

The level of dedication and commitment shown by the 34 girls involved was a testament to each and every one of them.

At the medal-presentation ceremony, Waterford Senior Hurling Manager Derek McGrath, together with Waterford Camogie Legends Lillian O'Sullivan and Ann Whitty paid tribute to the dedication shown by the girls all year and were also highly complimentary to the School for accommodating so many girls to taking part in camogie in the school.

Ms Kennedy's love of the game has now ensured that we can go on to accommodate more and more girls in the sport in the forthcoming year, provided Cumann na mBunscol sticks by its Mission Statement "an aspiration to make Gaelic Games the games of choice in our primary schools".

Wedding Bells!!!

Congratulations to Miss. Foley who celebrated her wedding in June!!

Wishing them a lifetime of happiness!

Library

Thank you to all who recently donated books to the library. We still need more so please if anyone has books at home that are no longer needed we would really appreciate them.

Lost and Found

There are a lot of items at present in the lost and found bin. Can you please check here if your child is missing any items. Also please continue to label everything.

Taekwon-do Federation World Championship

We would like to wish the best of luck to four pupils who will be representing Ireland in the International Taekwon-do Federation (ITF) World Championships and World Cup which will take place in Brighton in July.

Christine Franks, 6th Class, Miss Walsh, will compete in the World Championships. Ivan Kiely, 5th Class, Miss Dennehy, Dinara Kiely, 3rd Class, Miss Barrett and Joseph Kiely, 2nd Class, Miss Frewen will compete in the World Cup. They are all members of Waterford ITF which is based in Ballinakill. Their instructor is Master Neil Franks, 7th degree Black Belt. The last World Championships took place in Rome two years ago. Christine, Ivan, Dinara and Joseph are training very hard and are hoping to bring home a few medals.

Kids Corner

Q. What get's wetter the more it dries?

A towel !

Q. What is the most hardworking part of the eye?

The pupil!

Q. What do you get from a pampered cow?

Spoiled milk!

Q. What do you call a fake noodle?

An impasta!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYBODY!



**Parents Association
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Ballygunner.**

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**Newsletter
Issue 45 – Summer 2016.**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A Message from Mr. O'Reilly

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As this school year comes to an end it is an opportune time to reflect on our year's work here at **St. Mary's National School**. It has been a progressive year with many notable achievements across our school community.

2015/16 was a year to remember for all. Our **1916 Centenary Celebrations** at Easter time were memorable as we raised our national flag on a glorious sunny morning. Our trophy cabinet is again laden with cups and shields from school quizzes, cross country running, basketball, track and field and gaelic games. Well done to all those pupils who represented our school and their families so well throughout the year.

We continue to identify areas for development and in 2015/16 our **School Improvement Plan** focused on science, while continuing with programmes in areas of literacy and numeracy from previous

years. An added bonus was the numerous visits from parents in our school community who work with science every day. Thanks for sharing your knowledge!!

I wish to thank our Board of Management for their support and guidance, all our **school staff** for their hard work and commitment to our pupils and all of you our parents/guardians for the interest you have in your child's education.

I wish to extend sincere thanks to our dedicated Parents Association, our pupils have benefited greatly from fundraising this year and replacing some old classroom furniture is in hand. Sincere thanks to those volunteers who gave so much time on a weekly basis to enhancing our school libraries. **Míle Buíochas!**

I wish our departing **6th class** pupils the very best as they move to Secondary School. They are a talented group of pupils who are a credit to their teachers and families. Indeed, I wish to compliment all our pupils on their many achievements this year. A special mention goes to those classes who worked so hard on their 1916 Projects and those with 'green fingers' who kept our school garden blooming.

Our **Communion and Confirmation** classes celebrated their special day in great style. We remember Fr. John who is on leave at present. We pray that he will be back to full health soon and with us again in September

We bid a fond farewell and extend best wishes to our colleague **Mr. John Walsh** who is retiring after 41 years teaching. John taught in our school since September 1993 and was a corner stone since then, most especially in special education, teaching children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. We all wish you well John.

Finally, I wish all associated with St. Mary's National School a restful and enjoyable Summer holiday. Here's hoping we will all return refreshed on **Thursday 1st September** when pupils return to begin the new school year!

Killian O'Reilly
Principal Teacher

Parent's Association News Update

Firstly a massive thank you to all who supported the Family Fun Day last Sunday. It was a great success (despite the match result!)

Well done to Alex Butler for being the first to get dunked and all the other children who participated.

Thank you to the Gymnasts, the Irish Dancers and the Tae Kwon Do Club for their fantastic displays, and of course the Bottle Brothers who very kindly provided the music after the match.

To all those who helped by attending, donating cakes, or helping out in any way we really appreciated it.

The funds raised by the Parents Association throughout the year were distributed as follows:

€5,000 to update school furniture

€1,500 to school library

€300 to the Rainbow Fund

€1,200 to Resource

€1,250 to English and Maths

Resources

€500 to Aistear for Junior and Senior Infants

€500 for PM Readers

€650 for 1916 commemorations

€350 for white boards and markers

All new members welcome for next September or anyone who can help out we would appreciate it.

Gaelic Games

U-13 Hurling

The U-13 boys created history this month when completing an historic 3-in-a-row of both Eastern and County "A" titles. Having swept all before them in the group phase, the stage was set for a final showdown with St. Declan's. After a tough start, a Luke Horgan hat-trick of goals put Declan's to the sword on a blistering hot day in Walsh Park.

The County Final brought Ballygunner up against unfamiliar opposition in Abbeyside NS. Donncadh Fitzpatrick put in a Man of the Match display although each and every player put in a flawless performance to comprehensively see off the men from the West. Ross Delahunty had the honour of collecting two cups in the space of as many weeks to top off a very successful GAA year for the school

Athletics

2016 has been a fantastic year for Athletics in Ballygunner.

Well done to all boys and girls who took part in the Waterford City Primary Schools event in April. For the first time in years, our boys as well as our girls, built up the highest points of the day in both categories and won well over 30 medals between them!

Following this great day at the RSC, many girls and boys qualified to compete in Dungarvan at the County Primary school event in June.

Congrats to the U12 girls Orna O Reilly, Este Oshioquemo, Lauren Sheils and Katie Nolke winning their relay at both the Waterford city and county event with Eimear Walsh stepping in on the day for an injured Katie Nolke. Lauren and Orna also strided out at full speed to finish 2nd and 3rd in their sprint in the county championship.

For the U11 girls, Laura Flynn finished a very fast 3rd in the 100m sprint. While VJ Mooney also finished 3rd in his U11 500m race.

An amazing relay race was run by our U10 Boys: Dylan Coady, Sam Hennessy, Ben Hennessy and Nathan Mackey (Niall Curham being on the winning team in the City event) winning the only county Gold medals

of the evening for our school.

Sarah Abullo flew down the sprint straight finishing 2nd in the U9 race while another relay team consisting of U8 Boys: Harry Kavanagh, Harry Smith, Ryan Moriarty and Jack Power made a remarkable come back and went home with bronze medals.

A total of 17 county medals were won that evening.

Thanks to parents/teachers who helped out at both the city and county events – Clair Moriarty, Deirdre and Edwin Flynn, Francis Murray, Catherine Power, Sonya Butler, Fidelma Connors, Andrea Duffy and our teachers Ms McGovern and Mr O Neill.

A special mention is given to Ray Leahy who has assisted with athletics in our school for many years but his daughter Ciara moves onto secondary school this year (and his son Brian last year). His assistance will be greatly missed.

I'd like to wish 6th class athletes good luck with their transition to secondary and we hope they continue to represent their new school in Athletics to the same extent as they represented Ballygunner.

Camogie on the Crest of a Winning Wave

It has been a historic year for Camogie here in school, where an incredible five titles have been won throughout all competitions since January.

Sarah Power led her team to a three-in-a-row of victories in the Indoor Camogie Competitions in February, after the team won all six games comprehensively in the tournament. The school are now unbeaten since 2013 in indoor competitions with a nineteen game unbeaten record. Notably, Ciara Berry and Alannah O'Sullivan were on the court for each

of those nineteen victories.

Aoife Hartley and Amy Kehoe were the captains of this year's Mini 7s squad, a group who created history by becoming the first Mini 7s team in the school's history, boys or girls, to win a County Title. The seven wins from seven in this competition, culminated in a 24 point winning margin over Lismore in the County Final in Walsh Park in early April.

Jointly captained by Elena Gallagher and Clodagh Hctor, the Roinn A 13aside Camogie team swept through their Eastern Campaign with ease before meeting a formidable Lismore outfit in the County Final on June 9th in Walsh Park. Scores from Aoife Hartley, Ciara McHugh and Laoise Forrest snatched a draw for the team at the end of normal time. The team's superior fitness levels and heart was sufficient to see them pull away in extra time and record a 2-05 to 2-00 victory over their great rivals.

Owing to the ever-increasing popularity of Camogie in the school, Ballygunner created history by fielding a second team in the Roinn B Competition for the first time ever. The Camogie Scene here in the school owes a depth of gratitude to our own sixth class teacher and the Eastern Secretary of Cumann na mBunscol Port Láirge, Ms Nicola Kennedy, who made it possible for the school to accommodate an additional sixteen girls in Primary School Camogie competition. Captained by Aoibhinn Kelly and Gwen Murray, the team made it all the way to the Eastern Final after victories over Gaelscoil Philip Barún, Glór na Mara and Dunhill. They eventually lost out in the Eastern Final to a very strong Portlaoighaire outfit after a highly competitive game. Camogie was practiced at lunchtime from Monday to Thursday, with after school trainings held every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 3pm-4pm.