

Scoil Bhríde – Loreto National School Newsletter

Volume 13

June 2009

Hello everyone! This is our 13th 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.



Olympic Heroes visit Loreto

On Tuesday the 16th of September 2008 the Killarney Olympians came to Scoil Bhríde. Cathal Moynihan and Paul Griffin came but unfortunately Seán Casey could not make it.

Mrs. O'Sullivan welcomed them, thanked them and congratulated them on their great achievement. Cathal Moynihan is a past pupil of Scoil Bhríde. Cathal shows a great example to young people by his dedication to sport.

Mrs Moynihan who taught Cathal found the roll book with Cathal's name in it. There was also a picture of Cathal on the wall in the hallway. Cathal and Paul are both in Muckcross Rowing Club. That is where their training commenced.

John Beazley brought in a rowing boat. This rowing boat is called a scull. John told us about when Cathal and Paul first came to Muckcross Rowing Club. He said "They weren't the biggest and they weren't the strongest but look at what they have achieved today".

Cathal and Paul said never to give up, follow our dreams and to stay involved in sport and to eat healthy food. They showed us the parts of the scull and also told us facts about it e.g you steer with your foot and you row backwards. Paul and Cathal said that it was very hard to qualify in Poland and that they trained fourteen times a week. They also said there were over 250,000 Chinese volunteers in the Beijing Olympics and that they were very nice people.

The junior infants gave Paul and Cathal cards. They also had one for Seán. The cards were signed by the whole school. After that we had a picture taken of the whole school with Cathal and Paul.

After they were gone I felt inspired by them. Cathal asked Mrs O'Sullivan to give us homework off. I think the whole school was honoured by their visit. **By Aoife Allen 6th Class**

Challenge Matches against Loughquittane N.S.

On Friday 27th of February 2009 we invited the boys and girls from Loughquittane for friendly matches. The girls played first, and after a closely contested game the Loughquittane girls were ahead by one point. The boys then took to the field. Our boys proved a little stronger winning by two points. Every one got a game and all enjoyed the refreshments afterwards.

By Jane Culloty. 5th class

Christmas in Killarney

On Tuesday the 2nd of December the turning on of the Christmas lights in Killarney took place. The air was dry and mild. Fifth and sixth represented Scoil Bhríde. The Parade started at the Fair Hill car park and finished in Main Street. We walked through the town and at the end of the parade we saw Santa and his vintage steam engine.

The Lord Mayor made his speech and we were entertained by a band. Finally Santa turned on the lights and we all cheered. Then we knew how close Christmas was.

By Áine O' Sullivan & Andrea McCarthy 6th class.

EAST KERRY PRIMARY SCHOOLS LEAGUE 2008-2009

4/5 TEACHERS SCHOOLS 11 A SIDE

TEAM A – LORETO

TEAM B – KNOCKADERRY

TEAM C – GNEEVEGUILLA

TEAM D – KILCUMMIN

The competition was played on a league basis.

Round1. A v B / C v D.

Round2. A v C / B v D.

Round3. A v D / B v C.

The league was played on a wet and cold day in Kilcummin pitch. The first game was Loreto vs. Knockaderry. The first score of the game was a fine point by Knockaderry which was followed

shortly by another point from Loreto's Adam O'Shea. At this stage the game was really looking up for both teams. One of the Knockaderry backs passed a fine ball up to one of their half forwards who scored a point to put them in the lead. Not to be outdone, David Shaw scored two points in succession to put Loreto in the lead at half time. The second half started with some changes to both teams. The change made for Loreto was Patrick Wrenn for Sean O'Brien. Knockaderry also made a change to their team bringing on number thirteen for number eight.

The first attack of this half was from Knockaderry. Their shots kept hitting off the crossbar. It was a tense moment until Oisín Shannon cleared the ball up the field to David Shaw. He then passed the ball up to Adam O'Shea who worked his way past the backs and scored. Even though Knockaderry had their chances they failed to score. Loreto went on to gain two more points scored by David Shaw and Billy Courtney. Finally after a lot of determination from both teams the referee blew the whistle. Thrilled with our victory in the exciting first game we proceeded to take on Gneeveguilla in the second game. Full of confidence after winning the first game we togged out and went into our positions. After a good start Loreto were up two points. The first point was scored by Billy and the second one was scored by Adam.

Unfortunately for Loreto, Gneeveguilla scored a goal and a point which put them ahead at half time. Loreto were no match for Gneeveguilla as they scored two goals and three points in the second half. Even though Loreto scored one more point Gneeveguilla won by three goals and four points to three points.

The next match was against Kilcummin. Before the match started we had a team talk with our coach Mrs. O'Sullivan. There was a great start for both teams, but at half time Kilcummin had scored one goal and three points while Loreto had scored one goal. The second half started with every player showing determination to win the game. However Kilcummin continued to dominate the pitch until the end of the game. The final score was Kilcummin 2.4 and Loreto 1.1. We were thrilled with our victory against Knockaderry and we enjoyed the other games. Everyone got to play and it was a great experience for our very young and promising team.

Panel: Adam O'Shea, David Shaw, Creagh Courtney, Jack O'Connor, Cian Griffin, Oisín Shannon, Billy Courtney, David Naughton, Patrick Courtney, Seán O'Brien, Peter O'Donoghue, John Beecher, Dónal O'Sullivan, Patrick Wrenn, Dylan Sheahan .

By Oisín Shannon and Patrick Courtney 5th Class.

Girls Mini Sevens

On Thursday the 11th of March the girls football mini sevens was held in Dr.Crokes pitch. The weather was gorgeous and we couldn't have had a better day. We arranged to meet in Dr.Crokes pitch at 9:20am. We all got warmed up and our first match was against Rathmore N.S at 10:15am. We started very well with a spectacular goal by Aoife Allen. However Rathmore then got two points. After half time Elizabeth Mohan managed a lovely straight forward point which put us ahead. Then unfortunately Rathmore replied with a lucky goal. Time was ticking and they scored the last point. The final score was Loreto 1-1 Rathmore 1-3. Our next match was against Fossa N.S. and we played 12 aside. Again Aoife Allen gave us a great start with a fast goal. Then Kara O'Connor drove the ball up the field and scored a smashing point. We were all delighted. In the second half Fossa was ready and scored a beautiful goal. However Kara responded with a fantastic point. Aoife Allen came back with a lovely goal. Then Emily Treacy and Elizabeth Mohan scored a point each. This was a very sporting match.

We were so proud to get this far and our next match was against Knockanes. They were very good but also they were very lucky. We were disappointed with the final score but we wished Knockanes well as they won out the final. We will be back next year and better than ever.

Team Panel

Emily Treacy, Andrea McCarthy, Kara O'Connor, Siobhán Fleming, Katie O'Connor, Aoife Allen, Niamh O'Sullivan Aoife

O'Donoghue, Elizabeth Mohan, Áine O'Sullivan, Shauna Courtney, Alicja Korzec.

By: Niamh O'Sullivan 5th class.



Good Deeds for Christmas

When one hundred Loreto school polo shirts arrived to Anthony Walsh (Adam and Peter's dad) in the wrong colour it appeared to be a disaster. However Anthony generously decided to see if some good use could be made of them and brought them up to the school.

We contacted Sr. Anne who co-ordinates the work of the Loreto Missions. She said a shipment would be going to their school in Kenya very soon if we could get the polo-shirts to Dublin. Martin Allen (Aoife and Harry's dad) kindly delivered the polo shirts to the Loreto Convent in Stephen's Green. The children in Kenya were thrilled with their new polo shirts. Mar a deir an seanfhocal

"Is olc an ghaoth nach séideann do dhuine éigin".

Aoife O'Donoghue 5th class.

Oliver

On the 10th of March our school went to see Killarney Musical Society's show Oliver! Eleven children from our school participated in the show.

Oliver Twist was played by Arthur Tyther while the Artful Dodger was played by Eoin O' Sullivan, Nancy by Fiona Crowley and Fagin by Des Furlong. There was a cast of about forty children and fifty-five adults. The show itself was very good with brilliant sets and dance routines.

The show started in the workhouse with the children singing "Food, Glorious Food". Then Oliver becomes a "Boy for Sale" after asking for more food. He is sold to Mr. Sowberry "the undertaker" where he sings the tender "Where is Love". He then escapes and meets the Artful Dodger where they sing "Consider Yourself" Dodger then introduces him to Fagin and he learns

“You’ve got to Pick a Pocket or Two”. The next morning Nancy and Beth arrive and they sing “It’s a Fine Life” and “I’d Do Anything”. They then go out and Oliver gets arrested when Dodger steals a wallet. Oliver is found innocent and is taken in by Mr. Brownlow who discovers Oliver is his long lost niece’s son. But then Bill Sykes takes him back to Fagin. Nancy realises Oliver is in danger and tries to bring him back to Mr. Brownlow but Bill kills her. Fagin decides to “Review the Situation” and retires. Dodger is arrested, Bill is killed by a police guard and Oliver returns home and finds his family at last.

We really enjoyed participating in the show and our school were very proud of the eleven children who performed in the show. The audience enjoyed their trip through Dickensian London, following the adventures of young Oliver Twist.

By: Jevon Flaherty and Tara Casey 5th class

Our School Garden

We have started growing vegetables in our school garden. First we watched a DVD on how to plant to vegetables.

The 5th and 6th class planted potatoes, cabbage, red cabbage, leeks and strawberries into pots which were placed in our classroom. After a few weeks of caring for them and watering them, they were ready to go outside. Then Sean kindly dug out our vegetable patch.

Our garden has been growing wonderfully thanks to the help of Aisling and Niamh’s mom Katherine Devlin. We used chicken and horse manure to help plants to grow and slug pellets to keep slugs away from our vegetables. We are hoping to have our vegetables ready by June. The Infants and 1st class also planted vegetables. Our lovely garden is located around the side of our school and everyday it blossoms more and more. We are thrilled to have our garden and we hope to have it again next year.

By Rachel Randles 5th class.



Cumann na mBunscoil quiz

The Cumann na mBunscoil quiz took place on Friday the 1st of May at Gaeil Scoil Faithlinn. The quiz was held to commemorate 125 years of the G.A.A.

The team that represented Scoil Bhríde Loreto consisted of Katie O’Connor, Áine O’Sullivan, Kara O’Connor and Eimear O’Sullivan.

The questions were tough and we were unfortunate to just miss out on the medals. However coming 3rd was a great achievement and we enjoyed ourselves very much. We wish Glenflesk N.S. and Knockanes N.S. the best of luck in the Kerry finals.

By Áine O’ Sullivan 6th Class

Soccer Tournament

On Tuesday April 21st 2009 5th class boys and 6th class girls went to a soccer tournament in Tralee. We went by bus and on the way we picked up Loughquittane N.S. The blitz was held in St. Brendan’s Park. We were all set for a great day.

Our first game was against Raheen N.S. on pitch 1. Mrs O Sullivan named out the starting team. Then we went and tried our best. The final score was 3-0 to us. Adam got 2 goals and Michael got 1. We were delighted with the win. Our second game was against Douglas. They were a very tough team but we tried our best. The final score was 4-1 to Douglas and Creagh got the goal. We were disappointed with the result but it was a great game.

After that game we had a bite to eat. Our third game was against Kilmurry. We changed our team around this time. They went out and did very well. The final score was 3-1 to us. Michael got 2 goals and Jevon got 1. We were very happy with our win. Our last game was against Abbeydorney N.S. We named out the team and off we went. We did very well in the first half and not so well in the second. The referee blew his whistle and we shook hands. We were disappointed but proud of our

performance. The final score was 4-2 to Abbeydorney, Adam scoring the two goals. We all got to play.

We had a great day and we can't wait to come back next year. We will all be in sixth class and will be older, wiser and more skilful.

By Creagh Courtney and Michael Foley 5th class.

Swimming

On November the 4th 2008, my brother Dónal and I represented Scoil Bhride in the Irish Minor Schools Competition in swimming which was held in Cork. There were many other children there representing their schools. I swam in the 50m breaststroke in a time of 44 seconds. I also swam the 100m I.M. in 1.37 minutes they were both inside the qualifying times for the finals in Dublin. Dónal swam in the 50m backstroke in 42 seconds and 50m freestyle in 39 seconds he also qualified for Dublin.

Similar competitions were held all over Ireland and all the children who qualified met in the N.A.C. (National Aquatic Centre). I travelled to Dublin with my Dad and brother. I felt a little nervous before my swim. I didn't win a medal but I was very privileged to get a personal best (P.B.). Dónal qualified for the final and came 5th. We were also very proud to see Scoil Bhride's name on the programme.

I love swimming and I enjoyed my experience very much.

By: - Aine O' Sullivan 6th class

The Debate

On Friday 21st of November 2008 5th and 6th class held their annual debate. This year the motion was "Homework Should Be Abolished." The captain of the proposing team was Eimear O' Sullivan. Eimear's team consisted of Andrea Mc Carthy, Lauren O' Connor, Siobhán Fleming, Emily

Treacy, Cian Griffin, David Naughton, Jevon Flaherty, Jack O' Connor, Creagh Courtney, Adam O' Shea, Michael Foley, Aoife Allen and Patrick Courtney. This team made great points about why homework should be abolished.

The captain of the opposing team was Kara O' Connor. The members of Kara's team were Áine O' Sullivan, Katie O' Connor, Alicja Korzec, Tara Casey, Oisín Shannon, Caoimhe Lynch, Niamh O' Sullivan, Rachel Randles, Aoife O' Donoghue, Seán O' Brien, Lydia Coughlan, Kathryn Cronin and Jane Culloty. This team made a great argument about why homework shouldn't be abolished. 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. As an added bonus we raised enough money for the Life Education Bus to buy a new Harold. Oisín presented the money to Mrs. Whitty and she was delighted. The debate was once again a great success.

By Katie O' Connor 6th class

The Life Education Bus

On Friday 30th January 2009 our school had a visit from the Life Education Bus and educator Seamus Whitty.

After the 11 o'clock break 5th and 6th class lined up and went out to the Life Education Bus. We talked about how you feel and how your health has an effect on your energy levels. We all need to feel that we are good at something and confident. We named out a few things like football, swimming and soccer. You might feel that you need time on your own and that you need to try new things. You should give and receive attention and to feel part of a group and feel safe and secure and have some choice over what you do.

We acted out a drama about a girl who was offered cigarettes from her friend Jay. Aoife acted as Cathy and Seamus acted as Jay. Seamus gave us some

tips on what to say if you get in a situation like that. A few of them were to stand up straight, to speak clearly, to be polite, just say “no thanks”, try and change the subject. You could also give them some tips like you could die young and that 8% of 13-15 year olds smoke and then walk away.

We learned that the four main systems in your body are the circulation system, the digestive system, the respiratory system and the nervous system. If you were to put your digestive system in a line it would circle the earth twice.

We also talked about drugs and how they can affect us. We named some drugs like cocaine, heroin and the most common one of all caffeine. Some drugs like tobacco are non-medical but legal and cocaine is non-medical and illegal. When you take drugs you can get addicted to them. This is when you can't stop taking them. This makes it hard for people to stop. When you take the drug away the brain goes looking for it. Drugs can also stop or reverse messages from the brain that is why no one should ever start on drugs.

This visit was a great benefit to learn outside the classroom environment. 6th class will be able to face peer pressure especially when they move on from 6th class next year. The 6th class will be sad because they won't be able to go next year.

By David Naughten 5th class and Eimear O'Sullivan 6th class

Our first Volleyball Tournament

On the morning of October 20th two eager Loreto volleyball teams travelled to Killarney Parish Hall for a local volleyball tournament. Michael Foley was captain of the Loreto Leopards who included Siobhan, Cian Griffin, Katie O'Connor Aoife Allen and Sean O'Brien. David Naughten was captain of the Loreto Jaguars, who fielded Jevon Flaherty, Emily Treacy, Patrick Courtney, Andrea Mc Carthy and Lauren O'Connor. I was disappointed when the Loreto Leopards were defeated by the Fossa Zebras, but overjoyed when the Jaguars obliterated the Fossa Puffins. All was not lost for the Leopards who made a great

comeback and valiantly won their second match. The tournament was thrilling! I enjoy this sport because it is a non-contact game.

By Sean O'Brien 5th Class

The Christmas Play

The 5th and 6th class presented their school play called the Late Wise Man on Monday December 15th. Mrs O' Sullivan selected a date and parts were allocated. Everybody was very excited as rehearsals began. Lots of effort was put in preparing for the show. Costumes were organised by Mrs. O' Sullivan and Margaret. Oisin and Aoife took charge of props At last it was show time! A big crowd of parents family and friends arrived. We were ready to roll. Mrs O'Sullivan opened the show which was followed by songs such as “Entrance of the King of Persia”, “Good luck farewell”, “Go Go, Go on Artaban”, “Get out! Move on!”, “pay up you scum”, “How can we repay you”, “Hail to our King”, “Quickly Quickly!”, “Welcome Jesus” and “Everywhere”. Everybody acted their parts to perfection. Everyone was pleased and delighted with the show, and we thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

By Lydia Coughlan 5th class

German and French

Fifth and sixth class get an opportunity to learn German and French in school. Fifth class learn German and sixth class learn French.

Our language teacher is Frau Steof.

German

In German class we learn words and sentences in German e.g. Guten Tag, Ich bin Kiki which translate to Hello, I am Caoimhe. In April we did little project in groups on different German themes. Each group stuck pictures on their sheet of what their theme was. Aoife, Kathryn and Caoimhe for example were assigned the theme “German foods and places to go”. So we stuck on pictures of food including sausages, cake, cheeses and pretzels and

also places to go including The Berlin Wall. It was a lot of fun and we enjoyed going on the computer to search for information on our assigned project.

By Caoimhe Lynch 5th class

Bonjour,

All this year Frau Stoef has been teaching us French. We learn grammar, colours, numbers, conversations and songs. We recently completed French projects. We are also doing a play called ‘‘Belle et la Bête’’ or as we know it ‘‘Beauty and the Beast’’. We are hoping it will go well, but practise makes perfect!

Au revoir. **By Emily Treacy 6th class**

Soccer in Tralee

On Tuesday April 21st 2009 we got a bus which we shared with the Loughquittane children to Tralee .It was the day of the inter school 5 aside soccer .Lots of schools participated. When we arrived at St. Brendan’s Park, it was a sunny but later it become cloudy and dark and there was a shower of rain.

We played on an all weather pitch. Each member of the class got a chance to play. The standard of soccer skills was very high .We played our best and it was good fun. The first mach we played against Ballyduff. Andrea Mc Carthy was goal keeper, Áine O’Sullivan was the defender, Lauren O’Connor and Aoife Allen were midfield and Kara O’Connor played striker. Ballyduff were a better team and the score was 3-0 for them.

The next match was Loreto v Scoil Bhreac Chluain and the team was the same except Aoife Allen replaced Andrea Mc Carthy.

The third game was Loreto v Gaeilscoil Listowel and the team was change for this game.

Goal-Andrea Defender –Eimear Midfield- Katie & Aoifa Striker –Alicja

We had settled down and played this mach really well and the score was 3-1 for Loreto .We was delighted and looking forward to the mach against Gaeilscoil Faithleann from Killarney. As the time

was approaching 2.30 pm the Gaeilscoil people had to go home so they forfeited the last game.

We were very happy that we had all played and we had a great day.

By Alicja Korzec 6th class

BOYS CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL FOOTBALL SKILL COMPETITION

On Tuesday 28th of April, Adam O’Shea, Michael Foley and David Naughten were selected for the Boys Skills Competition. Our area was run off by Vince Cooper.The whole idea was to perfect all of the nine skills which were chosen for us to do and the team with the highest score out of all the skills would go on to the county finals.There were three boys chosen from every school around the Killarney area. Faha School went on to win the team competition and someone from Faha won the individual competition also with 25 points out of a possible 27. Our team came close with Adam finishing with 24 points, Michael with 23 points and David with 19 points. Overall we came fourth. We wish the best of luck to Faha in the county finals.

By: Adam OShea 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 happened 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.

Focal Buíochas

Sincere thanks to our teachers, our secretary, our caretaker our SNA’S the Board of Management, Parents Association and all who have helped in any way with the running of our school over the past year.

11 A Side Football Competition

On Wednesday the 20th May the 4th, 5th and 6th class girls went to Kilgarvan to play the first round of the 11 a side Girls' football competition.

We were about to start the match when we were hit with torrential rain. We waited for ten minutes until the rain eased off and we started warming up. As the whistle blew it started to rain but that didn't stop us. We were awarded a free early in the first half and Aoife Allen scored a great point. Then Elizabeth Mohan scored a super goal. Kilgarvan came back and scored a point, but we were the stronger team and Aoife Allen scored a goal which was unfortunately disallowed. Niamh O'Sullivan replaced Alicja as wing forward. Lauren and Aoife Allen scored two brilliant goals. The referee blew the whistle and it was half time. Mrs. O'Sullivan gave us a pep talk and we were ready to go again. This time we decided to play fifteen a side so everyone would get a go.

In the second half Elizabeth Mohan scored three great goals and Niamh O'Sullivan also scored a class goal. Aoife Allen followed with an unstoppable goal and two points. Kilgarvan replied with a point. The final score was Loreto 7-3 Kilgarvan 1-1. We were delighted with the overall score and couldn't wait to go and play our next match.

Team Panel

Captain-Lauren O'Connor, Katie O'Connor, Aoife Allen, Kara O'Connor, Eimear O'Sullivan, Siobhán Fleming, Áine O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Mohan, Alicja Korzec, Aoife O'Donoghue, Niamh O'Sullivan, Anna O'Connor, Laura O'Sullivan, Ada Fleming, Áine O'Sullivan, Shauna Courtney, Aldina Murphy.

By Kara O'Connor 6th class

We were very excited as we qualified to play Glenbeigh in the County semi final. On the 3rd of June we headed off for Beaufort. We all took our positions, it was game on! Glenbeigh were very

strong and were leading at half time. However in the second half we made a great come back, with goals from Niamh and Lauren and points from Elizabeth, Laura and Katie. Everyone played really well in intense heat. Despite our valiant efforts victory went to a deserving Glenbeigh team. We were privileged to meet Mary Jo Curran, winner of nine senior All- Ireland medals for Kerry.

By Aine O' Sullivan and Alicja Korzec 6th class

BOYS CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL FOOTBALL SKILL COMPETITION

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By: Adam O'Shea 5th class.

Girls Football Skills Competition

On Wednesday 13th of May 2009 the East Kerry Primary Girls Football Skills Competition was held in the Dr. Crokes Pitch. The representatives from the school were Aoife Allen, Katie O'Connor and Eimear O'Sullivan. Thirteen schools from around East Kerry participated. It commenced at 10:00am and the competition involved eight skills. The skills were as follows:- the penalty kick, pick up a rolling ball, solo run, punt kick with strong leg, accurate kicking with weak leg, hook kick with strong leg, run, pick up and fist pass over the bar, and the overhead catch. We managed to get in to the top five teams. We wish the best of luck to Lissivigeen N.S. who go forward to

represent East Kerry in the county finals. Go n-éirí leo.

By: Aoife Allen and Eimear O'Sullivan 6th Class

Our Science Day at Knockreer Education Centre

On the 28th of April 2009 we met Mrs. O'Sullivan at the entrance to the Demense at 9:30 am. We walked to Knockreer House and met Róisín, our science teacher for the day.

First we investigated the mammal traps. These had been hidden the night before. The tunnel led to a nest box. It contained peanuts as bait and shredded paper as bedding. We learned the characteristics of a mammal. They are warm blooded. They bear their young live and feed them on their own milk. They have hair or fur covering their bodies.

We took turns opening the mammal traps and releasing the little creatures into plastic bags with plenty air. There was great excitement as we passed around the mammals and examined them.

The field mouse (also known as the wood mouse) is very lively. He has huge eyes and has a heightened sense of hearing. He can hear predators e.g. fox, badger, pine martin and stoat. He can also hear his prey e.g. insects. He is an omnivore as he as he also eats nuts and fruit. The field mouse has a long tail which gives him good balance his back legs are bigger than his front which helps him to jump away from predators. His dark colour acts as a camouflage, helping him to survive.

The bank vole is bigger than the field mouse, has small eyes, small ears and a short tail. He is also an omnivore but he is diurnal (he comes out during the day). He is a reddish colour which provides him with good camouflage to hide among the leaves on the ground. The bank vole is not native to Ireland. They arrived in Foynes on a cargo ship from Germany about forty years ago. The bank vole lives happily in the same environment as the field mouse. They do not compete with each other as one is nocturnal and the other is diurnal. We were ecologists as we studied these mammals.

Next we became environmental scientists. We took a kick sample from the river Deenagh. We dislodged invertebrates into a sieve and examined them in a tray of water. The types of invertebrates living in a river tell us if it is polluted or not. We got a sieve each and each group got an I.D Chart. We found the mayfly and the stonefly which told us that the river Deenagh is very clean. There were shrieks of excitement as we identified the little creatures and returned them to the water.

After we had lunch we went on a scavenger hunt. We were given a list of twenty things from nature to find. On our walk we saw the prints of Brother McCuda's knees. He is supposed to have prayed here for two hundred years. Mass is said here every year. We admired the huge display of bluebells. We examined a badger's sett.

Next we took nets and pooters and shook branches and on the trees. We found millipedes, earthworms, slugs and spiders. We respected nature and put all the creatures back in their own environment. It was time for us to thank Róisín, say goodbye and set off for Ross Castle. As we walked we picked up litter along the way.

By: Andrea McCarthy 6th class

Our Trip to the Gap of Dunloe and St.Mary of the Angels School.

On the 15th of May 2009, 6th class of Loreto set out to Beaufort for a trip to St.Mary of the Angels School and then a walk through the beautiful Gap of Dunloe.

We had been preparing for this trip for a few days because we were having a prayer service on Inisfallen Island after we walked through the Gap. We also had to organise ourselves for the walk and we had to bring something to share with the children in St.Mary of the Angels School. We left school at about 9:30am and drove out to St.Mary of the Angels school with Mrs. O'Sullivan and Aoife's mom. When we got there we went into a classroom. The principal, Liam Toomey introduced us to Angela and Robbie. We got a lovely welcome

and there were bars, taytos and drinks set out for us. The teacher went out and when she came back she had a few more children with her. Their names were Taylor, Stacy, Timothy, Eoin, Joe, Dónal, Alex, Olivia and Jack.

Unfortunately, it was too wet for them to walk with us but we shared our picnic inside and then went out into the playground. We played basketball and hide`n`go seek. We all had lots of fun but unfortunately we had to leave. We really appreciate our health now, after the visit.

After St. Mary of the Angels school we drove on to Kate Kearney's Cottage. We started walking at about 11.30 a.m. About five or ten minutes into the walk we saw some people rock climbing. We stopped and watched for a minute but then it started raining so we took some shelter under the rocks and had some lunch. We kept walking .through the beautiful Gap for about two and a half hours until we came to the head of the Gap. We were very tired and we stopped to have some lunch. It was easier from there on because it was downhill, but after a while it started raining. We got to the Black Valley and went into the church where there were children practising for there First Communion. Soon we entered the National Park and arrived at Lord Brandon's Cottage.

When we got to Lord Brandon's Cottage we were all tired and hungry. We all got something to eat and we got ready for the boat. The weather was beautiful now and we could admire the magnificent scenery.

The boat mans name was Dónal O Donoghue. He was very nice. We went through the Upper Lake, the Middle lake and the Lower Lake and under Bricín Bridge and the Old Weir Bridge. Dónal told us stories about the islands. One of the stories he told us was about Mouse Island. He said that if you went out any moonlit night there would be twelve pairs of mice dancing on the beach and two mice singing an old Irish song.

We had a prayer service on Inisfallen Island. We sang, said readings and prayers of the faithful around the altar. After the prayer service Eimear told us all about Inisfallen Island and she told us the story of Brother MacCudda. We all got time to explore the Island. We had great fun on the boat going back to Ross Castle. We talked and finished off our picnic as the sun shone. We got back to Ross Castle at about 5:30pm.

We know now how lucky we are to live in a lovely place and we are especially thankful that we have our health.

By Siobhán Fleming. 6th class

Ross Castle

Our tour guides name was Tom Lawlor. We learned a lot from this interesting tour.

Ross Castle was built about 600 years ago by the O'Donoghues of Ross. Because O'Donoghue rebelled against Queen Elizabeth his head was cut off and his castle was given to McCarthy Mór (a gambler). He sold the castle to an Englishman Sir Valentine Brown.

The first room we went into was the Main Guard. About fifteen to twenty soldiers lived here. They cooked deer (venison) over an open fire. If there was a siege the animals were brought in here too. The loop hole windows were long and narrow. It was easy to shoot out with a musket, but hard to shoot in.

The door had cross planking, studs and a bolt. Another clever way to keep the castle safe was the spiral staircase with steps of different heights (stumble steps). The soldiers could also throw arrows, spears or boiling water or oil down the murder hole onto intruders. The spiral staircase was built clockwise so that the soldiers could strike down with his right hand, giving the defender the advantage. There were wooden shutters on the windows (no glass). Animal intestines and fat were stretched over the shutters. Rainwater drained out through the slop hole.

Next we went up to the parlour. The lights were made from rushes and fat. The smoke must have been unpleasant. The plaster on the wall was made from sand, crushed shells, pig's blood and animal hair. The Chieftain had a big chair. He protected his clan. (clann = family). In return they paid him taxes. He settled disputes in the Justice Chamber.

The Chieftain, his wife and family slept in the bed chamber (seomra leaba). They slept sitting up so the bed was very short. To be flat was a reminder of death. They also had breathing problems. The floor was wooden. The baby was placed in the cubby hole to keep him/her warm and up from the mice. The Chieftain kept his valuables in trestle chest at the end of the bed. The ceiling was barrel vaulted with a weave basket effect. The toilet had a wide ledge so that three people could use it at the same time. A shoot carried down the waste. There were bars across it for defence. The gong farmer carried away the waste. Some was left to disinfect the clothes. Ammonia fumes came off the waste and killed off the fleas. Clothes were hung up in this room which was called the Garde Robe (for guarding your clothes.)

The Banqueting Hall provided an opportunity for the Chieftain to impress his guests. He sat in a large wainscott chair. There were steps up to the Minstrels' Gallery. Poets, musicians and storytellers entertained the guests while they ate. They were not seen. They played the harp, flute and pipes. Food was prepared in the pantry, cooked on an open fire and served on pewter plates. These contained lead. People died in their late 30s from lead poisoning. The chandelier is on a pulley and has beeswax candles. There is an altar behind the table with a bible.

Ross Castle was built in this position because it is protected on three sides by water. When the English brought in a roof tax the Browns decided to knock off the roof. The castle fell in to disrepair until the 1950s. A group of American businessmen bought it to develop holiday homes. Thankfully one of them Mr. Mc Shain, decided to buy others out and restore the castle. This was a huge

undertaking. With the help of the Office of Public Works it was rebuilt in twenty years. Twenty tons of Irish oak were used to replace the roof. No nail or screw was used – just interlocking beams. This was a very skilled job. We are very fortunate that John Mc Shain gave the castle back to the Irish people (to us) to enjoy.

By: Emily Treacy 6th class

Senior School tour 2009 to Ballyhass Lakes, Mallow

On Friday the 29th of May the senior side of the school 3rd 4th 5th 6th went to the Ballyhass lakes in Mallow. First we were split up in to groups of fourteen. The groups were called pears, mangos, bananas, and kiwis. After that we went to get ready for our first activity.

Our first activity was low ropes course. Our instructor was Cathal. The low ropes course was a test of teamwork and trust. It was great fun as well. Then we went over to the spider web. We had to fit through holes on the web. It was tricky as a lot of the holes were quite small. Then finally we got every one through a different hole. It was team work at its finest.

Then we put on our wet suits to go kayaking. Sam and Brigid were our instructors. The kayaking was great fun. We were in the middle of the lake where it was 40 foot deep. It was very enjoyable. Sam taught us some fun games like "Sam says" and we lined up our kayaks and swapped. Then we went back to the pier and dived in to the water. We enjoyed it a lot. Some people tried to do flips. It was brilliant.

After lunch we went raftbuilding. It was very exiting to see if our rafts would float, after our hard work as a team building them. We were given four barrels and five planks of wood and some rope to tie the planks and barrels together. Our instructors were Cathal and Brigid.

My favourite activity, abseiling was next. We walked up the mountain and waited our turn to

climb down the steep cliff which was a sixty foot drop. When it came to my turn I was nervous, but when I got going walking backwards down the cliff, I lost my fear and I loved it. It was brilliant.

At the end of our enjoyable and challenging day, we went home on the bus happy and tired. It took a lot of team effort but it really paid off when we learned new skills and were able to finish all the activities.

By Cian Griffin and Jack O' Connor 5th class

WARNING!!!!!!

Warning! Warning! This is a warning for when I get old!

I am going to be very very bold!

I will wear clothes that are ten times too big, and in the middle of mass start dancing a jig.

I will be like a cat and lick myself clean and from babies in buggies I will take ice cream.

I will be very rude and never say please, and when I'm in posh places I will crack my knees.

My house shall be a mess just like a pig sty, and my shoelaces I will never tie.

I will cheat in bingo and no one will guess and over all I will be a pest.

When I'm 80 years old I will start to race drive, and by the time I'm 90 I will have done thousands of sky dives.

When I'm old I'm going to rule the world,

But I can't do it now I'm only a twelve year old girl!

By Eimear O'Sullivan 6th Class

Credit Union Quiz

On the 5th of February two teams from 4th 5th and 6th class took part in the Credit Union Quiz at the Gleneagle Hotel. The teams did very well, with

one of the older teams finishing just two short of maximum points in second place. Kara, Aine, Eimear and Katie were on this team while Siobhán, Emily, Andrea and Aoife's team came fifth. The sub was Lauren. The team from fourth class consisted of Billy, Dónal, Shauna and John, the sub was Ada. We learned a lot preparing for the Quiz.

By: Dónal O'Sullivan 4th John Beecher 4th, Shauna Courtney 4th class

Grandparents Day

Our Grandparents were invited up to our school Scoil Bhríde Loreto N.S. Only some of the nanas and granddads came. They told us about how they lived when they were young. We learned all about the history of the older days. It was very interesting. One nana brought in butter spades and butter and we made butterballs. Another grandmother told us about when she was in the Olympics. She did the pentathlon which has five sports, the Shot, the 200 Metres Jump and the high jump; she came 28th out of 32. The Olympics were held in Munich, Germany 1972. She said although she did not win she had a great experience.

Grandparents told us that when people came to dinner, they laid out their best linen table cloths and their china ware. They made apple tart and they laid out sugar cubes with their silver tongs.

In winter they brought in cups to school and the teachers gave them hot cocoa. We entertained them by singing songs. Junior, senior and 1st class sang a song called "Grandparents are special". They also made stars for the Grandparents who had died & had a prayer service to remember them. The children said a poem for the grandparents "Granma's glasses" and the Grandparents read them stories. **By; Luke Casey, Cian Gammell 3rd, Peter O'Donoghue.**

Easter Raffle

Every year we have an Easter Raffle in our school. This year 2009 we had the Easter raffle on 3rd April. We had a classroom raffle and a school

raffle. We had books, DVDs and lots of other prizes. Then we all went down to the hall for the school raffle. The principal talked to us about the people of Peru. Then Niamh Coughlan came up and put her hand in the box and picked out a yellow ticket and Saoirse O'Connor won the big chocolate Bunny. We raised 731.50 Euro for the people of Peru.

By: Saoirse O'Connor 3rd, Elizabeth Mohan 4th, Aine O'Sullivan 4th.
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Primary school sports

On the eighth of May Ms. O'Shea our P.E. teacher held races in the school to find out who would qualify for the primary school sports relay team. They were organised to choose the relay teams. The relay team qualifiers were first and second class girls, Rachel McCarthy, Kate O'Connor, Margaret O'Brien, Kate Stack and Emily Shaw. The first and second class boys were Fergal Murphy, Tristan O'Donoghue, Adam Walsh, Peter O'Sullivan and Connor Lucey. The 3rd and 4th class girls were Elizabeth Mohan, Ada Fleming, Aldina Murphy and Shauna Courtney. The 3rd and 4th boys were David Shaw, Cian Gammell, Luke O'Donoghue, Billy Courtney and Lorcán McMonagle. On Friday May 21st those who qualified went to Castleisland in a bid to qualify for the Kerry Finals. We had some great success in running with Billy Courtney, David Shaw and Seán O'Brien all coming first. We also won 2 gold medals in the relay with 1st and 2nd girls and 3rd and 4th class boys both coming first in the relay. 1st and 2nd class boys almost come third but just couldn't get there in time. It was a lot of fun. The prize winners were as follows; Ruth Courtney 3rd 60m, Margaret O'Brien 2nd 60m, Peter O'Sullivan 2nd 60m, Kate O'Connor 2nd 60m, Cian Gammell 2nd 100m, David Shaw 1st 100m, Billy Courtney 1st 200m, Seán O'Brien 1st 600m, 1st and 2nd girls, 3rd and 4th class boys came 1st in both relays.

By: Billy Courtney 4th, David Shaw 4th.

An Taisce Spring Clean Up

On the 24th of March Mrs Hickeys 4th & 3rd class went on a spring clean. We found a lot more rubbish than we thought we would! We found from plastic bottles to Big Mac cartons! We learned about ivy and how it needs other plants to stay alive, this is called a parasite. When we came back we found out we had collected 6 full bags of rubbish. The people who collected the rubbish were Fiachra and Lorcán. They collected 2 fire-lighters and a windscreen wiper lying on the ground. We never knew there was so much rubbish around us. When we came back we found out we were polluting our environment more than we thought we were. Now we are more vigilant about keeping our rubbish in the bin and not on the ground. All classes did the spring clean up. Mrs Foleys class did Birchfield, Mrs. O'Sullivan's class went to Ross Castle, and Ms O'Connells class did the school play ground. The whole school collected 25 bags of rubbish. We really enjoyed the spring Clean.

By: Fiachra O'Connell 3rd, Dylan Sheehan 4th, Robert O'Brien 3rd.

Star of Wonder

Third and fourth class staged their school play on the 19th of December. It was called "Star of Wonder". We had several practices for 2 weeks. It was hard work and everyone had to put in effort. We had to know our lines and songs. Before the end of the first week everyone brought in costumes and Mrs Hickey supplied the narrators with their costumes and head bands. Finally we could start practicing the play on stage. Mrs Hickey directed us and Gráinne worked the CD player, put the Star up and designed & made the Kings crowns. Faye Gabrielle O'Donoghue was brought on as "The Baby" in the Play at the end of the show. We were all excited to see her. Finally the 19th of December came. All the parents started to take their seats and everyone was ready to start the play. The play was very enjoyable to perform and all our hard work really paid off. After the show our parents had tea

and coffee and we were allowed to eat Abby and Luke's Moms cookies. We had a great day.

By: Laura O'Sullivan 4th, Shannon O'Shea 3rd, Abby O'Donoghue 3rd.

Water Art Competition

We had an art competition recently based on the theme "Water is life don't Waste It". The competition was organised by Ms O'Connell and the Green School Committee. Each class participated, the Junior and Senior infants coloured a picture of a Tap. All other classes made a wonderful job of drawing their own pictures. Each picture had its own individual aim for saving water. Each participant had one week to complete their picture. The winners were as follows:

Junior Infants: Jennifer Cronin, Senior Infants: Niamh Stack, 1st Class: Zena Shine 2nd Class: Gary O'Connor, 3rd Class: Ciara Carroll 4th Class: Laura O'Sullivan 5th Class: Kathryn Cronin 6th Class: Kara O'Connor

The competition was sponsored by Mary Theresa and Derry Doyle. The winners from juniors to 1st class received a prize of a €10 cinema voucher and from 2nd to 6th classes received a €10 GameStop voucher. The competition was a great success and although there was only one winner from each class every entry was beautiful!

By: Ada Fleming 4th and Aisling O'Mahony 3rd class.

Green School Presentation on World Water Day.

On the 20th March the 3rd and 4th 5th and 6th classes went to a power point presentation by the Green School Committee. It was all about water and how we depend on it. There was a pie chart about everything in the school that uses water. There was also a demonstration on how the shower school works in Scoil Bhríde.

Derry Doyle took a day off work to tell us all about the sea and how much fun one can have in it. He also told us how animals depend on it. He showed us pictures of his days at sea. It was very enjoyable and we wished it was a little bit longer.

Some of the pictures were so magical. He showed us the diving gear he uses and we were so amazed. We would like to do diving when we get older.

By: Patrick Wrenn 4th class, Luke O'Donoghue 3rd class and Lorcán McMonagle 3rd class.

Engineering Day.

On Tuesday 27th January 2009 the school had an engineering day. Our instructor was Scott Zigliski. We learned about the three forces. The three forces were muscle, air and gravity. He thought us how to make two wheeled and four wheeled go karts.

To make these go karts we needed to use axles, wheels and straws. We then went on to make our kart. After that we had a competition. The competition was that Scott had a ramp and the groups took turns with their go karts on the ramp which was really good fun. There was another competition where Scott had marked a white piece of tape and the further the kart went the more points your group got. The winning group of 3rd and 4th class were David, Billy, Dylan and Peter. They won with a score of 450.

The infants and all other classes did interesting constructions. We enjoyed the day.

By: Aldina Murphy 4th class, Níamh Randles 3rd class and Anna O'Connor 4th class.

German Storytelling

Scoil Bhríde, Loreto hosted a German "Story Telling Event" on 11th November 2008. Suse Weisse was invited by the Goethe-Institut Dublin to visit schools in Ireland. She presented some well known and not so well known fairy tales in German, with introductions and explanatory comments in English. She also interacted with the pupils.

The aim of the event, which was organised by the Goethe-Institut Dublin, was to encourage pupils to learn German and show them that it is a lot of fun.

My favourite story was "Hans and the sad princess". I liked the way she acted, as she was very funny.

By: Kathryn Cronin 5th Class



Girls skill team '09 Katie O'Connor, Aoife Allen and Eimear O'Sullivan



Boys skill team '09 Adam O'Shea, David Naughten and Michael Foley.



