



Le Cheile Times



Spring 2016

Message from Fiona

Recently a staff member suggested to me that I should adopt a ticket system. It was in the morning when the school lobby area resembled Heuston Station. There were teachers and SNAs, secretaries, parents and children coming and going in all directions with different objectives, all needing to refer to me! People organising Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish week), World Book Day, Erasmus+ events, Peace Proms, wanting to talk about the new website, the proposed dance performance, Proclamation Day, St. Patrick's Day, Lá Glas (Green Day), Little Music Makers, Gaelic, the Book Fair, deadlines for application for Special Needs Resources. The list goes on, but you get the picture! It has been an extraordinarily busy term!



It is important to add the children are having a ball! There is a fantastic buzz about the school and the displays reflecting the work done in classrooms are works of art. Children and teachers alike have thrown themselves headlong into the various projects and events. *Agus tá siad go leir ag déanamh iarracht cúpla focail a labhairt!* (They are all making an effort to speak a few words of Irish) In this historic year everybody has been learning about the events of 1916 at an age appropriate level. We have framed our proclamation and the copy of *Ámhrán na bhFiann* given to us earlier in the year by the State. It will be permanently on display in the school hall along with the flag.

We have had student teachers from St. Patrick's College in our midst this term. As always, children and teachers enjoyed having them around. Their youth and enthusiasm are infectious. They are the first fourth year students to qualify, the undergraduate course having been extended from





three to four years just this year. An unforeseen problem caused by this was the enormous lack of substitute teachers available in the system. Principals all over the country found it very difficult to find teachers when inevitably, staff members fell ill or went on maternity leave. The up-side of this is that the new graduates should have no difficulty finding work next year!

'The raising of the flag on proclamation day'

The Easter break will be very welcome to all after such busyness. The teachers, in particular, will be very glad to put their feet up and deserve much praise and thanks for all that they have undertaken. There hasn't been a dull moment. Much thanks also goes to the Fundraising Committee and also to the PTA for their help and

support. They work away in the background making many things such as the After School Activities and the Book Fair possible. The Fundraisers have been busy also imagining their next event, Crazy Golf for the children on May 27th. It promises to be a lot of fun!

Thanks is also due to our newly formed Board of Management, who are finding their feet and getting on with the job of running the school, which is no easy task. A special thanks to Paul Corry, our Chairperson, who has spent much time having repairs and upgrades done around the building and masterminded the new garden area to the front of the school. I think you will agree that that area looks so much better now.

We are having a particularly long break this year because of the way St. Patrick's Day and Easter fall. I hope you manage to have some time around those events to enjoy with your children. There is nothing they like better! Just one last thing. I would like to thank you, the parents, for giving us all at the school such wonderful support and for the privilege to teach and guide your amazing children. As I tell them, they ARE the best children in Ireland!

Have a nice Spring break everybody. Enjoy the festivities, there are many very interesting things planned, particularly around the 1916 commemoration. Personally, my gallop has been halted somewhat; I fell and fractured my ankle the other night and have surgery to look forward to on the 16th! But I suppose, in the scheme of things, it could be a lot worse! See you all back in school on Monday 4th April... I hope! **Fiona**



Little Music Makers



All the boys and girls in Junior and Senior Infants have just finished their second term of Little Music Makers. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the lovely activities Maria had planned for them. They sang some new songs, took part in action songs, used puppets, played a variety of percussion instruments and played in their very own orchestra. Some children even had the chance to be the conductor and wave the baton! The children have been learning all about the flute and the recorder. Maria introduced the instruments through story and played some wonderful pieces of music for the children. Senior Infants have even begun to read musical notes. During their very last session the boys and girls had a wonderful time listening to music from The Carnival of the Animals. The children had great fun pretending to be fish, moving appropriately to the music and bursting lots and lots of bubbles. We are already looking forward to the third term of Little Music Makers.

Claire

The Catholic Association



Catholic Association

The second term of Catholic Education classes is nearly complete and we wanted to take this time to thank everyone that has helped to make it a huge success to date.

We'd like to especially acknowledge the Supervisors, Class Reps, Religion Teachers, Parent(s) / Guardian(s), Children, Priests and local parishes and of course Le Chéile School – including the PTA, Fiona, Geraldine and Ciara and the B.O.M., without the participation and cooperation of everyone we would not have been able to manage the CA classes as well as they have been to date. Keep up the good work for the remaining Term 3.

Big Congratulations to our 2nd class students who had their First Confession on 14th of March! We will be reaching out to all parents, particularly those from 1st and 5th classes, for help and food donations during the Communion and Confirmation receptions on the 21st and 28th of May respectively.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Restful Easter from The Catholic Association - Karen, Trudy, Ailbhe, John, Sylvia, Colette, Maria, Martina and Jenny



www.lecheileetns.com



Junior Infant art display



Senior Infant crocks of gold

World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
3 MARCH 2016

Le Chéile celebrated **world book day on Thursday the 3rd of March**. Some of the pupils dressed up as their favourite character and Sherlock Holmes, Pippi Longstocking, Effie Trinket as well as many other well-known characters roamed the halls. The pupils of 6th class were invited to Drogheda Grammar school to meet the well-known kids author Shane Hegarty. Shane is the author of the Darkmouth series, a monster hunting adventure series for eight to twelve year old children. Pupils were thoroughly engaged as Shane imparted lots of advice and tips for up and coming writers. They were given the opportunity to ask Shane questions and afterwards many of the pupils got their own book signed by the witty and wonderful author.

Fiona and Heather (6th class)

New look website!

The new look school website is now up and running at www.lecheileetns.com. Keep an eye on it for school news, events and photographs. A big thank you to Ty Canon for putting it together, I think you will all agree that it looks great!



www.lecheileetns.com

Sporting events in Le Cheile

A variety of sporting events have taken place in Le Chéile during this term. The children in 4th class received **swimming instruction** in the Aura swimming pool. 3rd Classes will begin their swimming sessions after the break, on April 12th, giving the boys and girls plenty of time to find their goggles over the Easter holidays!

5th and 6th classes have been receiving **Gaelic training** from Louth GAA. The boys and girls from 1st and 2nd class have completed their **GAA coaching** with St. Colmcilles. Both 3rd classes completed the final match in the 3rd class non competitive blitz earlier in the year. 4th classes are due to take part in their school blitz with other local schools after Easter. We look forward to this.

The **Le Chéile football team** are taking part in the **Corn Cois Farraiige league**. The team are made up of boys and girls from 5th and 6th classes. The team is training very hard every week and are being put through their paces by their new coach, Brendan. So far, the team have played two games and are doing our school proud. All their hard work and new found skills learnt in training will pay off in round 3 of the league after Easter. Thanks to Brendan for giving up his time and sharing his skills in Gaelic with our team.

Clodagh

Erasmus+

Earlier in the year, 6th Class announced that Le Chéile would be involved in a very exciting project along with seven other schools from across Europe. We are **learning about Myths and Legends around Europe**. The project is called '**Magic and Myths Unite Europe**'. The following countries are taking part: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Spain, Italy, Finland and of course Ireland. Earlier this year some teachers went to visit a school in Turkey with the teachers from the other countries. They learned lots about the **Turkish education system** and really enjoyed themselves.

*For the **second part of the project every class learned about a myth or legend**. A storyteller called Niall De Burca came in and told us lots of famous stories. He was very funny. Then we watched a movie about a famous Irish myth.*



Last month **Heather, Sorcha, Aidan and Fiona Rock** went to **Finland**. They met the teachers again, **discussed their project** and saw how **teaching and learning occurs in Finland**. They met the class who are paired as pen pals with Heather's 6th Class and held a movie night where Maureen's class's great production of 'The Children of Lir' was enjoyed by all the teachers, students and pupils. They also went ice swimming and visited some historical landmarks.



Some children from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes went to visit mythical sites. They followed in the footsteps of our great hero CúChulainn visiting the stone where he died and the statue of CúChulainn and Ferdia where they fought a great battle. They learned lots and had great fun.

Make sure to **visit the sights of famous Irish myths** as we are **holding an exhibition on the 8th of April**. If you would like to take part please write a short piece about your trip on an A4/A3 sheet of paper, add a few photos and maybe a brochure.

In April some teachers will be heading to Spain to display the great project work done by the children who went on the CúChulainn trip. The work from all the countries will be put together to make a 'Europe is a land of Legends' guidebook. This will be uploaded to the project website. If you would like to find out more about this project funded by Léargas and the E.U please visit our website www.magicandmythsuniteeurope.weebly.com

Written by Laragh Phillips & Eve O' Sullivan Heather's 6th Class.



Following in the Footsteps of CúChulainn

On Thursday the 3rd of March some teachers and students from the Senior classes went on a trip as part of our Erasmus+ project. We went to Knockbridge in Mid-Louth to see the stone which marks where CúChulainn died. It was three metres high and surrounded by beautiful countryside. According to the legend Queen Meadhbh's army, after capturing the Brown Bull of Cooley, wanted to kill CúChulainn. They threw three spears up into the air. One of the spears hit CúChúlainn and he knew he was dying. But because he wanted to go down fighting and not lying down, he tied himself to this stone and remained there until he died. No-one knew he was dead until Morrigan (the Goddess of Death in the form of a raven) landed on his shoulder.

After this we went back to the bus and had lunch and played some football in the park before hitting the road again. We **went to see the Statue of CúChulainn and Ferdia** and where they had their battle in Ardee. We placed **paper on the Celtic designs** and coloured over it to get imprints and rubbings. We also **sketched the stone and the statue** and **took lots of photographs**. After that we went back to school. It was a great trip and we learned a lot. We are doing projects about our trip at the moment and these will be taken to Spain for an exhibition.

By Tara Savage & Morgan O'Reilly Ryan (Heather's 6th Class)



The Book Fair



Our School Book Fair was held on Thursday, 3rd March to Saturday, 5th March, 2016. We had over 200 titles displayed in the Book Cases for our children to look and choose from. Also, what better way for our children to use their World Book Tokens but at the School Book Fair? Not only could the children purchase books but there was a selection of stationery and posters to choose from, and of course the pointers which were popular. It was great fun and very rewarding to see all the children explore the new adventure the books had to offer at the School Book Fair. We would like to thank the parents, children, teachers and volunteers for making the School Book Fair a wonderful success. Altogether, we have raised over €2,500 worth of books for our school for all of our children to enjoy for many years to come.

The Book Fair Team

A big thank to Sharon and Louise for organizing the fair and to all the volunteers that helped.



Some of the Volunteers hard at work and the children choosing their books.





Senior infant art inspired by Kandinsky



1st class art inspired by Irish myths

Special Education Matters

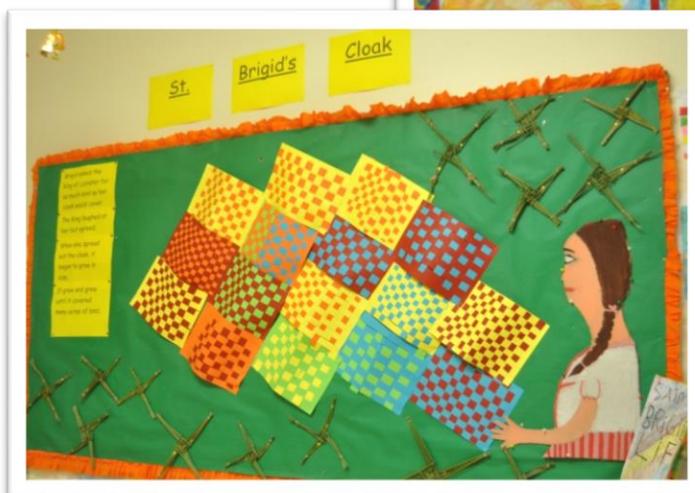
As we began our second term at Le Chéile we took the opportunity to review our support of the groups and individual children we work with. We also made some changes, deciding to discontinue support for some students and offer some to others where the need arose. This is the model of support we use, always monitoring and working together with class teachers and parents/guardians to ensure the best and most appropriate assistance to our students in the key areas of Literacy and Numeracy. Parent-Teacher meetings took place then in mid-February. These always provide an excellent opportunity for feedback for all. These meetings really help to inform our planning and give us good insight in to how your children are managing their learning. We hope that you would have a similar experience and find them as valuable as we do. Also in the month of February we made application to the Department of Education and Skills for Resource Teaching Hours and SNA (Special Needs Assistant) support for a number of students. This is an annual process, involving submission of reports and documentation to support application for additional teaching support for these pupils. Based on this, in May and June respectively, the Department inform us what Resource teaching hours we have for the forthcoming school year and what SNA provision we have access to.

Learning Support Team



After the success of our Christmas projects, the fund raising committee are planning a Crazy Golf-A-Thon for the children on Friday 27th May. This will be our annual sponsor card event which will take place in the school and will no doubt be great fun. More details will follow. As three of our committee member's children are graduating this year we would be delighted to welcome new parents join the fund raising team. If you are interested in finding out more information about what we do or if you would like to join us, we would love to hear from you on lecheilefundraising16@gmail.com

Spring themed art



Le Chéile Chess Club

The **Drogheda Schools' Chess League** is well underway at this stage of the year with a home match against St. Joseph's NS and an away match against Termonfeckin NS played so far. The league will continue after the Easter break until all the matches are played by the schools involved. We will then await the league results. Fingers crossed. Presentation of awards night will take place, as usual, in the Boyne Valley Hotel before the end of April or early May. We will keep you posted.

Monica

Greenschools Committee

Last term the **newly elected Greenschools Committee** came up with a plan to improve the vegetable beds at the side of the school. The first job was to dig out the weeds and do a tidy up around the area. This is done and next was to put two undercoats of paint on the wood. Only recently has the weather been kind enough to permit Ken to do this preparatory job. The beds are nearly all finished and then the committee will be ready to paint the wood in bright colours. Classes have been allocated their vegetables and planting will begin after the Easter break. Signs have been prepared by the committee and have been put in all the beds to show what class owns the particular bed and what is growing in the bed. The committee also has plans for each class to undertake an art project whereby each class paints a picture on wood and these will be hung on the railing behind each bed to brighten up the whole area. Drop down and have a look at what is going on!

Monica

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place between the 1 Márta go 17 Márta 2016. Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Week) is being actively celebrated in Le Chéile and nationwide. We are encouraging the school community to use as much of Gaeilge, the Irish language, as possible. Teachers will be integrating Gaeilge during fun games in PE, and are distributing spot prizes on the yard when children are overheard making efforts to use Gaeilge. Senior classes are participating in biongó (bingo), trath na gceist (table quizzes) and other activities as Gaeilge. Each class in the school will perform an item as Gaeilge, such as a poem or song, for the other classes. Letters have been sent



home with frásaíúsáideacha (useful phrases). Perhaps children can teach their parents a few phrases as Gaeilge. Parents can also support the Seachtain na Gaeilge activities at home by watching children's programs as Gaeilge on TG4, playing/listening to Irish music online, on the radio or performed live, and encouraging participation in Irish dancing and G.A.A. sports. Seachtain na Gaeilge at school will culminate with Proclamation Day activities on Tuesday 15th of March and don't forget to dress children in green clothing, and/or St.Patrick's Day items for Lá Glas on Wednesday 16th March. Further information about Seachtain na Gaeilge can be found on www.snag.ie. Bain triail



'Prize giving during the Seachtain na Gaeilge performances'





Some of the great performances during Seachtain na Gaeilge



PTA News

The PTA would like to thank everyone for all their support again this term. We are currently looking for more volunteers to help with school public relations initiatives. If anyone is interested please can they contact the PTA at lecheileptasec@gmail.com. The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th April at 8pm. All parents welcome and encouraged to attend.

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter break.

Fiona



www.lecheileetns.com

Dancing at Le Cheile

Over the past few weeks first, second and third classes have been doing dance classes with Jacinta Cassidy. Every Wednesday we have seen a huge improvement in our classes, they are having a great time and we have some very talented dancers. Each class has been given a different career to base their dance around and it looks fantastic.

First Class:	Arianna – The Navy Eva – The Airline
Second Class:	Rachel – The Bankers Nicola D – The Astronauts
Third Class:	Kim – Sports Careers Monica – The Celebrities.

The children will be **performing for their parents on Tuesday 15th of March** and for the whole school afterwards. We are really looking forward to seeing the finish production. A DVD of the show will be available for parents unable to attend. It will cost 5 euro. Thanks to Jacinta and Niamh for all their hard work and for making it such an enjoyable experience for the children. **Arianna**

Since Arianna kindly wrote the above article, the show has taken place and was a wonderful success. There was a great attendance and the children beamed with excitement and enthusiasm. It was a wonderful experience and so entertaining for all.



The Navy to attention!



The Airline in full flight!





The Bankers dressed for success!



The astronauts commencing countdown!



The sports people get active!



The celebrities all looked the part!

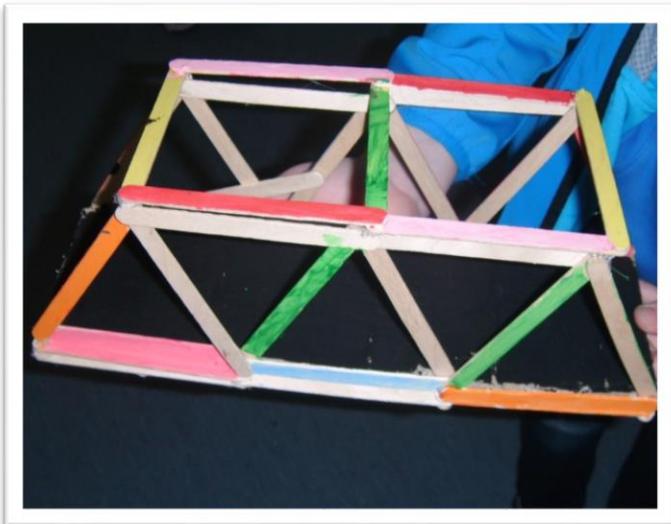
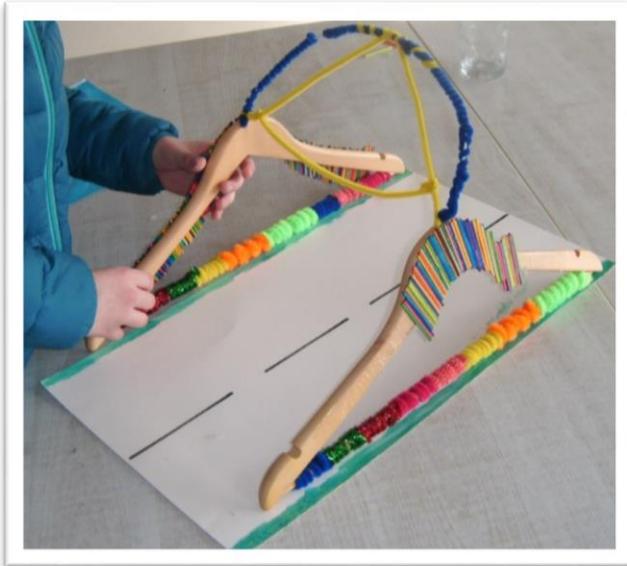




Eva & Arianna's first class 'Antarctica' display and their first assembly (below)



Aidan's fifth class made their own bridges



School Calendar. March – June 2016

Easter Holidays	School closes Wednesday 16th of March School reopens Monday 4th April
May 2016	School closed on Monday 2 nd May to Friday 6 th May inclusive
June 6th	Public holiday school closed
June 30th	School closes for summer holidays

Thank you to all the contributors to the spring newsletter it is much appreciated.

The editors,

Patricia and Eimear

