

End of Year Newsletter Breaffy Ns

As we draw close on the current school year I would like to bring you all up to date with this end of year newsletter.

We opened last September with 55 junior infants bringing our September enrolment to 415. They all settled in well and are now ready to move on to Senior Infants. The information night in September is a great help to parents in getting to know how our school works. This information night is held for both Junior Infant and Senior infant parents. Some other children joined our school in September moving into the area and they have settled in well. We welcome them all into our school community. It is amazing how much the Junior Infants learn in their first year.

In our school while we have 16 class teachers we have 8 resource teachers who support the work of the class teachers with supplementary teaching the classroom and in the resource rooms. More and more in-class support is normally the model used.

We have updated our new website to include current news items, twitter feed, school calendar, parent and school newsletters, policies and useful websites for parents and children . Going forward to you will be able to pay for book rental and tours via a secure link on our website. This will make life

Robotics has been piloted in the senior classrooms this year classrooms. More details on our website www.breaffyns.ie. This is a coding, programming, design and build STEM project that will continue.

Book Fair and Visiting Author Liz Weir

Liz Weir did workshops with all classes and provided a storytelling session for parents in the evening in our school hall. Our BOM purchased €3000 of books from the book fair for school.

Attendance Certificates.

In order to reward good attendance we awarded attendance certificates of excellence to 24 pupils in our school this year. These pupils had 100% attendance record. One Pupil in 6th Class had an unbroken 100% attendance record and he was presented with a watch. This is a super achievement. Pupils are encouraged to do their best to attend. Parents are also reminded of the importance of good attendance and

Other work of the Board of Management

Our BOM meets regularly and over the last school year our BOM once again published a summary of our accounts that are on display in the front hall.

Our BOM reviewed and ratified policies such as - Additional Educational Needs Policy , EAL (English as an Additional Language) Policy, Deis plan that covers literacy , numeracy, parents and partners and attendance, Code of Behaviour, Internet Acceptable Use Policy , Anti-Bullying Policy , Child Protection Risk assessment and Child Protection Safety Statement.

It also reviewed and ratified our SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education and RSE (Relationships & Sexuality Policy)).

A summary of our accounts is on display in the school porch.

Time To Read Initiative

Both second classes were involved in a reading initiative with Mayo County Council Volunteers where they came

easier for all. Our New Website – www.breaffyns.ie ... **more information about our school.**

Christmas Concerts: Teachers started researching scripts and music for the Christmas Concerts. December got hectic with all the productions and the nativity play. The concerts were a credit to all involved especially our talented resident accompanist Ms Gallen. The response from our suppliers for sponsorship in the community was superb.

School Extension.

In the first term our BOM, having applied for extra funding for our proposed extension got the good news. The BOM having appointed Taylor Architects, after a tendering process, applied for planning permission and fire certs. These have recently been granted and tender documents are being prepared. We expect to commence in November 2018 and complete in June 2018. Our extension is about not getting bigger but providing better facilities for our students. We hope to include an ICT/Computer room in this project.

Darts Initiative.

punctuality. Naturally we understand that sometimes pupils may be unavoidably sick. Good attendance is an important life-skill that we wish to encourage, recognise and instil in our pupils.

Parent Teacher Meetings were scheduled in November where parents could meet their child's teachers and share relevant information on progress.

Extra-curricular Activities.

Over the year there were many extracurricular activities including quiz, art competitions, essay competitions, Ceili Mór for Seachtain na Gaeilge , school marching band for St Patrick's Day, céilí band for céilí, choir for confessions , communion and confirmation, after -school football, soccer training , footsol, after school swimming , Irish dancing , rounders, afterschool basketball, golf , Club Gaeilge , Reading Club, local history tours of Castlebar ,school tours , local tours to Céide Fields to name but a few. It is no wonder that a local newspaper called us '**a busy progressive school**'

Commemorative Faye Lavin Friendship Bench

out to our Library and Aistear room and read with pupils in second classes.

Preschool & Afterschool Care

New parents are reminded that an independent preschool and after –school care facility operates on the school premises. This is run by Tracey Keohane and she can be contacted at 087 1261998. Tracey runs a great service that is appreciated by parents.

Sports Day

Our Sports Day was run very successfully in the best of weather. There was a great turnout from parents who are always welcome to watch and indeed run in the adult races!

Graduation Mass and BBQ.

We wish both 6th classes all the best as they progress to secondary school. At their graduation mass they presented a significant amount of money to various charities collected from their social entrepreneurship projects that included organising talent shows, cake sales and jumble sales. The CEO of Mayo Roscommon Hospice spoke highly of their efforts. Our very active Parents Assoc'



A very successful darts competition was held in our school and it got much positive publicity from local and national media. It is a great numeracy initiative improving pupils' mental maths without them even knowing it!

As the anniversary of Faye Lavin approached we as a school community were in no doubt that we wanted to remember Faye and her family along with the Gavin and Garrett families. A rounder's blitz was organised, and the staff sponsored a perpetual cup in her memory. Fr Mc Cormack blessed the Faye Friendship Bench in their memory after a prayerful school mass attended by all pupils in the school and pupils from Faye's Class.

organised a wonderful BBQ reception for the families of 6th Class pupils. Bainigi taitneamh as an Samhradh!

Seoirse O Moráin, Priomh- Oide



