



Maynooth Educate Together NS

Newsletter May/June 2019.

Important dates:

School Closure: June 29th : School closes for the summer holidays. :

Infant classes Dismissal: 11.00am

First, Second and Third classes dismissal: 11.15am

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth classes dismissal: 11.30am.

Return to school: August 29- School re-opens for the school year 2019/2020

Sixth Class Graduation: On Wednesday June 26th, our 6th class pupils graduated from Maynooth Educate Together NS. Our pupils entertained us with music, dance and poetry as they brought us down memory lane, recalling their experiences in Maynooth Educate Together and the people they met as they journeyed through the school. The event was preceded by the raising of the Blue flag which 6th class were awarded as a result of their projects on Europe in the Blue Star Programme. The 6th class then presented Marie with a mosaic on the theme of the Yellow Brick Road. It read''Make your own Yellow Brick Road'' with the insert 'Warning: Future

Being Built' The mosaic was designed by Maya and produced by the entire class. This will be displayed in our new school with all art works created by our previous 6th class pupils. The Graduation ceremony itself consisted of the presentation of medals by Marie Principal, scrolls by Elaine, Deputy Principal and Hoodies by Neasa, Chairperson of the Parent Teacher Association. Marie School Principal thanked the pupils for their very positive contribution to the school and had words of advice as they move forward to their second-level schooling. She thanked the teachers who taught the class as they progressed through the school and also the parents for their support of the school. Marie said goodbye to the 11 families who this year are finishing their time in METNS. Thomas, class teacher told of his year with the class and the projects they undertook. It was then time to move to the refreshments which were provided by our 5th class parents. What a spread! Then we moved to cut the Graduation cake, a work of art provided by parent Anne Carroll. Ann has each year produced the most amazing cakes on graduation night and yet again this year the cake looked too good to cut. But cut it we did and it tasted absolutely delicious. The cake may be viewed by all on our school website along with the mosaic presentation.

Very sincere thanks to 6th class and teacher Thomas for planning and executing such a wonderful graduation event. To Noel for his work with the music, to Joan for her assistance with the event, to the parents from 5th class for the wonderful spread and to all others who contributed to making this a night for us all to remember.

Update on new school building: I am delighted to report that the new school building is progressing well and that we are scheduled to move in at the end of August. We are all greatly looking forward to the move as the new school will greatly enhance our facilities. I will be in contact with you all by email at the end of August to confirm the situation at that time.

Teacher/Class Schedule for School Year 2019/2020

Junior Infants: Clare Dooley & Elaine Phelan
Senior Infants: Angela Langan/Sinead Courell
Catherine Collins

1st Class: Robert Leonard

2nd Class: Noel Carey

3rd Class: To be decided

4th Class: Naos Connaughton

5th Class: Aimee Egan / Noreen Keane

6th Class: Thomas Treacy

Support Teaching: Claire Dixon
Eoin MacDomhnaill
Elizabeth Foley
To be decided

New Permanent Teacher: As we are again enrolling a second Junior Infant class in this school year, we have appointed a new teacher to our permanent post. Elizabeth Foley is our new teacher appointment. Elizabeth is currently on the teaching staff of North

Kildare Educate Together NS and she will join our staff in September.

School Calendar: is available on the school website. All school books are available in Maynooth Bookshop.

Parent Volunteer Morning: Our annual Parent Volunteer Morning took place on Tuesday 25 June. We invited all our volunteers to join the staff at 8.45am in the staff room for a copy of tea/coffee and some goodies. A very small gesture on our part to thank the fantastic work done by our willing and hardworking volunteers. It was a very enjoyable event.

School Booklists: our booklists are available on the school website.

We have listed Twistables on our booklists and we request that you purchase these in this school year. In tandem with the Green Schools, we will look at alternatives during the school year. We are also aware that Crayola offer a recycling service in America and we will follow up to see if it is possible for us to access this service.

Green Schools Committee: The Green Schools committee has the following suggestions for ways in which we can reduce our use of plastic in the next school year:

- We are encouraging the use of crayons instead of Twistables and other products in plastic barrels over the course of the year

- Stainless steel lunchboxes are a durable and long lasting alternative to plastic one and are worth the initial cost
- Beeswax food wraps are a reusable alternative to cling film. Paper food wraps are also a better option than cling film.

Primary Language Curriculum School Closure: The DES has granted all schools a 1 day closure for staff PDST facilitated workshop on the primary language curriculum in the coming school year. Our workshop will take place in the school and will most likely be in January. We will notify parents of the date as soon as it is communicated to us by Kildare Education Centre

School Secretary sick leave: Our school secretary, Hilary remains on sick leave. We are pleased to say that Hilary will return to work in August.

Thanks to Ann, substitute secretary: very sincere thanks to Ann for stepping into the school office at short notice when Hilary became ill. What was originally intended to be a short stay extended to months. Very sincere thanks Ann for all of your work.

Swimming: 3rd class have completed swimming classes in St Raphaels in Celbridge.

Education Passport: 6th class pupils and their parents have completed the education passport documents, which will be sent to the secondary schools along with the 6th class school report.

6th class School visit to MPP/MCC: our 6th class pupils attended an induction day in MPP/MCC. On this visit they met the school Principals and had a tour of the school.

Student Teacher Observation: a number of teacher training students from Froebel College Maynooth, have completed observation placements in our school .

Intel Grant expenditure: the remainder of the Intel Science Grant has been spent on Robotics resources for the school.

First Holy Communion: our 2nd class pupils made their First Holy Communion on Sunday 18 May .

PTA Pub Quiz: on Thursday last May 23, the PTA held a pub quiz in aid of Barrettstown. It was well attended and the monies raised were forwarded to Barrettstown. Thanks to the organisers of this event and to those who supported it.

Crazy Hair Day: in aid of Barrettstown was held in the school on Friday May 24. What fun the pupils had with their mad mad hairstyles!

NCSE Allocation: Following a review of our school by the Special Education Needs Officer, our SNA allocation is unchanged for the coming school year .

Fire Officer School Visit: Olena, the Maynooth schools Fire Officer, gave a presentation to 2nd class in recent days. She covered all aspects of fire safety in the home and raised awareness of safety.

Erasmus Student from Froebal College: attend the school for 1 week observation in various classes. She also gave each class a presentation on life in Austria.

6th class Blue Star Programme: In completing this programme, 6th class invited 2 special guests to the school; *The Cypriot Ambassador to Ireland*, and also *Mairead McGuinness MEP*. Both guests were presented with completed projects and the senior classes 5th and 6th provided musical entertainment accompanied by teachers Noel and Eoin. Both events were a great success

6th class have been successful in their application for the Blue Flag and the flag was raised on Graduation evening.

International Food Day: coincided with the visit of MEP Mairead McGuinness. Each class provided food for themselves and it was a great success. The PTA were present to assist. Very sincere thanks to all who contributed to this event.

Junior Enterprise Programme: our 6th class took part in the JEP and marketed within the school the chosen product which was a story book cum cook book. This programme required the children to think like entrepreneurs and to bring a product from concept to reality and then to price and market it, much like you see on the TV programme Dragons Den. They learned about a whole range of disciplines not least the hard work that it takes to succeed in the open market. The monies earned by the class were spent on a day out at the cinema and shopping in Liffey Valley. Congratulations to 6th class and Thomas on this successful venture.

Author school visit: on June 13, Brian Gallagher, author of the Book 'Spies' visited 4th class to discuss the book. 4th class pupils had read the book and engaged in a question and answer session with Brian. The book 'Spies' tells the story of the War of Independence told through the eyes of 3 children who lived through the experience. The pupils reported that they really enjoyed the visit and learned from it.

Standardised Testing: took place in the weeks May 27 to June 7th. School reports have been sent home. .

New parents Evening: took place on Wednesday May 29. It was an opportunity for the parents of our new Junior infants to meet the school Principal and the teachers of Junior Infants. Classes.

New Junior Infants school visit: took place on Wednesday June 5th. The children spent an hour in the classroom with their future classmates and they engaged in active learning activities.

Principal Note: Another school year is finishing and we are all looking forward to the summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the school year. We hope that you enjoy the summer break and that we will have some good summer weather to enjoy the outdoors. Until the end of August, take care and keep safe. Best Wishes Marie Principal

PTA News

It's been a very busy and fun filled few weeks at the School with everything from a pub quiz to the summer fair and we of course squeezed a cake sale into the mix too!

We kicked off helping out with Europe Day led by Thomas and 6th Class...a great day celebrating all things EU that even featured a visit from Mairead McGuinness Vice president of the European Parliament. Mostly though there was a lot of delicious cakes and treats baked by our fabulous community of bakers. It was so great to taste so many different delicacies! Massive thanks to everyone involved!



The annual **METNS Charity Quiz** which took place on the 23rd May in Brady's was great craic. We had 10 intensive rounds, testing people on everything from computational thinking to famous movie lines but the best round had to be the one made up of questions supplied by our awesome students! Some classics in there! It was a huge success and we raised a whopping 685 for this year's chosen charity Barretstown so a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped out including Pat for being such a fantastic host and also to our wonderful sponsors for all the fabulous raffle prizes.

On the 29th May we welcomed the parents of our new intake of Junior infants into the school for the evening to meet the teachers and hear all about our amazing school. The PTA put on tea / coffee and treats for the parents and it was so lovely to be able to meet some of them and Act as ambassadors for the school. We also provided refreshments for parents when the students came in for the first time – always an emotional time helped by a lovely cuppa!

We are looking forward to getting to know the new intake and the parents over the next couple of years.

Our biggest event though of the whole year was the **Summer Fair** on the 15th June and what a day it was! The weather was (mostly) on our side and we had loads going on to keep the whole family entertained from our yummy Café run by Claire and Stephanie to the teddy tombola managed by Ruffina (anyone else come back with more teddy's than you dropped off?), the Fair tickets sold by Deirdre, Eoin was a great sport at the super soaker which was a keen favourite with the students (can't imagine why). Thanks to Amanda and Eimear for the fantastic carnival games, they were a huge hit! Tania was great on the craft stall with some help from some students and hopefully the Students enjoyed creating their memory boxes and trophies. Miriam played a blinder as usual on the raffle and there were some great prizes on offer there – thank you for donating again. Anthony's music helped creating a cracking atmosphere and great to hear some golden oldies in there for the parents! Lots of students were sporting the gorgeous artistic creations of Sian who did the face paint and Bindiya was doing her beautiful henna creations. Candy corner run by Anne was an obvious crowd pleaser and the bouncy castle was constantly hopping (thank you to Josh who helped man the bouncy castle not a job for the faint of heart) And as usual, Darren and Ray did us proud on the BBQ. Of course no event can go ahead without the dedication and passion of Carol...she does an incredible amount for the school and we can't thank her enough for her support and can do spirit! All in all an amazing day where we all came together and had some fun in the sun and raised a fantastic €950 for the school!



As you can see we're busy little bees in the PTA and none of these events would be possible without the support of our parents so we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We can do amazing things together so the more support and volunteers we have the more we do...the sky is the limit!



Thanks a million from The PTA Committee; Neasa, Sarah, Daniela and Deirdre