



Debating:

Our debating team having gone through five rounds in Concern's

Primary Debating Competition emerged in 3rd place on Tuesday 1st March. The team members were Brianna Lupchian, Rana Gharib, Ruth Phiri, Rasna Begum, Patrycja Wozniak and Flavia Friciu. The adjudicators on each day were really impressed with the standard of the girls' persuasive skills, their level of research, and their understanding of such complex topics. The girls really enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about the skill of debating, a skill which will be invaluable to them in the future. We now look forward to the presentation of prizes on Monday 14th March! Many thanks and congratulations to the girls' teachers Ms. Mullins and Ms. Dowling and to Ms. Mc Kenna, who helped the girls in preparing for the debates and helping them reach such high standards.

The team was presented with plaques at Assembly on Monday 7th March, while the team members presented their teachers and Ms. McKenna with bouquets of flowers, as tokens of their appreciation. We, also extend our thanks to the girls' parents who helped them in their preparation. We are so proud of this team and their achievements!

Choir:

A number of our pupils from 3rd - 6th classes together with pupils from 4th -6th classes from the boys' school have



volunteered to sing at 12.00 Mass in Holy Family Church, Askea on one Sunday per month. The girls and boys are very committed to the choir and work hard during practices. The choir will sing at the Confirmation and First Holy Communion ceremonies. Both schools are really proud of this choir.

Proclamation

Day:

On Tuesday 15th March, we celebrated 'Proclamation Day'. It was a very memorable occasion. We invited two past pupils to join us, Capt. Sinéad Doyle, who raised the tricolour and Amy Collins, Killeshin Pipe Band who led the school community to the flag raising ceremony. A number of pupils from 5th & 6th classes read from the 1916 Proclamation and from their 'Proclamation for a New Generation' which they had been working on over the past number of weeks. The ceremony concluded with 'Amhrán na bhFiann'.



EASTER NEWSLETTER March 2016



Dear Parents,
 Everyone at school has been very busy throughout this term. The term has passed very quickly, and indeed it's difficult to believe that the Easter holidays are upon us. I hope that you will enjoy reading the Newsletter which will give you a 'snapshot' of what has been happening in the school over this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support. Your support is greatly appreciated, as it is only together that we can empower your daughter to reach her full potential and ensure that her time in Holy Family G.N.S is a positive and enjoyable experience.

We wish you a Very Happy Easter.
 Le gach dea ghuí,

Mrs. Geralyn Costello
Principal.



ENROLMENTS FOR 2016/2017:

If you have a daughter who is old enough to start school next year, please contact the school immediately. Pupils must be 4 years old before the beginning of the school year in order to be accepted.

Important Dates for your diary:

- **School reopens on Monday 4th April.**
- **May mid-term break : 4th – 8th May inclusive**
- **Confirmation – Friday 22nd April @ 2.00p.m.**
- **First Communion- Saturday 21st May: Ms. Rice's class @ 10.00a.m & Ms. Regan's class @ 12.00**

Every good wish for a Happy Easter!

**Wesołych Świąt ; Paște fericit ;
 Priecīgās Lieldienas**

INTERNATIONAL DAY ***A Day of Culture and Colour*** ***in our school:***

"Hello to all the Children of the World", was the refrain to be heard if you looked in on our school on Friday 12th February.



The girls swapped their green and white school uniforms for multi-coloured clothes and traditional costumes from across the globe, as teachers and pupils celebrated International Day. The girls' bright colours represented flags from all around the world and a fantastic morning of culture and music and was had by all. Pupils took part in a concert during the morning in which music, song and rhythm were present in abundance. The Junior Infant children opened the concert with a lively number all the way from the West Indies. Performances with a flavour of New York, Europe, Africa and Australia delighted all.

We were all extremely proud of our girls as they showcased their talents in an atmosphere of fun, respect and learning. We celebrate International Day in school each year. Collaboration between people of different nationalities enriches all members of our school community.

Credit Union Quiz:

One team from the school took part in the Credit Union Quiz on Friday 29th January in Askea B.N.S.

The pupils though not winning any of the prizes really enjoyed the experience.

*- Team members were: **Evelina Simkute, Brianna Lupchian, Caithlin O'Carroll Dalton & Rana Gharib.***

Thank you to Ms. Mullins, & Ms. Maher who put so much work into preparing the girls for the quiz.



Book Fair:

We held a very successful book fair in the school from 3rd – 9th February. There was a wonderful selection of books on display. All classes really enjoyed the opportunity to visit the book fair. The number of books sold amounted to €3,149. The school will receive books to the value of 60% commission on this amount. Many thanks to all our parents who supported the book fair.



thank
you!

Parents' Group Address:

The Parents Group would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Easter. Parents will be assisting with the annual Easter Draw and we would like to thank each and every family for your support.



We have a busy term ahead with our table quiz fundraiser to be held on **Thursday 28th April in Éire-Óg clubhouse at 8.30pm.** We will be helping with Confirmation robes on Friday 22nd April in the school, if anyone would like to help out on the day, please leave your name at reception. Also, we will be hosting a summer fair in our school next term and your support will be greatly appreciated. New members are always welcome and we hope to see some new faces in the new term. Again wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Caitriona Brennan-Dowling
Chairperson

Happy
Easter

Confirmation News:

6th Class

Confirmation:

Stations of the Cross

ceremony was held on Tuesday 16th February at 8pm in Holy Family Church. It was a very meaningful ceremony, participating in this ceremony reminds all of us of the true meaning of Easter. Thank you to the teachers, Ms. Mullins and Ms. Dowling for preparing the girls.



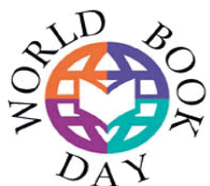
HSCL Involving Parents:

After Easter the HSCL teacher Ms. Tully will be running '**Cookery For Fun**'. Each class will get one session.



This is a cooking/baking activity where parents will be needed to help out with their child's session. Ms. Tully will send a text & invitation to let you know when your daughter's 'Cookery For Fun' session will be on, so please let her know if you can help out. Children love having their parent/guardian helping out.

World Book Day:



World Book Week was celebrated in style on Friday March 6th. The pupils were invited to dress as a favourite book character for the day resulting in a sea of colour and a fantastic, fun day of books, reading and discussion. Visiting a classroom on that day, you might think that you were entering the pages of a fairy tale book, as you met *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Puss in Boots* and *The Cat in the Hat*, to name but a few. The rustle of princess gowns could be heard in many junior classes as the pupils proudly said their "princess" names and talked about their books.

A Book token was presented to each girl in the school to be taken to local bookshops and exchanged for specially published World Book Day titles. So, "Reading is cool!" and "Get excited about Books!" are the messages from all of us here in school!



WINNERS ALL!

Fairtrade Art Competition:

Ran Gharib, 6th class, Room 15, was the overall prize winner in Co. Carlow in this art competition. She received her prize on Thursday 10th March.

Glór Cheatharlach Art Competition:

Melissa Nicola, 4th class, Room 11

Slogan winners:

Ugne - Room 16, Christine - Room 15 & Robyn - Room 8

We celebrate all our winners at Assembly every Monday morning. Space does not allow us to print all of the winners' names. A great number of our pupils are very successful at Irish dancing, modern dance and many sporting activities. We are always delighted to hear of their successes.

Tráth na gCeist:

Two teams took part in the annual Tráth na gCeist, which was held on Tuesday 8th March in Éire Óg. The pupils though not winning any of the prizes really enjoyed the experience.

Team members were: Evelina Simkute, Rana Gharib, Caithlin O' Carroll Dalton, Brianna Lupchian, Jennifer Whelan, Amelia Denihan, Goda Stepanova, Fiona Emelue, Natasha Nyathi, and Kayleigh Collins. Thank you to Ms Mullins & Ms Maher who prepared the girls for the quiz.



FUNDRAISING IN ASKEA GIRLS!

Easter Draw:

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to our Easter Draw, which is one of our main fundraising events throughout the year. The money raised will go towards the provision of resources to improve the pupils' learning experience during their time with us here at school. Names of prize winners will be published in the parish Newsletter and posted in the school foyer. Our sincere gratitude is extended to the Parents' Group for their work in ensuring that the Easter Draw runs smoothly.



HSCL Involving Parents:

"Knitting/Craft Club" for parents will restart on Thursday 7th April. We will start a new project. It runs every Thursday morning from 9.30am-10.30am. Please come along, even if you are at beginner level. All parents/guardians and grandparents are welcome.



Courses run for Parents:



'Relaxing Art Course' which ran after Christmas was a huge success. The ladies painted beautiful pieces on canvas and hopefully will use art as a method of relaxation in the future. The ladies really enjoyed it, a huge thank you to all who attended and to the fantastic tutor Elwira Bernaciak.

'Me, Mollser' at Holy Family GNS Askea!

On Monday 18th January, Abbey Theatre players visited our school, where they put on a performance of 'Me, Mollser' to a rapt audience of 5th & 6th class pupils. 'Me, Mollser' is based on the character of Mollser, a fifteen year old consumptive who appears in 'The Plough and the Stars' by Seán O' Casey. The play introduced the pupils to Mollser, a strong willed young woman coping with consumption against the backdrop of the 1913 Lock- Out and the Easter Rising. The play proved to be a compelling, funny and poignant monologue performed by Susan, who was supported by Anthony, who helped run the post-show workshop. The play gave rise to post-show interactive discussion with the pupils on topics such as: children's rights, Easter 1916, life in the tenements, and health and social welfare issues of 1916. Inviting the Abbey Theatre players to our school is just one of the activities, which we here at school are involved in as part of the Ireland 2016 commemorations. The pupils really enjoyed the performance which enriched their study of this period of our history.



FUNDRAISING IN ASKEA GIRLS!

St. Brigid's Crosses:

1st February, St. Brigid's Day is a very important feast day in the school calendar of Holy Family G.N.S. Askea. 5th & 6th classes were very busy throughout the week leading up to 1st February – making St. Brigid's crosses. This is an age old tradition in Ireland, particularly in the diocese of Kildare & Leighlin and one which we have preserved over the years in Holy Family G.N.S.

The project is spearheaded in the school by Mrs. June Farrell, who collects all of the rushes needed to make the crosses. The classes thoroughly enjoy the process of making the crosses and are very proud of their work. Ladies from 'Go Léir', women's group came to the school during the week and spent a full morning making the crosses. A number of girls from 6th classes attended all of the masses in Holy Family Church, Askea on the weekend of 1st February. During the homily, the girls demonstrated the 'weaving' process. They sold St. Brigid's crosses at all the masses, and the sum of €3,250 was raised. A cheque for this amount was presented to Anne McMahon and Rosemary Slattery of County Carlow Hospice Committee.



St. Brigid's Crosses continued:

We extend our congratulations and thank you to the girls who made all of the St. Brigid's crosses who gave of their time at the weekend, in order to help those less fortunate than themselves. We also wish to thank everyone who contributed so generously to this project-making it a true communal effort. 4th classes in the school presented the story of St. Brigid in an assembly to the whole school. They told the story of Brigid through drama, song, dance, poetry, music, prayer and prose. It was fitting that the school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week began with our celebration of St. Brigid's Day- Lá le Bríde.



Assemblies:

Well done to our teachers and pupils for the wonderful assemblies they have produced during this term.

4th class, Rooms 11 & 13:

St. Brigid

3rd class, Rooms 10:

St. Patrick

5th class, Room 14:

'The Stations of the Cross'

Well done girls, you were all fantastic!

HSCL Involving Parents:

'Make Up and Nail Art Course': started on the 1st of March and is attended by 17 parents, a huge success so far! The ladies are really enjoying the course and learning lots of useful tips from the tutor, Tracey Quinlan.



Please let our HSCL Teacher Ms. Tully know if you are interested in coming along to any of the above. Ms. Catherine Tully's no: 0879539529

Anti-Bullying Awareness Week:



We held our 'Anti-Bullying Awareness Week' from 22nd February- 26th February. During this week, the school's Anti-Bullying' policy was highlighted in each class. Specific SPHE lessons dealing with 'bullying' issues were taught in each class. We ran an Art and slogan competition during this week. All of the prize winners' work is on display throughout the school. The standard of work throughout the school was amazing!

The **winners in poster competition** were: Lexie Lennon & Sonia Milca- Room 6; Esther Ogbegile & Kate Kumpiranon- Room 8; Erin Kelly & Katie Brennan Dowling – Room 9; Jacqueline Holguin & Eunice Milinganyo- Room 10; Franchesca Nicola & Hayley Cahill – Room 11; Yasmintara Khatun & Hannah Coakley- Room 13; Kaitlyn Fennelly Brennan, Jagoda Madej, Emilia Hamulewicz, Amelia Hamulewicz & Wiktoria Swiderska –Room 14; Jody Uddin & Karina Dzierba – Room 15; Magdalena Filipowicz, Talia Sheeran & Jennifer Whelan- Room 16

Lá le Pádraig celebrations:

On Tuesday, 15th March, the school celebrated St. Patrick's Day. 3rd class told the story of St. Patrick 'as Gaeilge', through the medium of song, dance, poetry, music and drama.



Ceolchoirm: Each class from Junior Infants to 6th class contributed to our celebration of our patron saint's day and of our nation's culture and heritage. Bhain gach duine taitneamh as an gceolchoirm.

St. Leo's Musical- 'Diablo's Disco Inferno':

6th classes attended a performance of 'Diablo's Disco Inferno' on Wednesday 9th March in GB Theatre. Attending the performances at St. Leo's is a long held tradition in this school. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the show.



Peace Proms:

Our two 4th classes took part in Peace Proms 2016. Their gala concert was held on Sunday 6th March, in the Hub, Kilkenny. The girls sang with choirs from twenty other schools and were accompanied by the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. This was a fantastic night's entertainment and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

We extend our thanks to Mrs. Flynn & Ms. Coakley, class teachers, and to Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Kehoe and Mrs. Fitzpatrick who accompanied the girls on the night.



Being active!

- **Basket Ball:** Training sessions for 5th and 6th classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 3.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.
- **'Get Active' Club** on Wednesdays- the girls and teachers are really enjoying participating in this club's activities!

Healthy Eating!

Our Board of Management has ratified a 'Healthy Eating' policy. This policy came about through discussions with parents, staff and Board of Management. Every family will get a copy of this policy on Monday 4th April.



**Check our website for all the latest news. <http://askeagns.com>
What's happening in our school?**