & Marina Conde. Huge congratulations to you all.

BLEEP fitness tests in March caused great excitement, with good results for each class. Brilliant best personal scores of 73 runs were recorded in P5 by Megan Humphries & Anna Leonard. P6 had the best class average of 50 runs, pipping P5, who had 46. P4 scored an average of 35, closely followed by P3 who had 33 runs. Congratulations everyone, especially P3, who showed great determination.

Away we went on a chilly April day to Irishtown Stadium for the AIJS Athletics with a team from P4, P5 & P6. Once again, valuable experience was gained, congratulations to Sophia Leonard P6 & Alex Hayden P4 on winning medals.



After a shaky weather start our new look Sports Day eventually took off. Surrounded by the lovely smells wafting from the barbeque, everyone seemed to enjoy all the activities.



ALL were well impressed with the VERY competitive running. Our talented fastest sprint runners this year are: P6 Sophia Leonard, P5 Meghan Hogan, P4 Alex Hayden, P3 Thea Farrelly, P2 Claudia Manning & P1 Alannah Larkin. Longer distance 200m winners were: P6 Orna Grimes Dooley & P5 Jamie Doyle. Sports Day could not have been a success without the help of fab class teachers, parents, Ms Jordan, & 6th years Jeseta Kelly, Sophie Quinn, Harriet Meagan & Ellen Bradley from our Senior School, who were really fantastic. A big thank you to everyone who gave so freely & generously of their time on the day.

Orna Grimes Dooley has been a wonderful Sports Captain throughout the year, thank you Orna! Our Sportsperson of the Year 2016 is Georgie Fottrell & Special Merit Sports Award 2016 has been awarded to Niamh Guiney. Very well done to you both! P6 Class of 2016, is bursting with sporting talent, potential & commitment, which we expect they will all carry forward through their Secondary School days & on eventually into adult life. Every best wish for the future, girls, we will look out for some of you representing Leinster & Ireland in your chosen sports!

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy & active Summer holiday, enjoy!!

Ms Mercer

ELECTRICITY:

This year in Prep 3 was a very fun year and we have learned so much. One of our favourite things was electricity. We learned that there are different types of energy and all can be powered by electricity. They are: heat, light, sound and movement. We learned an electric circuit is made up of components. These include: a battery, wires, bulb, switch, motor and buzzer. We also learned that a battery is also known as a cell.

We lit a bulb with one wire, then with two. We were so good we managed to light all our bulbs together at the same time. This took a little time and planning before we got it right. We also learned that when all the chemicals are used up in the battery it goes flat. Time for a new one! Batteries come in all different shapes and sizes too. We discovered all about conductors and insulators and we used some really weird items to act as a switch. We all really enjoyed learning about electricity and had so much fun in our discoveries.

By Emily and Katie Tubritt



THE VIKINGS:

In Prep 3 we all enjoyed learning about the Vikings. We really liked learning about their Gods. They believed in many. Thor was a quick tempered but good hearted God. He carried a hammer. Loki liked to play tricks. He was half God and half Fire-spirit. Thursday is named after Thor. Friday is named after Freya. When Viking warriors died on the battle field they went to a place called Valhalla. Their body would be put on a ship and it would be set on fire. The Vikings believed it would release their spirit quicker. Some were buried in a grave in the shape of a ship which was outlined by stones.

Viking ships were called long-ships and could hold up to 100 men. They travelled a lot and were great at farming, sailing and making boats. They were great traders and they would trade jewellery, food and slaves. They would also trade animals. The Vikings liked to raid places like round towers where they would take all the valuables for themselves. They lived in longhouses which usually contained only the one room with a fire in the middle. The smoke went up through a small hole in the roof.

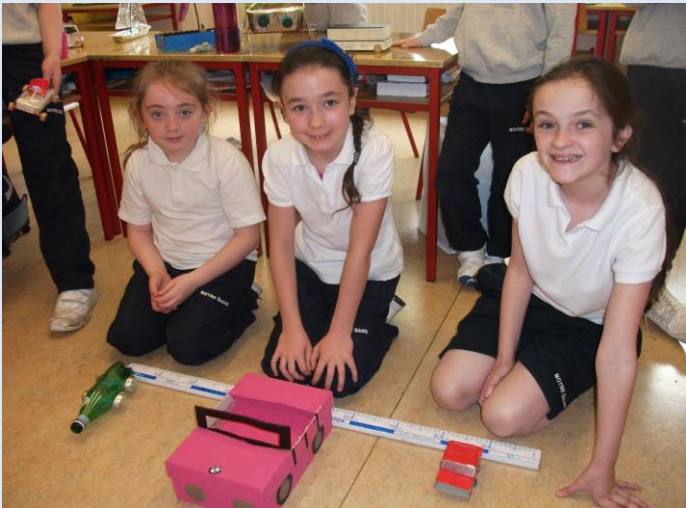
By Amelia, Ava, Rosie and Sophie

BOATS & CARS:

Last week in Prep 3 we were all given a similar size piece of tinfoil. We were told to use to make a boat. When the boats were made we put them in water and filled them with as many marbles as we could before they sank. We counted the marbles and the girl that made the boat that held the most marbles was declared the winner for making the strongest boat. Ruby won the competition with an amazing score of 72 marbles.

Following on from this exercise we made boats and cars. We had to make the cars wheels turn and the boats had to float. There were lots of amazing boats and cars to be seen. We held races to see which car would go the furthest. Mimi won. Katie De Marco's car was the biggest and Thea's was the smallest. It was really fun making the boats and cars. Lots of people had a pig theme for their boat or car because we all know Ms. Kiernan is obsessed with pigs!

By Kate and Mimi



O.W.L.S:

During the year we've been learning about biodiversity. Once a month lady called Clare has been coming in to teach us all about it. She is from 'OWLS' which stands for Outdoor Wildlife Learning Survival. Prep 4 have joined us as we learned some very interesting facts on animals and plants. We also take our learning outside the classroom with bird spotting and animal games.

On one occasion Clare brought in some croaky friends for us to meet.... tadpoles! Did you know that if small tadpoles touch bigger tadpole's droppings they stay small forever and get eaten! Glad we're not tadpoles!

In November, we acted like squirrels and hid our nuts (well, rocks!). In April we went back to find them. Most of us died of starvation! It was great fun and we had so much fun.

By Katie De Marco, Ruby and Theodora



Enjoying our O.W.L.S Workshop...



Enjoying our ice creams!

Congratulations Ava!

My name is Ava Clare and I am a pupil in third class. This year I was chosen to represent Ireland in Scotland at the Scottish Karate Championships. I was the youngest member on the Irish Squad. I was very lucky to be picked to go to Scotland.

I won my first international medal for Ireland. I also got to carry the Irish flag in the opening ceremony. This was a very proud moment for me. Overall, I received two competitor medals and a silver medal for my Kata.



Slán le Rang a Sé

Jessie is ainm dom. Tá mé beagnach críochnaithe i Scoil Notre Dame. Beidh mé dúl go dtí Meanscoil Notre Dame an bhliain seo chugainn.

Ar scoil bím i mo shuí in aice le Sophia agus Claire. Tá a lán chairde agam. Beidh mo chairde ag dúl go dtí scoil Notre Dame freisin. Is é an rud is fearr liom ar scoil ná bearla.

Ar an Luan déanaim corpoideachas ar scoil. Chuaigh an rang go dtí Newgrange an tseachtain seo chaite ar feadh oíche amhain. Bhí an spoirt againn! Sa bhaile bím ag sugradh ar an ríomhaire. Déanaim haca sa scoil dhá uair sa seachtain is maith liom féachaint ar 'Dance Mom's' ar an teilifís. Seo na trí rudaí is fearr liom faoi Rang a Sé:

Mo Chairde.....Turas Scoile.....Mo Rang

Debating Club

If you hear the sound of animated arguments and passionate pleas coming from The Music Room, it must be a Friday or Wednesday lunchtime.

The Notre Dame Debating Club has gone from strength to strength in the last number of years and is open to all students from Prep 4, 5 and 6.

Each week the teams persuade, cross examine and debate topics such as the use of social media, the merits of homework, the role of the Irish language and the effects of climate change. The girls gain so much from this wonderful hobby, enriching their cognitive and language abilities whilst encouraging confidence.

We have been running a league throughout the year and we are currently at the quarter final stages of the much sought after 'Juliet Debating Cup' Competition.

The people in high office in Kildare Street better keep an eye out for our potential politicians of the future.....



P6

What a year it has been! It's hard to believe our days in the Junior school are almost over! The year has gone by so fast... and it has been the best one ever!!

We had waited to be the oldest girls in the school for so long and finally we were. The year began at the end of August. Miss Walsh was to be our teacher and we welcomed new girl Marina.

We presented the school assembly for Grandparent's Day and sang 'When I'm 64'. We invited many of them to our classroom for a cup of tea. We dressed up for Halloween, attended a hockey blitz and took part in Science Week. We began weekly Spanish classes with Senora Rodriguez and we can speak it very well now.



December came and it was all things Christmas. We collected shoe boxes full of goodies and Jade, Jessie and Claire delivered them to Tallaght with Miss Walsh. We went carol singing in Dundrum Town Centre and the old shopping centre. We raised money for St. Michael's House in Leopardstown.

We took part in our very last Christmas concert together in the junior school and as we broke up for Christmas, we were at the top of our hockey league.



In January, it was all things Confirmation and we took part in our first retreat in St. Benildus Pastoral Centre. We had a great day and bonded very well together as a group. We practised Mindfulness and Meditation with Clare Leonard and enjoyed our 'Service of Light'.

We took part in the 'You shall be my Witness' Programme on Wednesday evenings with all the boys and girls from the parish who were making their Confirmation also. We christened this activity 'Church Club' and had a super time meeting new people.



This year was a very special one as Ireland was celebrating the centenary of 1916. Oglagh na hÉireann delivered a National flag to our school. We were so proud of our class who welcomed them and Georgie read part of the proclamation. Jade and Anna from Montessori accepted the flag on behalf of Notre Dame.

The big day arrived on March 4th and would you believe it?..... We woke up to snow. We didn't let it dampen our spirits however and by the time the ceremony finished, the rain had disappeared.

We took part in Seachtain na Gaeilge and the 1916 celebrations continued. We made Easter bonnets and had a parade in the school hall.



We reached the semi finals in our hockey league and sadly we were defeated 2-1 by St. Brigid's on the day. Some girls attended the AIJS Athletics Competition and others represented Notre Dame in the Debating Competition. The choir sang at the Navan Choral Festival and the First Holy Communion.

May was probably the most hectic month we have ever had in Notre Dame. It began with end of year tests and Sports Day. We took part in the 'Mini Muckers' event in Punchestown and attended the Garden Fete. We helped at Children Helping Children, the highlight of which was throwing plates of cream at Miss Walsh. We rehearsed with great vigour for our end of year show and attended a workshop at the Irish Aid Centre.



May 19th saw the highlight of all our years in Notre Dame..... Our overnight trip to Newgrange Lodge. We had been waiting for 8 or 9 years for this day. We did paintball, grass-sledding, target shooting and spent a fabulous afternoon kayaking on the River Boyne. We had a karaoke evening and played lots of pranks on Miss Walsh and Miss Sisk. The night passed with lots of sweets and chatter in our room and we got no sleep. (Neither did our teachers). We visited Newgrange Tomb the following morning and ended our trip with a scrumptious barbecue. Needless to say, the bus journey home was a lot quieter than the previous day!!



We are now preparing for our Graduation. We are very sad to be leaving the security of the junior school. It has been a blast. We have one piece of advice for you all....'just enjoy it, it goes way too fast!!!'



Goodbye from Niamh & Sophia

We couldn't believe it when Miss Sisk called out our names at assembly to be the Head Girl and Deputy. We were so excited and went straight out to the office to call our parents. We had always looked up to the head girls when we were in the junior classes and now here we were....

We had a particularly special job this year as it was the centenary of the 1916 Rising. We had the honour of welcoming Oglagh na hEireann to the school and participating in the flag raising ceremony. We read the news at assembly each week and showed visitors around the school.

The highlight as yet to come...we have the tough job of speaking at the Graduation Ceremony. That will be the toughest job of all...trying to hold back the tears. We are so sad to be leaving the junior school...even though we will only be up the stairs in the senior school in a few months.



*Wishing you all a
safe, fun-filled
summer!*



*School re-opens
Wednesday,
August 31st*