

**Parents Association
St. Mary's National School,
Ballygunner.**

Telephone: 051-878388
E-mail: office@ballygunner.ie
www.ballygunner.ie



**Newsletter
Issue 33 – June 2013.**

A Message from Mr O'Reilly

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the 2012/2013 academic year comes to an end it is a good time to reflect on our year's work at St. Mary's N.S. It has been a progressive year with many notable achievements in our school, our community and beyond.

It was a memorable year as we celebrated the return of our School Show, we raised our 4th Green Flag for Travel, we won the Cumann na mBunscol Port Láirge County Camogie Roinn A title for the first time and remarkably both staff and pupils enjoyed some sunshine in May/June for the first time in years!!

While looking back, we also look forward to September 2013 when we will be engaging in the Department of Education and Skills School Self Evaluation Process.

We plan to work initially with staff and then extend it out to include all stakeholders as we review and improve our school for the years ahead. There will be new classroom initiatives in creative writing, tin whistle and history. While in line with the 'National Strategy for Improving Literacy' we will enhance our school library and improve reading resources.

I am pleased to inform you that our school has been sanctioned two additional teaching posts for September 2013. These posts will be in special education support and will benefit all pupils.

I wish to thank our Board of Management for their support and guidance, all our school staff for their 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.

I wish our departing 6th classes the very best as they move to Secondary School. They are a talented group of children who are a credit to their families. Indeed, I wish to compliment all our pupils on their many notable achievements this school year.

Finally, I wish everyone associated with our school a restful and enjoyable Summer holiday. Here's hoping the sun will continue to shine and we will all return refreshed on Thursday 29th August 2013.

Killian O'Reilly
Principal Teacher

Communion & Confirmation Classes:

Congratulations to all our pupils who received the Holy Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation in St. Mary's Church, Ballygunner in May. A special thank you to our Chaplain, Fr John and our 2nd & 6th Class teachers for their help preparing the pupils throughout the School Year.

School Tours

Some exciting school tours have been taking place over the last number of weeks. This year, our pupils visited interesting places including Lismore Castle, Copper Coast Farm & Castlecomer National Park. Many thanks to our teachers for organizing such fun trips again this year.

6th Class Disco

The Annual 6th Class Disco took place on Friday 7 June in the Scout Hall, Ballygunner. The Parents Association organized the Disco as a **Big Thank You** to our 6th Class pupils for their help with and support of our Junior Infants through the Buddy System.

School Musical

This year's School Musical Production of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' was a resounding success. The 5th and 6th Class pupils put on a wonderful entertaining show over 3 nights. Congratulations to all of our pupils and many many thanks to Ms Foley for her amazing artistic direction. Steven Spielberg watch out!!!

5th & 6th Class School Talk

Many thanks to Sgt Gavin Hegarty for his highly informative and interesting talk on Cyber Bullying to our parents of 5th & 6th Classes which was held in the School Hall on Wednesday 12 June.

Fundraising:

The Parents Association organized two fundraising events over the school year to raise funds to purchase tables and chairs for the new classroom. The Table Quiz raised €2,725 and the book fair held in May raised €2,000. A total of €3,357 has been given to the School to purchase the tables and chairs so the new classroom will be ready for September. The remaining monies have been added to last year's fundraiser to buy new books for the library. An update on the Library will be published in the next newsletter. Thank you all so much for your support.

New Teachers

The new teachers for September are as follows

2012/2013 Class Teacher	2013/2014 Class Teacher
Jnr Infants – Mrs O'Shea	Snr Infants – Ms Murphy
Jnr Infants – Ms Foley	Snr Infants – Ms McSweeney
Jnr Infants – Ms Morris	Snr Infants – Ms O'Connell
Snr Infants – Ms Murphy	1 st Class – Ms Cummins
Snr Infants – Ms McSweeney	1 st class – Ms Hayes
Snr Infants – Ms Smith	1 st Class – Mrs Whittle
1 st Class – Mr Kirwan	2 nd Class – Ms Kearney
Ist Class – Mrs Whittle	2 nd Class – Ms Keating
Ist Class – Ms Hayes	2 nd Class – Ms Frewen
2 nd Class – Ms Kearney	3 rd Class – Ms Smith
2 nd Class – Ms Keating	3 rd Class – Ms Barrett
2 nd Class – Ms O'Herlihy	3 rd Class – Ms Dollard
3 rd Class – Ms Dollard	4 th Class – Ms Moore
3 rd Class – Mr Kehoe	4 th Class – Mrs Glynn
3 rd Class – Ms Barrett	4 th Class – Ms Looney
4 th Class – Mrs Glynn	5 th Class – Ms Dennehy
4 th Class – Ms Looney	5 th Class – Ms Cullen
4 th Class – Ms Moore	5 th Class – Ms Cantwell
New Grouping	6 th class – Ms Walsh
New Grouping	6 th Class – Ms Kennedy
New Grouping	6 th Class – Mr Kehoe

Please note: Ms Cummins is on Career Break & Ms Keating is on Maternity Leave. New teachers will be appointed to these posts shortly following interviews.



Dates for your Diary:

Fri 28 June:

12.00pm School closes for Summer Holidays

Thurs 29 Aug:

9.00am School reopens for New Term

Oct Parents Association AGM

Graduation Mass:

A special graduation mass took place on Tuesday 25 June for all our 6th Class pupils who are leaving us this year. We wish all of them well as they start Secondary School this September.

Wedding Belle!

Many congratulations to Laura Connolly, one of our SNA Teachers on her recent wedding in May.

Parents Association AGM

The AGM of the Parents Association will take place in early October. All parents are encouraged to attend the meeting and are welcome to join the Committee. The following Committee Members have completed 3 years on the Committee this September: Aileen Holden Richie, Anne Rowe, Caroline Hctor, Ruth Curran, Nuala Forrest and our Chairperson, Phyl McNicholas. A special thank you to all of you for your hard work and commitment over the past three years.

Answer to Easter Newsletter Brain Teaser:

What can you catch but cannot throw?

A cold!

GREEN SCHOOLS



Our Fourth Green Flag

We are so delighted to have recently won our FOURTH green flag based on the theme of travel. This was a difficult theme to work on considering the size and location of our school but we have been commended greatly for the ideas and changes we have introduced and developed in trying to reduce our carbon footprints by using various sustainable modes of transport coming to and from school such as park 'n' stride and carpooling. Well done to everyone for participating with such enthusiasm in our MEOW Days and for winning another green flag for our school!

Green Flag Awards Ceremony

Well done to Lauren Daly from 5th Class and Ciara O'Sullivan from 6th Class, along with teachers Anne Marie Walsh and Deirdre Cullen, who proudly represented our school at the national An Taisce Green Flag Awards Ceremony in Hotel Kilkenny in May.

Raising the Green Flag

A lovely ceremony was held in school on Monday this week when Fr. John Treacy officially raised the Green Flag. The ceremony was attended by Ella Ryan (Environmental Officer with Waterford City Council) along with the pupils and staff from Junior Infants to 1st Class as well as the pupils and teachers on our Green Schools committee.

Carpool School of 2013

Well done to Kaitlin Byrne (5th Class), Megan O'Mahony (5th Class) and Katie Judge (6th Class) on winning an essay competition with An Taisce based on our green school's work on the Travel theme. They recently attended an awards ceremony in Croke Park accompanied by teachers Maura Upton and Fionn Smith and returned to school with the fantastic news that our school has been named by An Taisce as the "National Carpool School of 2013". They also returned with a beautiful crystal trophy, a framed certificate and €500 prize money for our school. Well done everyone for making such a fantastic effort on our MEOW days this year.

A Big Thank You!!

A **HUGE** thanks to the teachers and pupils on our Green Schools committee who have been outstanding in their commitment and enthusiasm this year. See you in September for more Green News!

Fionn Smith – Green Schools Co-ordinator.

.....

Double All Ireland Indoor Champion

Last March at the AIT indoor arena, Athlone, there was double success for **Tom Gallagher (5th Class)** when he competed in the U13 High jump's and Long jump. Tom finished first in the high jump with a jump of 1.40m & also finished first in the long jump with a jump of 4.61m.

In recognition of his achievement Tom also received the award for Juvenile Athlete of the Month for March from the Waterford Combined Credit Unions. Tom will now go forward to the Supreme Juvenile Athlete of the year awards 2013 for the Waterford /South Kilkenny area. Congrats Tom & well done!

SPORTS NEWS

U11 Hurling

It was a very successful year for the U11 Hurling Team. They took part in two blitzes in Gracedieu. Having won all of their matches the first day they went back to Gracedieu the following week and beat Holy Cross in the final to win the U11 Eastern Final. Well done to all of the team!

Camogie:

It was an historic year for St. Mary's Ballygunner Camogie Team. The girls were superb all year, winning every game to win the Eastern Final for the first time ever. The girls then went up to Fraher Field to play Lismore in the County Final. The girls beat Lismore on a scoreline of 3-4 to 0-0. A truly fantastic achievement. Well done to all involved.

Congrats!

Congrats to Brian Sheridan, Emma Flynn & Annie Fitzgerald who represented St Mary's N.S. on Waterford Primary Game Hurling & Football Teams earlier this month.

Kids Corner

Sudoku - Fill in the squares so that each row and column contain the numbers 1 – 4.

	2	4	
1			3
4			2
	1	3	

Brainteaser:

A painter has to paint 100 houses in a housing estate from 1 – 100. How many times will he have to paint the number 9?

Answer in next newsletter.