

Scoil Bhríde - Loreto National School Newsletter

Volume 14

June 2010

Hello everyone! This is our 14th issue of our annual newsletter and we hope you will enjoy reading all about the wonderful things we did throughout the year, and of course, all the hard work that we did during the year. As you will see, it was a very busy year for all of us.

Scoil Bhríde would like to wish the sixth class every good luck as they go onto secondary school. Go dté sibh slán.



Back l-r: Mrs O'Sullivan (Coach), Oisín Shannon, Jevon Flaherty, Adam O'Shea, John Beecher, Cian Griffin, David Naughten, Michael Foley, Billy Courtney, David Shaw, Cian Gammell, Seán O'Brien

Middle l-r: Patrick Wrenn, Jack O'Connor, Lorcán McMonagle, Dylan Sheahan, Dónal O'Sullivan, Peter O'Donoghue **Front:** Creagh Courtney (Captain)

LORETO LEGENDS BECOME COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Loreto N.S. created history on Tuesday 17th of November 2009 when they overcame a valiant Coolard team in an exhilarating County Final in Austin Stack Park, Tralee.

Our historic journey began in East Kerry with some challenging matches against Knockerryderry N.S., Gneeveguilla N.S. and Kilcummin N.S. We advanced to the semi-final of East Kerry to play Gneeveguilla N.S. They gave a good fight but we came out best. In the final we played a much improved Kilcummin side. Michael Foley's goal sealed the victory for us in the last few minutes. Our quarter county final brought us to Beaufort to play Castlemaine N.S. We won this match well. In the semi-final we played Kilgobnet N.S. in Fossa. This was a tough match but after a great battle we came out on top.

The final was against Coolard N.S. in Austin Park, Tralee. This was Coolard's fourth year in a row in the final, having lost the previous three. On the other hand it was our first time ever in a final. We were really excited and fired up for the match.

Continued overleaf.....

It was a really windy day and we played with the wind in the first half. Two great early goals by David Shaw and Oisín Shannon gave us just the start we wanted. Great points followed scored by Billy Courtney and Adam O' Shea well set up by Lorcán McMonagle and Michael Foley. We continued to attack and at half time the score was 2-4 to 0-3 in favour of Loreto.

As expected Coolard came out very determined in the second-half. It was time for our backs to shine and they didn't let us down. David Naughten, Cian Griffen, Donal O' Sullivan and our captain Creagh Courtney were all outstanding. John Beecher our goalie made some great saves. After some great scores by Coolard we fought back well. Michael Foley, Adam O'Shea and Billy Courtney scored some great points against the wind and David Shaw scored a vital goal and point. Oisín Shannon and Lorcán McMonagle continued to work really hard. We held out for a historic victory on a score-line of 3-9 to 1-11. The rest of the panel Jack O'Connor, Patrick Courtney, Jevon Flaherty, Sean o' Brien, Patrick Wrenn, Dylan Sheahan, Peter O' Donoghue and our injured sub Cian Gammell, were all very important to this victory, playing really well in the matches along the way.

*Our captain Creagh Courtney accepted the trophy on behalf of our team. He thanked Coolard for a very sporting game and wished them well in the future. A special thanks to our coach and principal Mrs. O'Sullivan and her assistant Gránne MacGillcuddy. We are already looking forward to defending our title next year. **By: David Shaw 5th class***

The East Kerry Football Blitz

On the 8th of October we played in the East Kerry Football blitz. The first game we played was against Knockaderry N.S. Billy got us off the mark by getting our first point of the tournament. We were up at half time thanks to a well earned goal by Oisín. We were confident going into the second half. Adam started the second half with a

goal, which was then followed by an array of points from the whole team. The final score was 5-8 to 0-3 in favour of Loreto.

Our second game was played against Gneeveguilla N.S. At half time Gneeveguilla were up two points. With words of encouragement from Mrs. O' Sullivan, we entered the second half with a fighting spirit which resulted in us winning our second game 2-6 to 1-4.

After a quick recess to refuel we went straight to our third game to face Kilcummin N.S. who were coincidentally the host village. Opening our third game David Shaw fired over our first point. This was an extremely important game because it would lead us into the semi final. To our joy we won the match with a streak of points. We all agreed that Michael and Cian played an absolute blinder. The game ended 1-4 to 2-10 in favour of Loreto. By that stage we were overjoyed that we had qualified for the semi final. The semi final was tightly won by Loreto. We introduced some new players who were Patrick Wrenn, Sean, Peter and Jevon. With great defending from Patrick Courtney and Creagh the game ended on the close score line of 7.2 to 7.4.

The final was an epic story of ebb and flow against Kilcummin. We started off well but they were right behind us. Our keeper Dónal was outstanding keeping us in the lead for a while. At half time we were down two points. With a good team talk at half time with our coach/Manager Mrs. O'Sullivan we turned the game around. The second half was so exciting that if you blinked you might miss something. David Shaw levelled us with 2 points. However Kilcummin retaliated swiftly with a goal putting them in the lead. Their defence was like a brick wall but Michael broke the deadlock with a goal and David Shaw got a point to WIN THE GAME!!!!!! Final score Kilcummin 5-7 Loreto 5-8 . **By: Michael Foley 6th class John Beecher 5th class and Seán O'Brien 6th class**

Football semi – final

On the 23rd of October we played our county semi final in the Fossa pitch. We were playing against Kilgobnet . Our starting team had Dónal O`Sullivan in goal. The full back line was Creagh Courtney and Lorcán McMonagle .The half back line was Cian Griffin and David Naughten .The midfielders were Billy Courtney and Michael Foley. The half forward line was David Shaw and Adam O`Shea and the full forward line was Oisín Shannon and Jack O`Connor .

Before the match started Mrs O`Sullivan gave us a great motivating team talk which put us all up for the match. When we walked on to the pitch we all shook our man`s hand and waited for the ref to throw up the ball and begin an exhilarating match. Thankfully our mid filders won the hop and passed it to Adam who kicked a great point. When Kilgobnet kicked the ball out their wing back caught the ball and gave a fast ball to their full forward who unfortunately scored a goal. After that the ball was being passed from one side of the pitch to another but eventually we got the ball and kept it. It went from the full backs to the midfielders and Michael scored a lovely point. Then David Shaw caught the kick out and made use of it by kicking a point. Our heads were held up high at this point of the match. Unfortunately Kilgobnet did not give up because they came back with three points. However we didn`t give up either. From our kick out Billy caught a high ball, ran half the pitch and scored a goal. After that boost it was all down hill for Kilgobnet as Adam scored a goal and Billy scored two points. A few minutes after we scored the ref. blew the whistle for half time. The only change made to the team was Patrick Wrenn for Jack. Mrs O`Sullivan gave

us another talk and after that we all walked into our positions again waiting for the ref. to begin the second half. Fortunately we were quick off the mark and won the hop up and Billy scored a point. After that Michael scored a point from their kick out. When Kilgobnet took their kick out no one saw the fast move by their half back who passed it to their full forward who scored a goal. While they were celebrating Dónal gave a quick kick out to Billy who passed it to Oisín who scored a goal. The second half was full with Loreto scores with Kilgobnet only scoring two points. We were put strongly ahead by two goals from Oisín and Billy and four points from David Shaw, Adam, Michael and Jack. Our substitutes Peter, Jevon, Patrick Courtney, Seán and Dylan made a great impact when they came on in the second half.

Our captain Adam thanked Kilgobnet for a sporting game. We were delighted with the win and will be training hard for the county final.

Finally the ref. Blew his whistle to finish the game. The scores at the end were Loreto 5-11 Kilgobnet 2-5. **By Oisín Shannon 6th class**

Loreto v Castlemaine

On the 20th of October 2009 we played the Cumann na mBunscoil football County Quarter final against Castlemaine N.S. We arrived in Beaufort full of excitement and began to warm up.

We took the lead early on through a point by Adam O`Shea. Billy Courtney added another quickly. After that Jack O`Connor got the opening goal. Two minutes later David Shaw got another goal. Oisín Shannon got another goal and we lead by 11 points. More points followed scored by

Michael Foley , Adam, Billy and David. Castlemaine got two points before half time. In the second half Loreto continued to lead. Castlemaine tried their best but were not good enough for the Loreto boys. All the team played their part. Each of the subs played extremely well. Every score Castlemaine got the Loreto boys matched it. The scores in the second half were by David Shaw, Jevon Flaherty, Lorcán Mc Monagle , Michael Foley and Billy Courtney. An excellent match was played by both teams, but the better team won. Everyone got a game. The Castlemaine team congratulated us and wished us well in the next round. We were all happy going home.
By Patrick Courtney 6th class & Jack O' Connor 6th class

Sam comes to Loreto

On Tue 22nd of September we were surprised and delighted when the captain of the Kerry Senior football team Darren O'Sullivan from Glenbeigh, Pat O'Sullivan (Laura's Dad) and some of the Kerry team brought Sam McGuire to our school. We were all out playing at lunch time when they arrived. We decorated the windows with green and gold flags. Mrs. O'Sullivan welcomed the team. She thanked them for coming and congratulated them on a brilliant performance and victory over old rivals Cork. She said that they are a great example to young people because of their discipline, commitment and dedication. Darren O'Sullivan spoke to us and encouraged us to play games. We gave three cheers for Kerry and took some photos. We were very happy when we got home-work off to celebrate Kerry's great WIN.

By: Patrick Wrenn 5th class

Stop and stare

On Tuesday the 8th of September the stop and stare Theatre group came to 6th class to teach us about choices and respect. We spent three hours rehearsing for the play. We acted out Alice in Wonderland which taught us about choices - how to choose right from wrong. Then we did moulding which taught us that we are all different and unique. James did a lovely dance to "Over the Rainbow. Then we had a short break.

After the break the pressure was on as we went into the last half hour. We continued the rehearsal. We each got more parts and practised our lines. At last it was show time. The audience took their seats and we started the play. They really enjoyed the play. After the show there was a small disco for the audience.

We would like to thank the "Stop and Stare" Theatre Group for their great work. We learned so much and have become so much more aware of our attitudes and choices. **By Niamh O'Sullivan 6th class and Jane Culloty 6th class.**

Our Debate

On Friday 23rd of October 2009 5th and 6th class held their annual debate. This year the motion was "Young people today have a hard life". The captain of the proposing team was Seán O' Brien. Seán's team made great points about children having a difficult life in Ireland and abroad.

The captain of the opposing team was Tara Casey. This team made strong arguments about children not having a hard life. We learned to put forward our points of view in a civilised manner and to listen to and be tolerant of the views of others. The parents and the chairperson Mrs. O' Sullivan agreed that the debate was a great

success. Mrs. O' Sullivan congratulated everyone for having the courage to take part and speak in front of an audience. The judges Mrs. Moynihan and Gráinne decided that the winning team was the opposing team by a very narrow margin. The debate was once again a success. **By: Kathryn Cronin 6th class**

School's Swimming Competition

Since joining the kingdom Swimming Club in Tralee four years ago, I have swam competitively in many galas.

I entered the Munster Schools' competition, which was held in Cork on the 7th of November. I represented my school in two events - Frontcrawl and Backstroke. I won the Frontcrawl and came 3rd in the Backstroke which qualified me for the All Ireland Schools' Finals. They were held in the National Aquatic Centre on the 6th of December. Due to the large turnout of swimmers the fastest overall times in the heats won the medals. I got a personal best in both events but I just missed out on the medals. I enjoyed the experience and I was proud to represent Loreto on the day. **By Dónal O'Sullivan 5th class**

Christmas in Killarney

We gathered at 6.30pm on Scott's Street on Friday December 4th. We carried torches and walked in the parade behind the school banner. The atmosphere was joyful. Everyone was in good form. Botty introduced all the groups. Outside "The Laurels" the mayor of Killarney Michael Gleeson welcomed everyone especially the special guest Santa Claus. We all cheered when Santa turned on the Christmas lights. Everyone was happy. **By Peter O'Donoghue 5th Class.**

The Big Freeze

I woke with whoops of joy for it was the second last day before the Christmas holidays. I looked outside and saw a winter wonderland, snow completely covered the ground. There wasn't a patch of grass to be seen.

My family and I valiantly tried to get to school, but our car was stuck in the snow and we had to walk to school. There were scenes of chaos everywhere. Cars were stuck on either side of the hill. Birds were dying on the ground. There was even a lorry stuck to the ground by the freezing ice. Not long after we got to school Mrs O'Sullivan told us that school was closed. Our holidays finally began.

My siblings and I built a snowman. He had sticks for his arms and a carrot for his nose, a dozen pebbles for a mouth and a clump of grass for hair. Before long I had noticed the big freeze had taken a grip on nature. There were lots of dead birds around. A bunch of redwings came to Ireland to seek refuge but it wasn't much better here. Only the strongest out of them survived.

The roads were treacherous; hospitals were full of people with fractures sustained from slipping on icy footpaths. Most of them were elderly. Day care centres were shut and the isolation of older people was increased. If the Civil Defence and neighbours couldn't visit old people in isolated areas there was a danger of lack of food, water and fuel supplies. There was a risk of death from hypothermia. Those who only recently had to cope with severe flooding were now dealing with frozen pipes, water shortage and icy roads.

There were some positive aspects to the big freeze e.g. the indescribable beauty of the snow –

capped mountains behind the frozen lake and the fact that life slowed down. People spent more time together. Neighbours helped each other more. From the calm of the chilly lake to the less frantic lifestyle-The Big Freeze made us stop and think.

“Is this really global warming” I wondered, as I surveyed the frozen lake. Perhaps not! My grandfather heard about the 1947 freeze and lived through the 1963 freeze. My Dad remembered that the lake froze in 1987. Were these just cyclical weather patterns”, I wondered as I skimmed another stone across the icy surface of the lake. **By: Seán O’Brien 6th Class.**

Mini Sevens Football Competition

On the 22nd of March the Mini Sevens took place in the Dr Croke’s pitch. There were five teams Loreto, St.Olivers, the Monastery, Lissivigeen and the Gaelscoil.

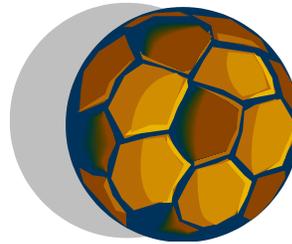
Our first match was against the Monastery. We drew it when they scored a goal in the last minute. It was a very even match.

Our next game was against our toughest competitors, St.Olivers N.S. We won the game by five points. We played lissivigeen and we overcame them by an outstanding margin. Our last game was against the Gaelscoil and we only had to beat them to win the tournament. We were up by 15 points at half time but they fought back with five quick goals to get a draw. After that we had to play our rivals St.Olivers in a playoff to see who would go through. We had a great start, up by 5 points but immediately before half time they hammered in two great goals. At half time we were down a point. As the match went on we were very evenly matched. However, the whistle blew and they won by a narrow margin of two points. They went through. We all

played on the day and it was a great performance by everyone.

As Captain of the team I went into the St.Oliver’s dressing room after the final. I thanked them for the game, congratulated them on their victory and wished them well in the next round.

By David Naughten 6th class



Christmas Play by 5th and 6th class

On the 15th of December 2009 5th and 6th class performed our class play. The play was called “Papa Panov”. This musical version of Tolstoy’s poignant story tells how the old Russian shoe maker, Papa Panov, waits for Jesus to visit his workshop on Christmas day. Throughout the day, the weary and disadvantaged arrive at the door: a poor mother carrying her child, the hungry urchins and the freezing road sweepers are all received with kindness and compassion by Papa Panov. Initially disappointed because Jesus didn’t visit him, the shoemaker realises as the Nativity scene unfolds, that he did meet Jesus in all the people that he met that day.**Cast:**Empress : Tara Casey, Man 1: Adam O’Shea, Czar: David Shaw, Man 2: Creagh Courtney, Captain Dimitrov: Peter O’Dongohue, Man 3: Patrick Courtney, Baron Von Strooglul: Creagh Courtney, Roadsweeper 1: Rachel Randles, Baroness Von Stroogle: Jane Culloty, Roadsweeper 2: Oisín Shannon, Count St. Etienne: Michael Foley, Roadsweeper 3: David Naughten, Countess Michelle: Níamh O’Sullivan, Roadsweeper 4: Cian Griffin, Captain Gironimo ADONATO: Patrick Courtney, Papa Panov: Patrick Wrenn, Signora Adonato: Kathryn Cronin, Soldier 1: Jevon Flaherty, Messenger; John Beecher, Soldier 2 Peter O’Donoghue, Soldier 3: Michael

Foley, Urchin Victor: Seán O'Brien, Soldier 3: Michael Foley, Urchin Alex: Dylan Sheahan, Voice: Dylan Sheahan, Urchin Anna: Alicja Korzec, St. Joseph: Jevon Flaherty, Urchin Ivan: Billy Courtney, Cat: Dónal O'Sullivan, Gentle Woman; Lydia Coughlan, Old Man Surgei: Jack O'Connor, Fishwife 1 Níamh O'Sullivan, Fishwife2: Kathryn Cronin, Fishwife 3: Jane Culloty. Narrators: Cian Griffin, Alicja Korzec, , Peter O'Donoghue, John Beecher and Seán O'Brien We performed the play for all the other classes. Then we performed it for the parents. We raised over €200 for poor children in Zambia. We really enjoyed doing the play. **By Alicja Korzec 6th Class**

Singing at Killarney Community Hospital and St. Columbanus' Nursing home

On Saturday the 19th of December pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th classes went to sing some Christmas carols at Killarney Community Hospital and St. Columbanus' nursing home. We met at the front door at 1.00 pm and sang until 4.00pm. Dancers and musicians from Glenflesk also came with us. We went around from room to room singing carols such as "Santa Claus is coming to town" "We wish you a merry Christmas" and "Silent Night". We also had a few songs sang by Lydia Coughlan and Patrick Wrenn. They sang "There must be another way" and "Walking in the air". When we had finished our singing, Mrs. O'Sullivan gave us some refreshments.

We enjoyed the day and we hope that we brought joy to all the patients at Killarney Community Hospital and St. Columbanus' nursing home. **By: Rachel Randles 6th Class**



Athletics County Final 2010

On Saturday 29th of May the following people represented Loreto National School in Castleisland for the County Finals;

6th class: Seán O' Brien and Creagh Courtney

5th class: David Shaw and Billy Courtney

4th class: Luke O' Donoghue and Cian Gammell

3rd class: Peter O'Sullivan and Tristan O'

Donoghue

2nd class Margaret O'Brien and Ruth Courtney

1ST Class: Caoilinn O' Donoghue

In the 600m Seán O' Brien came 3rd. In the final heats David Shaw came 6th, Billy Courtney came 4th, Cian Gammell came 2nd, Luke O' Donoghue came 4th, Peter O' Sullivan came 4th, Margaret O' Brien came 4th, Ruth Courtney came 5th and Caoilinn O'Donoghue came 3rd.

Luke, Peter, Tristan and Cian qualified for the relay and finished in 2nd place.

David, Seán, Creagh and Billy also qualified for the relay and they came in 8th place.

Well done to all who participated. It was a great day out.

By Luke O' Donoghue and Cian Gammell 4th Class.

Our Trip through the Gap of Dunloe

Our 6th class annual trip to St. Mary of the Angels School and walk through the gap of Dunloe took place on Friday 28th May. We were all looking forward to the day.

When the day finally arrived, we were very excited.

We left the school at 9am in cars to St. Mary of the Angels school. Once we arrived there, we played with the children in their beautiful playground. We then set off in the cars while 6th class of St Mary's of the Angels went in a bus and we met up at Kate Kearney's cottage. We then began the walk to the Colleen Bawn Cottage. We were each given a friend to look after throughout the walk. Once we reached the Colleen Bawn, we stopped for some lunch. We shared treats

with our friends and we sang songs together. It was then that it was time to say goodbye to the children of St. Mary of the Angels and finish our journey up through the gap to Lord Brandon's Cottage.

Seán O'Brien brought his nature book and binoculars and he identified many species of wild flowers and insects as we walked.

After about two and a half hours, we reached Lord Brandon's cottage. We then had a rest and some lunch, before setting off on the boat trip. Our boat man was Dónal O'Donoghue. He told interesting stories throughout the journey. He took us from Lord Brandon's Cottage, through the Upper Lake, to the meeting of the waters. When we got to the middle lake / Muckcross Lake where Dinis Cottage is where we had to get out of the boat while the boatman went under Bricín Bridge because it was too shallow. We got back in the boat, went through the lower lake - Lough Léin (meaning Lake of learning) all the way to Inisfallen Island. We had short prayer service on the island and then went back to Ross Castle where we were collected and brought home. We learned to appreciate the beauty of nature and to be thankful for our health.

It was a great day that we will never forget.

By: Tara Casey 6th Class

5 a-side Soccer County Finals

On Friday the 23rd of April we set off to Tralee for the 5 aside soccer tournament. We entered two teams to include all the boys in 5th and 6th class- the red team and the Green team. The first game played was by the green team against Castle Island Boys N.S. It was an exciting match as the green team was losing at the start but in second half team spirit and hard work got them through. Their second match was against Fossa. We won well. The green team went on to play Moyerwell which was close for the first 5 minutes but the Greens pulled away to win 8-0. Then Loreto Green team was through to the Semi-final. They played Fossa 1 and won three to zero.

Finally it was onto the County Final. It was very exciting. We were all cheering them on in the first half there was nothing between Loreto Greens and Dingle except for a smashing goal by David Shaw. At half time Mrs O'Sullivan asked the lads to track back as much as possible-great words from the manager. As the second half started the game was intense but after a few minutes Adam put a beauty in the back of the net to make it two-nil. However Dingle came back with a goal of their own. It was nerve wrecking but thankfully the score stayed 2-1. The greens were off to Munster and they really deserved it.

The Reds and their manager Cian Griffin unfortunately didn't make it to the Final. We all had fun and really enjoyed ourselves and that was the main thing. We played two games and everyone got to play.

By: Cian Griffin 6th Class

Rugby :This year 4th and 6th class were very lucky to do rugby. We had training every Friday. Our rugby trainer was Andy. We learned a lot of new skills. Many of us joined Killarney rugby club. We really enjoyed it and had a good time. Thank you Andy.

By:Creagh Courtney 6th Class

Munster Final 5 aside Soccer.

On the 12th of May we travelled to Waterford for the Munster finals. Our first game was against the Cork champions St. Johns N.S. Mayfield at 11.30am.It was a very hard fought game but we came out on top.

We won 2-1.David Shaw and David Naughten were the scorers.

Our next game was straight afterwards at 12 o'clock. We were playing St. Senan's N.S. Kilrush the Clare champions. It was a very tough game. The final score was 6-3 to Loreto.

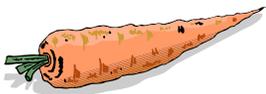
This meant that we were in the semi-final against Sacred Heart N.S. Roscrea. We had a break and something to eat. Then we went out and won 8-1. We were very happy to reach the Munster final and we had to face St. John's Mayfield once more. We were very nervous going in. We were after three hard games. We lost the final, 5-0. We were disappointed but happy to have achieved so much. We received runner up medals. Our captain Michael Foley called out the names of the team to get the medals. It was a long hard day but we had done our best and represented the school proudly.

By: Creagh Courtney 6th class

Loreto School Garden

In our school garden we have a beautiful selection of plants and vegetables. 5th and 6th sowed potatoes, basil, spinach, lettuce, peas, mint, thyme, onions, carrots, spring onions, strawberries and dwarf French beans in the classroom. Mr .Looney's class sowed potatoes, lettuce and onions. Junior and senior Infants sowed sunflowers. In order to keep the plants alive you have to keep them in the sun and water them. When they were strong we moved them out to the lovely raised beds prepared by our parents. Manure was added to the topsoil to nourish the plants. When they are fully grown they will be shared among the pupils of the school. It is very rewarding to see our plants and vegetables grow. Many thanks to all who helped us.

By Dylan Sheahan 5th class



Retirements

Last June two teachers, Mrs Hickey and Mrs Whitty retired after many years of service to Scoil Bhríde, Loreto. The occasion was marked by parents, pupils and staff. We thank them for their huge contribution to the school and we wish them every health and happiness in their retirement.

New teachers

We welcome Ms O' Reilly and Mr Looney to the teaching staff of Loreto. We hope they will be very happy with us.

By:Jevon Flaherty. 6th class.

Super team Championships in Scotland

On February 13th my mom, Elaine and I went over to Glasgow in Scotland. I went over to compete in the Scottish national super teams championships. I competed with Ardfert A.C. I was in a team with my cousin and two other boys from Ardfert. We took part in four different events the Sprint, relay, long jump and shot. First we did the sprint. We all did very well. Next we did the relay and came first. Then we had a break for a while. Next came the long jump. We all did well in that too. Finally we did the shot. It was a very good day. The Four of us scored points in each event and the winning team was the team with the most points. We came first. We had won by enough points so we really didn't need to do the last event. Overall, we had a good time in Scotland we were very happy with the result.

By: Billy Courtney 5th Class

Our History trip of Killeggy and Muckross Abbey

On Tuesday March 16th 2010 5th and 6th set off on our local history tour with Mrs O'Sullivan, Mrs. Moynihan and Gráinne. We assembled at the former Muckross Post Office. It was a mild spring morning perfect for exploring our beautiful environment. On the pathway up to Killeggy we saw the church yard. When we entered Killeggy the first thing we went to see was the big Celtic cross which is made from limestone which marks the grave of Henry Arthur Herbert. From the cross we could see Mangerton mountain, the old Kenmare road, Torc mountain and the Eagle's Nest, the Gap of Dunloe and the Purple mountain. We also looked at other graves and tombs and learned history from what was written on them. We saw the graves of Dr. Hilliard who died in 1972. When there was a possibility that Muckross House would become a Great Southern Hotel, he made a suggestion that it be turned into a folk museum. We also saw the grave of Toby Hodd who was a scientist and naturalist. He died in 2000. His headstone is made from natural limestone and his family planted foxgloves and clover on his grave.

We identified the grave of Arthur Rose Vincent who received Muckross House as a wedding gift. He died in 1956. Behind this is the grave of John Ogilvy Vincent who died at three years of age. He died as a result of swallowing a piece of his toy. We also studied the Hilliard Tomb. Richard Hilliard erected this tomb in memory of his daughter Jane who died at the age of sixteen. Richard founded Hilliard boot factory, which was located at Hilliard's lane off High Street in Killarney.

On our way out of the graveyard we saw the Mortuary Chapel which held the remains before burial. It has Gothic Archways and belfry. There is a plaque inside the chapel dated 1714 which commemorates Mr. Maurice Hussey. After Killeggy graveyard we proceeded to Muckross Abbey via the main road to Kenmare. The entrance to Muckross Abbey is opposite Molly D'arcy's. We noted the leaves missing up to browse level of the trees from the deer. We observed copper beech trees on the right and lime trees on the left. On the left we also observed the Giant Redwood. It is now dead. We continued along Friar's walk where the monks would have prayed and meditated. We saw the catalpa tree with its large branches. When we reached Muckross Abbey we enjoyed a picnic and then proceeded to explore Muckross Abbey and it's surroundings.

Muckross Abbey was built by McCarthy Mór in about 1448 for the Franciscan Order. In 1542 King Henry 8th of England wanted to divorce his wife. He had already divorced five wives so the Catholic Church denied him a divorce. In retaliation he suppressed the monasteries. The monks had to leave, but came back in 1602. In the year 1655 they had to leave again, this time because of Cromwell's Soldiers. They burned down the Abbey but the graveyard is still used. Some things we liked at the Abbey were the McCarthy Mòr tomb. Another grave we saw was the grave of Patrick Kelliher. He was a past pupil of Scoil Bhrìde who was tragically killed on his way to school in 1979. He was 10 years old at this time. We said a prayer for him and his family. In the Abbey we saw a huge Yew tree and Gothic and Romanesque arches. We found a sundial which was carved into a stone wall. We returned to Muckross P.O. via the old funeral road through some woodland and crossed Cloghereen Stream. We picked up five bags of rubbish on the way.

We enjoyed our local history tour because it was very exciting. We learned lots of history and nature while having fresh air and of course, lots of fun.

Everyone really enjoyed the day. We learned a lot about our local history and appreciated our beautiful environment.

By Lydia Coughlan 6th class

The Boys Football Skills Competition

On Tuesday 27th April Michael Foley, Billy Courtney and myself, Adam O'Shea represented our school in the Football Skills Competition. There were seven skills that had to be achieved which equaled to a final score of twenty one points if everything was completed correctly. Billy achieved a score of 17 points Michael achieved 14 points and myself got 15 points out of a possible twenty one points.

The skills were the zig zag solo, point kick for goal, free kick from the ground, catch and hook kick, catch and hook kick with non-dominant leg, run pick up and fist pass and pick up - and shoot for score while running straight at goal. Michael Casey from Ballycasheen N.S won the individual event with 18 points and Tiernaboul N.S. won the team prize. **By: Adam O'Shea 6th class.**

Scoil Bhríde, Loreto achieved their third green flag.

We are very proud to have achieved our third green flag. Ms. Fiona Barry from An Taisce came to the school on Wednesday 27th January and visited all the classrooms to discuss our efforts at water conservation. She later informed us that we had been successful in achieving our third green flag which was presented to the school in Cork on February 25th. Well done to everyone especially Ms. O'Connell and the Green School Committee. **By: Cian Gammell, Darren Mulcahy, and Fiachra O'Connell 4th class.**

Junior school Tour

Junior, Senior, First and Second Classes had their School Tour to Tobyworld in Tralee on Friday 11th June Children enjoyed participating in the indoor play area and an art session followed. A great day was had by all.

Family Fun Day

A family Fun Day has been organized by the Parents Association for Friday 18th June. We look forward to a great day.

Grandparents Day

Ms. O'Connell organised Grandparent Day once again this year on Friday 30th April. Grandparents were invited to the school to tell us all about times long ago. They shared memories of life, school and pastimes. They gave us a good insight into life long ago.

The grandparents were served refreshments in the Library after visiting the classrooms.

Litter Picking

On the 13th of April, our class went litter picking up the old reservoir road. We had to go in groups so that no one would get lost. It wasn't just our class that went litter picking. The juniors and seniors went to the back of the school, the First Class went to the sides and the front of the school. The second and third class went to Birchfield, all of the fourth class and the fifth class girls went up the reservoir road and last but not least the sixth class and the fifth class boys went to Muckross Abbey.

Everyone got a big plastic bag for their groups. We walked from school to the old reservoir road. Our teacher, Mr. Looney, picked up all the cans and the glass with a litter picker. There was lots of litter there. We all filled up our bin bags as much as we could. We found all sorts of things. There were old pieces of rope, empty bottles, sweet

wrappers and lots of other things. It was a lovely day. We had great fun. If we found glass, we would have to call Mr. Looney and he would pick it up and put it in the bag. The rubbish filled the bag. When we came back, the people holding the bags were so tired. We could see Saoirse's horses in the field. Thank you for reading our story . **By Caoimhe Kelly, Ciara Kelliher and Ciara Carroll 4th Class.**

Music in the classroom

The Music in the Classroom was held at the Gleneagle Hotel. It was a great musical experience for children in primary schools. The Orchestra was the RTÉ Orchestra. The conductor was very funny. This show was held in January. Schools from all over Kierry attended. **By: Oran Flaherty, Fintan, Campion, Harry Allen and Robert O' Brien. 4th class.**

The credit Union Quiz 2010

The 31st of January was the day of the Credit Union Quiz 2010 in the Gleneagle Hotel.

The teams were: Under 11: Aisling O' Mahony, Ada Fleming, Luke Casey and Darren Mulcahy

Under 13: John Beecher, Patrick Wrenn, David Shaw and Jane Culloty

Under 13: Donal O' Sullivan, Sean O' Brien, Niamh O' Sullivan and Tara Casey

Mrs. O' Sullivan came to support us along with family and friends. The questions were easy moderate and hard. We did very well but did not progress to the next stage of the quiz. Everybody had a great day. Thanks to Mrs. O' Sullivan who helped us get ready for the quiz. **By: Aisling O'Mahony 4th class .**

The life education bus

On the 4th and 5th of February it was raining heavily. The classes from juniors to 6th class went on the Life Education Bus. Seamus welcomed us in. First we learned about the human body. Seamus showed us Tammy and the children stood up one by one to press a part of Tammy's body. Next we watched a video on how to handle bullies and how to be assertive. Everyone enjoyed the day.

By: Kevin Lavery, Lorcán McMonagle, Seán Courtney 4th class. Shauna Courtney and Áine O'Sullivan 5th Class

GREEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

In 2008 the school held a draw for the green committee. We picked a number between 1-10. The number was seven. Darren won it in his classroom, and Cian won it in his classroom. They were very happy to be on the committee. Within the first year we had a Blue Water Day. We all wore blue and we bought in €2. Derry Doyle came and showed us all his underwater equipment, and he also showed us pictures of him in his boat on the water. Soon after, a girl called Elish, came in from the Water Safety Board and told us about polluting the water. She brought a plastic fish called Fred. She put in a mixture of seaweed, salt and dirt. She brought in a projector and showed us about the pollution on land and sea. **By: Darren Mulcahy, Sean Courtney 4th class.**

THE RED FOOD DYE EXPERIMENT

Ms. O' Connell sent us around with red food dye to check if the toilets or taps were leaking water. There were no leaks in the toilets or the taps. We also did a maths quiz on each classroom to see how much water they were using. Niamh O' Sullivan and Patrick Wrenn won the competition.

We are learning about conserving water. **By: Cian Gammell, Darren Mulcahy, and Fiachra O'Connell 4th Class.**

Music Classes

The tunes we learned so far were twinkle twinkle, Fere Jacques , Peg Ryan's polka, the Dawning of the Day, Maggie in the Woods, the Dingle Polka, Inis O'ir, Beidh Anoch Amarach, Trasna na Dtonnta , What will we do with the Drunken Sailor? Baidín Fheilimi, O Sinner Man, Britches full of Stitches, Morning has Broken and Din Tarrents. The tin whistle is a great instrument to play. It is all so very easy to play. We also did lots of singing. The tin whistle was new to some people at the start. But other people had played it before. We hope to have a concert at the end of the year. **By: Emily Cronin and Aldina Murphy 4th Class.**

School play

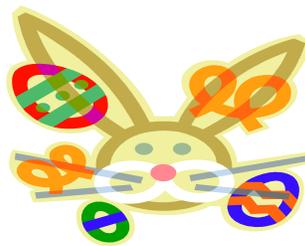
On the 21st of December we were due to have our school play. But due to the bad weather we couldn't have it. The roads were icy. We were all very disappointed until we found out it would be on again in January. Abbey played the chief angel and Luke and Saoirse played Narrators and sang a song with Niamh Randles. The directors were Mr. Looney and Ms. O'Shea. Rosemarie was a great help also. We did our play when we came back after a three week break. Our parents came to watch. They said we were brilliant. Also the parents were a great help with the costumes. We had a great day.

By Luke Casey, Saoirse O'Connor & Abbey O'Donoghue 4th Class.

The Easter Raffle 2010

On march the 25th our annual school Easter raffle took place. The prizes were mini eggs, Easter egg , € 20.00 Tesco voucher ,Big Fat Chicken ,Mr. Men spinning ball and a bionicle lego set, Lindt chocolate bunny and 2 popples we raised €718.00 and these are the kids who won the prizes :John Beecher : Lindt chocolate bunny, Sarah Byrnes : mini eggs easter eggConor Lucey € 20.00 Tesco voucher,Fergul Murphy : Popple Chloe Coughlan : Big fat chicken Caelan Sheahan : Bionicle lego set Laura O'Sullivan : Mr . Men spinning ball.Congratulations To all who won the Prizes and thank you to all who bought tickets and donated prizes.

By:Sarah Byrnes , Aoife Farrell , Luke O' Donoghue and Shannon O' Shea 4th class



The Senior School Tour

The Senior School Tour took on June 4th 2010 the bus left the school at 8.10am and arrived at Kerry Museum at 9am. First we had the medieval experience. The year was 1450 and Tralee is the capital of the powerful Desmond Geraldines. Then we went to the Museum Gallery ,Kerry Stone Age, the tradition of Kerry Football, and Tom Crean. It was an educational journey. We then had a beautiful picnic in the Town Park. We went to Waterworld in Castlegregory afterwards. There was Canoeing, Water Trampoline, body boarding and pedal boats. The sun shone brightly and it was great fun. We had a great day.

Cheerleading

Four students from Loreto Scoil Bhríde competed in the English Cheerleading Nationals in Glasgow, Scotland. These students were Rachel Randles, Tara Casey, Lydia Coughlan and myself Niamh Randles. We performed with our cheerleading team K.D.C. Southern Scorchers, the only cheerleading team in Kerry. Our cheerleading coaches are Haley Murphy and Daniel Farkas. We came home feeling proud clutching a 1st place trophy. It was the first time that a cheerleading team from Southern Ireland competed in the English Cheerleading Nationals, and I hope we did the South proud!! **By: Niamh Randles 4th Class**



Girls Skill Competition

It was a wet morning on the 15th of May 2010. Laura O'Sullivan, Anna O'Connor and Elizabeth Mohan were representing the school in the Girls Skills Competition. Laura's mom drove us to the Dr.Crokes pitch where the skill was held. There were around 12 schools competing. Each school had three players. The competition started at 10.00am. Vince Cooper explained the skills which were the zig zag solo, pint kick for goal, penalty shot, catch and hook kick, catch and hook kick with non-dominant leg, run pick up and fist pass, pick up and shoot for score while running straight at goal. Vince paired each school with another. We were paired up with the Holy Cross Mercy, to do each skill. At the end of the skills we got a total score of 34 points and Coolick National School won with a score of 42 points. Vince told us that we made

the top five. Linda Bruggener won the individual prize with 17 points and both Linda and Coolick National School went on to the county final which was being held in Austin Stack Park. We had a great day and hope to do it again next year!

By: Laura O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Mohan, and Anna O'Connor 5th class.

Girls 7 aside Football Blitz

On the 19th March a girls 7 aside blitz took place in the Spa football pitch. The blitz started at 10 o'clock. We played four teams, Mercy A team, Mercy B team, Gael Scoil Faithleann and St. Oliver's. Our first match was against Mercy B team. We played very well but, unfortunately, we lost. Our second match was against Mercy A. We were successful in winning this game the score was 6-5 to 0. We lost our other 2 games against the other two schools. We all enjoyed the day. It wasn't all about the winning, it was about participating for our school. The parents that supervised on the day bought us treats and we really appreciated it. Thanks again.

slán go fóill .

By: Ada Fleming 5th class

Proceeds of our Newsletter

The proceeds of our school magazine will go to a very good cause- the children of Chernobyl. I am sure you have all heard of the nuclear disaster which occurred in Chernobyl on April 25th 1986. Our proceeds will go towards giving the children of Chernobyl a holiday in Killarney when they arrive to stay with their host families for the month of July. **Thank you all for supporting this worthy cause.**