

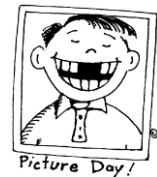
FIRE BRIGADE UNABLE TO ACCESS BURNING SCHOOL

This Could have been the headline in national newspapers last week. On Tuesday 20th November we held a Fire Drill. Standard procedures include evacuating the school and opening gates for Fire Brigade access. The school was evacuated, the gates opened, but amazingly, if a fire brigade had arrived they would not have been able to access the premises because both gates were blocked by parked cars. ***This reckless, illegal parking, while never acceptable, can no longer be tolerated.***

We have been in discussions with Kildare County Council and the Gardai on the matter and plans are being drawn up to tackle this issue imminently. In the meantime we ask for your support and co-operation in ensuring that the emergency services have unhindered access to the school grounds – **AT ALL TIMES.**

Class Photographs

The class photographs are currently on display in the entrance lobby in the school. You will have an opportunity to view them this week while attending the Parent Teacher Meetings. Order forms have already been sent home with the boys. Please note that all order forms should be returned no later than **Friday, 30th November.**



Morning Club

The Morning Club is a supervised facility available from 8.00 a.m. Children are welcome to participate in play, reading, drawing and other games and activities. Weekly rate €20.00, daily rate €5.00. Family reductions available. If interested, please contact Ms. McMahon or Ms. Dunning.



After School Club 2-3 p.m.

The facility for pupils from Junior and Senior Infants to remain at the school from 2-3 p.m. continues this year. Children can be booked in to Jen's Den by term, by week or on a casual day to day basis. Costs are: daily rate €5.00, weekly rate €20, term rate available on request. If you would like more information or would like to book a place please contact Jennifer Kelly on (086) 3854958. *Fully insured, Garda clearance and member of the I.P.P.A.*

After School Club 3-6 p.m.

This new facility is available for primary school children of all ages – Junior Infants to 6th class. "The After School" is open from Monday to Friday and children can be booked in daily, per week or by term. Rates or further information available from Lisa Coonan on (087) 8557478. *Fully insured, Garda clearance and member of the I.P.P.A.*



Morning Yard

The system where the lining up area is designated "Children Only" (& staff) and adults remain at the other side of the white line is working fairly well. We'd like to think the parents have helped to make this successful.

However, we do request that adults not go to the lining up area when the bell rings, as this is when all the pupils are also trying to get to their lines...and it can get a bit crowded.



Christmas Cards

The Christmas Card orders were distributed to the boys today. We hope all of your families and friends will be delighted when they receive these lovely personal Christmas Cards from you. Special thanks to the members of the PTA and the volunteers who collated the orders and sorted them all out for distribution today.

Parent Teacher Meetings

These are scheduled for Wednesday & Thursday of this week, 28th & 29th November. (If by some chance you have not received your appointment time, please contact the school.) We hope you will find it to be a useful and beneficial process. As teachers have a full schedule of appointments for the evening, it is important that each meeting is kept to its scheduled time. (A follow-up meeting can be organised if necessary).



Book Rental Scheme

There was a fantastic positive response to the proposed Book Rental Scheme. We would like to thank everyone who returned the form. Based on this feedback, there is a huge demand for a Book Rental Scheme in Maynooth Boys' NS. Therefore, we propose to proceed with organizing the scheme to commence for September 2013.

There is much to be done in the meantime. This includes planning for next year's booklists, pricing, estimating numbers, evaluating the current book stocks, etc.

Our main priority is to be able to offer the best possible value to families. In order to keep costs for the purchase of new stock down, we would like to ask if you have school books at home that you no longer need and would you consider donating them to us? (Naturally, they would have to be in good condition.).

If so, please send the books into school with your son. You will be supporting a wonderful new initiative for all the families at Maynooth Boys' NS.

Uniform/Dress Code

Just a gentle reminder that all pupils are required to adhere to the school dress code:

- Uniform** – School Jumper, Navy Trousers, Light Blue Shirt, Navy Tie
- Tracksuit** – School Tracksuit, Light Blue Polo Shirt
- Footwear** – Black Shoes or Runners (please bear in mind if purchasing footwear)
- Hairstyle** – We request that pupils do not have hairstyles that are overtly Individualistic and, in particular, shaved designs
- Jewellery** – Visible jewellery items are not permitted to be worn at school.



PTA Voluntary Contribution

Last month the Parents' Association circulated letters in relation to the collection of the €50 Voluntary Contribution. This year it may be paid in one instalment, or in 2 equal instalments – one now and the other after Christmas. Thank you to those who have made a contribution to date. If you haven't already done so, you can send it to the PTA via the school office anytime.

Maynooth Post Primary School Enrolment Forms

All pupils in 6th class received copies of Maynooth Post Primary School's Enrolment Forms last week. The deadline for receipt of completed forms is before 7th December 2012. You may return them directly to MPPS or to your son's 6th class teacher. If you wish your son to attend MPPS next year, ensure that you return the completed form by the deadline. (If you are late you may miss out on a place.)



Cake Sale

We will be holding our Annual Cake Sale on Friday 7th December. This has proven to be an extremely popular event with the boys...I can't imagine why!!! We hope you will consider doing some baking for this important school fundraiser. A flyer will issue on this event next week.

P.S. Just in case you think the adults were being left out...they're not. The P.T.A. will be running a coffee shop on that day also (in the pre-fab adjacent to the playground).



Library Visit 4th Class

We went to the library on Friday the 16th of November. Dale Treadwell was there and he showed us videos of him making shelters for birds and insects, he showed us videos of him talking about bats and butterflies and bees. He showed us a hedgehog called Scrappy and two turtles called Maria & Luigi. We played a game where there was a circle of people holding hands and there were two people in the circle. One of the people was a bat, the other a moth and they were both blindfolded. Whenever the bat said bat, then the moth had to say moth and the bat had to catch the moth. We had a great time.

Ciarán Browne – Mr. Creevey 4th Class

Library Visit 2nd Class

On Monday the 12th of November, both 2nd classes were invited to the local library to see a science exhibition by Michael Moylan. It was a very interesting and funny morning. We learnt lots of new things about how science is all around us. Mike showed us lots of different experiments about displacement, expansion, forces, air pressure, sound waves and chemical reactions. Some boys were lucky enough to try some of the experiments with Michael. Poor Ms. Gunn was used as part of one experiment but thankfully she survived! Overall it was a terrific morning with plenty of entertainment and learning for all! Michael also featured on RTE2 that night on a programme called Elev8. He did some of the same experiments on TV so we felt really lucky to have witnessed them in real life!

Artist for a Day – Creative Writing

On Friday 16th of November, 4th class were very lucky because an author called Debbie Thomas came to visit us. She wrote a children book called ‘Dead Hairy’. She taught us how to build imaginative characters through lots of fun games and activities.



One of the games was an acting game. It was hilarious. We were divided into groups of four; she gave us all a piece of paper with a name on it. We had to act out that name without saying who we were. The rest of the class had to guess our character. We also were given objects and had to pretend we were a person and describe our feelings. My object was a piece of silver. I pretended I was a man who liked silver. We had great fun, it was a great day! I can’t wait to read her book.

Adam Jordan - Miss Dunning 4th Class



Artist for a Day – Magic Drum Circle

On the 8th November, Eddie O’Neill came to the school to let us play West African Drums. We played different drums, including the djembe, the bass drum and a few others. There was a big circle of chairs and at every seat, there was a drum. We played strange beats like “Tipperary – Cork”, “Offaly”, “Kildare” and “Laois”. We had to move around every minute when he said “Pat the Baker – Slicepan”. It was good fun.

Conor Ganly & Tom Fagan – Mr Murphy 6th Class

Artist for a Day – Poetry Workshop

On Tuesday 20th November we had a visitor to our classroom. Ann Egan helped us to write a poem. We created a poem called Deirdre. Our poem described the story of Deirdre of Sorrows and the Sons of Usna who protected her. We learned how to create imagery in poetry by using sounds and descriptive language. We love poetry!

Ms. Kelly & Mr. Downes 3rd Classes

NUIM Science Show

On Friday 16th November last, the boys in 5th & 6th class went to the annual Science Show in the John Hume building in NUI Maynooth, as part of Science Week. The topic of the show this year was “When Reality Bytes – the Science of Computer Games”. It was presented by Dr. Charles Markham and some of his Computer Science students, where they gave a very interesting, interactive demonstration of the history and evolution of computer games from the 1950’s up to the present day. A number of boys even got called up to the stage to play the first ever computer game – ‘Tennis for Two’



Garda Visit

On the 12th of November, Sergeant Gavin Dunphy visited the two 6th classes to talk to us about bullying. He discussed different types of bullying that can take place, with a focus upon cyber bullying. He informed us that it was possible to identify the person behind a nasty text or message sent via the internet and encouraged us to speak to a trusted adult if we believed we were being bullied. It was a very interesting talk and most importantly, we learned a lot from it.

James Wallace & Clint Simon – Ms. Meehan 6th Class

Createschools – Podcasts

On Tuesday 13th November, Mr. McGeady's 5th class and Ms. Tierney's 5th class were visited by two people from Createschools. They showed us how to make podcasts. This is a recording app you make and put it on the internet. Ms. Tierney's class were divided into five groups and each group made their own podcasts which lasted three minutes maximum. They were great fun and very entertaining. One group's podcast was about Mario Balotelli's mess ups. Another one was called "How to make school fun". We hope everyone can try and make a podcast some day.

Shane Whyte & Shane Curran – Mr. Tierney 5th Class.

Enrolment Ceremony

The boys from 6th class who will be making their Confirmation on 22nd February attended their Enrolment Ceremony in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday last. Fr. Liam and Fr. David led the Ceremony of Enrolment for the boys and the girls of the Presentation Primary School as well. This was one of the steps the children take in their preparation for the Sacrament.

Diary Dates



November	27 th	National Concert Hall 3 rd /4 th /5 th Classes	
	28 th	Parent Teacher Meetings	School Closes @ 2.45pm
	29 th	Parent Teacher Meetings	School Closes @ 2.45pm
December	4 th	Swimming Gala	
		HSE Vision Testing Junior Infants	
		PTA Meeting	
	7 th	Cake Sale (& Coffee Morning)	
	13 th	Shine Star Shine 1.15pm – Senior Infant Play	
		Ms. Gunn's 2 nd Class Library Visit	
	21 st	Junior Infant Nativity Play 11am	
		Christmas Holidays	School Closes at 12 noon