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NEWSLETTER 7 - MARCH 2020

VIRTUALLY HERE

As we have already mentioned Scoil Mhuire is one of 5 schools in Galway to be chosen to partake in the Virtually Here project as part of Galway 2020. Well the virtual project really arrived!!! Artist Jojo Hynes introduced 5th class to a variety of worlds. We used VR googles to visit Mexico, India and China. We also took an amazingly immersive flight with a flock of seagulls– not for the fainthearted. Over the course of the next year, 5th class will be collaborating with other schools to build a virtual world as part of Galway 2020. Our Cisco Webex board was delivered on Wednesday and we look forward to using it to connect with the 4 other schools in the project. We are really excited about this project and the students are thrilled to be a part of it.

BAND

In Clifden, Springtime has a sound– the sound of the band preparing for St. Patrick's day. This year the school band was invited to play at a number of events including the unveiling of the Alcock and Brown statue last Friday at 11 am. The British ambassador was the guest of honour at this ceremony and we were very proud of our performance on this auspicious day for Clifden. Unfortunately the St. Patrick's day parade has been cancelled but we hope that the school band will get another chance to perform this year. Scoil Mhuire would like to thank the entire school community, parents, staff and students for their commitment to the school band. Long may it continue.

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

There is much concern in the School community regarding this disease and the school is keeping up to date with any ongoing developments. Children and staff are following the guidelines regarding handwashing, sneezing, coughing and disposal of tissues. The school is being deep cleaned regularly and Scoil Mhuire would like to thank the whole school community for their support during this challenging period. We have contingency school work plans in place in case of a school closure and we will be communicating these plans to students and parents over the coming days. The fact that we will be distributing these work plans does not mean that the school will definitely close – it is simply a contingency plan to be activated if there is a closure. I would like to wish everyone good health over the coming weeks.

Dara McAleer

CREDIT UNION QUIZ

On Saturday 29th February Scoil Mhuire's Credit Union Quiz Team travelled to the Clybaun Hotel in Galway for the second round, having qualified from the Connemara stage on February 7th. There was stiff competition on the night, but Scoil Mhuire's team achieved their highest ever place in the competition to date. The team was tied second and unfortunately lost out on the tie breaker by one point ending in 3rd position. Our team members all come from 5th class, Amy Heffernan, Daragh Conroy, Jamie Linnane and Rian King. The team substitutes were Ella Prauer and Cara O'Donoghue. Congratulations to all concerned.

AR IN SECOND CLASS

Second class were incredibly excited to begin AR last week. This is an outline of how we use AR in Scoil Mhuire. There is a process behind how each child uses the program in school. Here are the steps typically involved: Teachers use a Star Reading test to determine each student's reading level. This program provides a multiple-choice assessment that takes students about 20 minutes on a computer. Teachers can also use results from other assessments or their own judgment. Each student is assigned to a specific range of books on the program's BookFinder list. We have boxes of books that correspond to a ZPD range. Books in that range will be challenging for the student but not too hard to read. This concept is called a zone of proximal development (ZPD). In AR, it is used to guide book selection. Students choose a book that is in their ZPD. A teacher may help with selecting books. AR recommends that children spend about 30 minutes in school each day reading their books independently.

After finishing a book, the student takes a short, multiple-choice online quiz. It checks if the student has read the book and understands it. Students usually take their quizzes in the classroom or library during the designated reading time. Students usually stay at the same ZPD and reading level for a set time. That is usually a marking period. In Scoil Mhuire it is usually a term. At the end of that time, students take a 20-minute reading assessment. It is used to adjust the books that each student can select. A teacher may also raise or lower a child's ZPD for the next marking period.

OVERVIEW 2018/2019

APRIL

STANDARDISED TESTING

15th to 26th April: Easter Break

MAY

6th May: Bank Holiday

11th May: First Holy Communion

JUNE

3rd June: Bank Holiday

21st June: 6th Class Graduation

26th June at 12.30: Summer Break

VALUES

Over the course of the last year we have begun an examination of our core values. Most of the stakeholders in the school have had an input into what should be our aspirational core values. The students, teachers and Board of Management have all had their say and now we would like to secure some parental input. There will be survey sent out soon via Aladdin and we hope parents take the time to respond to it.

These core values will be analysed to produce a value driven power statement and this power statement will have significant influence on both school practice and school policies.

STANDARDISED TESTING

Classes from First to Sixth will begin their standardised tests in English and Maths before the Easter break where possible. A standardised test is a test that measures a child's achievement compared to other children in all schools at the same class or age level. Second class, Fourth class and Sixth class results will be sent home in the school reports. Other students' results can be accessed by directly contacting the school.

Green Day for St. Patricks' Day

On Friday 13th March we will be inviting students to wear something green and pay 2 Euro to raise funds for equipment etc. for the school.

AWARDS	STUDENT OF THE WEEK	BEST EFFORT	SPECIAL PERSON
JUNIOR INFANTS	Ava Linnane Jan Lenartovicz	Alisha Kelly-O'Malley Hollie Bohan	Aoibheann O'Halloran Cassidy Guy
SENIOR INFANTS	Alanna McGowan Emilia Sullivan	Saoirse Mitchell Frederic Boulger-Neu	Mary Foyle Seanna Quinn
FIRST CLASS	Rachel Ward Kathleen Conroy	Thomas Conneely Nathan King-McHale	Daniel Otvos Addison Guy
SECOND CLASS	Lily Shanahan	Jacob King	Dylan Lacey
THIRD CLASS	Cara McNamara	Kyle Gavin	Oisin Gavin
	Whole Class Award		
FOURTH CLASS	Shannon Acton	Evan O'Malley	
FIFTH CLASS	Jamie Linnane	Amy Heffernan	Daragh Conroy
SIXTH CLASS	Heather King Jude McEvaddy	Laura Malone	Clodagh O'Toole Cillian O'Donoghue Siofra Gannon