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# Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B)

## Newsletter

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

• Summer 15

## Wishing you all a Great Summer

Again, another year flies by and it is time to say goodbye for the summer. I welcome you to our summer newsletter and certainly I hope it gives you a slight insight into the huge work that goes on here in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh every day.

We have had a very busy year again in 14/15 and certainly it is only when you are putting together this newsletter do we realise how busy a place a school such as ours is.

Very shortly, another bunch of 6th class boys leave us for second level and we are very sad to see them go. Like all things in life, as they go another cohort of boys will begin their life in education here in September. However, their time in Spiorad Naomh is made that bit easier by the legacy left behind by those who have gone before them.

I want to thank all of our boys here for another great year of work and behaviour and certainly I would like to

think that in the main, boys are very happy coming to school here.

I also thank you the parent body for all of your support. It is hugely appreciated.

Finally, can I place on record my thanks to the staff of the school, your work is greatly admired.

Hope to see you all in September.

Brian Cuthbert

## Sponsored Walk

All the boys – from Junior Infants to 6th class went on a sponsored walk on the last Friday in May. Obviously the older boys went on a longer version of the walk, progressing through Murphy's Farm,

Uam Var and Rossa Avenue. The funds raised will help in no small way to improve the facilities in the school.

Many thanks to all the parents for their contributions to this walk. Everyone had

great fun and even the weather was nice!



## Seachtain na Gaeilge



Tá an dul chun chin déanta ag buachaillí Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh maidir le labhairt na Gaeilge. Reachtáileadh seachtain na Gaeilge suimiúil

I lar an earraigh agus mar chuid den tseachtain bhí ceolchoirm again sa halla



*There has been great progress this year in the encouragement of the use of Irish in the school. A very successful Irish week was held in the Spring. As part of the week's activities a concert was held in the hall.*

*Each class performed an Irish item. Some did drama excerpts, some sang Irish songs and others dramatized an Irish poem.. A great day was had by all. The pictures here give a flavour of the event.*

The monthly assembly of the boys also includes Irish songs and tin whistle tunes played by each class.

## Cluiche Bingo (as Gaeilge)



As part of the Seachtain na Gaeilge a special well known

guest came to the school to run a Bingo Morning....as Gaeilge of course.

All the boys in the school enjoyed the morning. The boys were divided into mixed age groups, with one senior boy in each group of four.

Tháinig an fear cáiliúil agus stiúirigh sé cúrsaí na maidén. Bhain gach duine sult agus saproi as an gcluiche.

*Our guest (Séamus Ó Rinn) directed operations and all the boys were excited and enjoyed*



## The School Choir (Amhráin na Gaeilge)

Mr. O Callaghan continues to direct the school choir. This term he has concentrated in preparing a number of Irish songs. The choir then lead the boys in the singing of these songs during the school assembly. In the last few months "Trasna na dTonnta", and "Beidh Aonach Ámarach" been prepared and performed at the assembly. The

choir also lead the boys in the singing of "Amhrán na bhFiain".

The sixth class section of the choir are coming to the end of their time as they prepare to move on to pastures new. The boys in sixth have been the foundation of the choir for two years now. Mr. O Callaghan says that they are one of the best groups he has ever taught.

However, as they move on life, and choir, continues. Twelve new enthusiastic members (from fourth class) have recently joined the choir. They are settling in well and will be well experienced when the choir resumes in September.

More places will be made available in the choir in September.

## Mara Sports Day

Great excitement was to be felt around the school on one particular Friday in May. This was Mara Sports Day. Sponsorship cards were filled in, pennies (and more) collected,



sports gear inspected and all preparations put in place.



Each class level organised their own timetable. In most classes a full inter class soccer league was organised by the teacher. Teams were small,

games were short and no one felt left out.

After a (large) well deserved lunch break, an inter-class football match was organised. This was a little more serious, with class honour at stake!

Activities concluded at two pm and the tired children (and teachers) made their way back to class, just in time for the school bell.

## John Spillane in SSN

As part of the very successful Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Week) organized by the school earlier in the year, an invitation was extended to well-known Cork singer, and TV presenter John Spillane to play and sing for the boys.

Ms Spillane on the staff is related to John, and he was more than happy to oblige. He is a very successful artist throughout Ireland and is probably best known for his highly successful album "Songs We Learned At School".

Each class in the school learned one Irish song



and, as John performed the song the class joined in. This was a highly successful venture, one which staff, students, and

John Spillane himself enjoyed thoroughly. Many thanks to John for this enjoyable concert.

## Sponge Throw

The sacrifices we make as teachers.....We all know how demanding the job can be. And how much more demanding and intensive must be the job of the principal!

But no. Not here. Not in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh. Every pupil, every teacher and every parents surely knows how com-

mitted and enthusiastic our own Mr. Cuthbert is at all times.....and that's just the day job. But, he's prepared to go even further in his quest to "be the best he can be".

What other principal would subject himself to a "sponge throw" from his own pupils.

Well, that's exactly what is going to happen during the month of June...all in a good cause of course.

By the time you read this, the deed will have been done. Make sure to ask your boys what happened.

## Sciath na Scol Hurling Campaign

The school hurling team did very well in this year's hurling league. Having played all their matches, the team found themselves second overall, and therefore qualified for the semi-finals of their division.

Indeed their only loss in the league matches was against a very strong side from St. Anthony's. Having qualified for the semi-finals there was great hope that we might qualify for the division final. Alas it was not to be as our boys were edged out by a



skilful team from Riverstown (who would eventually win the section). Mr McCarthy is very pleased with the commitment and dedication of the team this year. They were a credit to themselves and the school.

A special word of congratulation to sixth class pupil Kevin Kellerher. Kevin has been picked to play for the Cork Primary Schools team, which will play during the half time break of the Munster Senior Football semi-finals.

This is indeed a great honour. Well done to Kevin for his skill and dedication. We are all proud of you.

## Pitch and Putt

The Cork County Board, in conjunction with the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland, run a primary



schools pitch and putt competition

each year.

This year our boys entered, and acquitted themselves very well indeed, with one team coming third overall.

The competition took place in the Rafeen Creek course, with schools from Douglas, Blackrock and Beaumont also participating.



## Green Schools

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh is delighted to announce that we have been successful in attaining our 4th Green Flag. The aim this year was to encourage the boys to walk, scoot carpool or "park'n'stride" to school.

Our flag was presented to Ms. Nelligan and representatives of the Green Schools Committee at

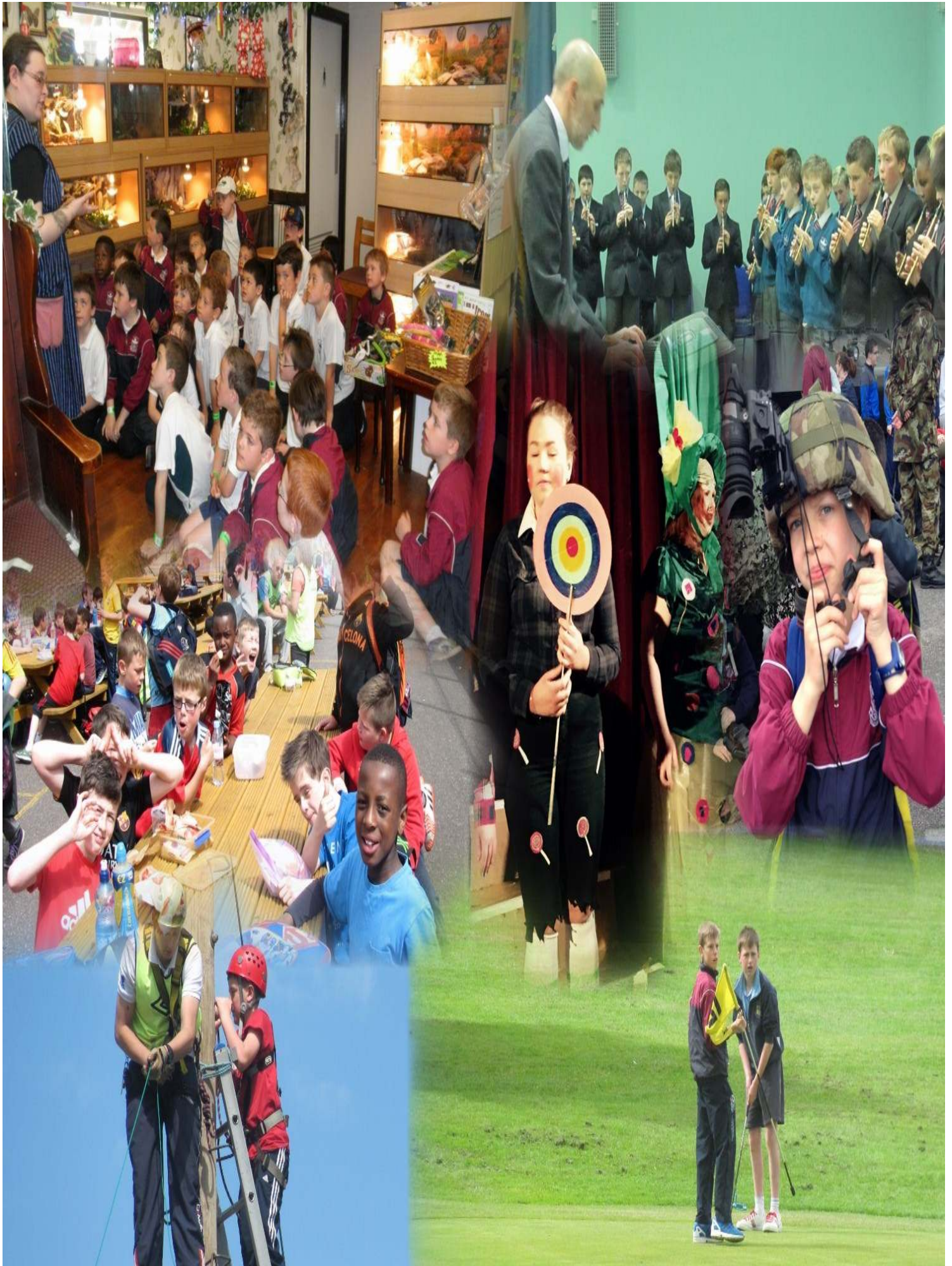
a ceremony in the Silver Springs Hotel recently. It is hoped that there will be a flag raising ceremony in the school towards the end of June.

Well done to Ms. Nelligan for all her hard work and dedication. A special word of thanks too to the Green Schools Committee. These boys have been

of great assistance to Ms. Nelligan throughout the year.









## The Student Council

In September of this new school year the boys in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class elected the members of this year's student council.

There are members from both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Aidan Dunne, Charlie Moran, Bryan McGovern, Connor Duggan, Howard Geslers and James Hannon are the members from 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Adam Whelan, Eoghan Ahern,

Dean McCarthy and David Murray are the members from 5<sup>th</sup> class.

The job of the Student Council is to cooperate with teachers and students about the school to make learning a more enjoyable experience for all.

The Student Council has organised an annual talent show over the last few years. Many different edu-

cational activities are also organised and last year the student council organised a number of charity events under the direction of Mr. Cuthbert.

The Student Council gives all students a voice and makes sure no one is unheard. We hope this tradition continues for many years.

## Coder Dojo

Last February saw the launch of our coder dojo club in Spioraid Naoimh. Bill Liao, the co founder of Coder Dojo was in attendance as well as our club ambassador, Cork footballer, Eoin Cadogan.

At present over 40 boys and girls attend on Sunday mornings and they learn all about coding, programming, html and other forms of programming. We are very proud of the fact that we are one of very few schools in the country running a club such as this and we are ex-

tremely appreciative of the help we have received thus far in getting the club off the ground.

Our parent body has contributed hugely to the initiative and are the main drivers of the project. We are also extremely grateful to Grainne Bagnell for her inputs. Grainne was also involved with us later in the year in relation to the delivery of Sense about Maths to our older classes. This is a 6 week

programme which focuses on demystifying maths concepts through the use of concrete, everyday language, ideas and materials. More on that later but a huge well done on our launch of Coder Dojo.

On Thursday the 25th we have our presentation of coder dojo bands to the girls and boys who participated as well as the launch of another venture—bio coder dojo. Exciting times indeed.





## Percussion Workshop

Percussionist Alex Petcu paid a visit to the school last February. The boys in second, third and fourth class enjoyed the experience thoroughly, and were able to try out a number of strange and wonderful instruments.

This, of course, ties in very nicely with one strand of the music curriculum which is delivered to the boys here at Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh.

The song singing strand is well catered for, tin whistle lessons teach notation and literacy, but the strand of “composing music” includes percussion, exposure to other forms of music and hands on experience.

This all meant that the value of the workshop was indeed of great benefit to all the boys who attended.

All of the teachers were very pleased with the experience and we hope that

more of these types of experiences can be developed for the boys.



## Fourth Class Yoga

Isn't school great after all! Back in the day Irish, English, maths, RE and a little History made up the school day.

Now we have all types of subjects as well as the (still very important) core curriculum.

Introduced to fourth class this year. It certainly was different, and the boys enjoyed it thoroughly.

In the busy lives the boys lead, isn't it great that time is made for such relaxing and healthy activities.



Along with computers, programming, project Spraoi, and a host of others, Yoga was successfully in-









## After School Art Classes

Mr O Sullivan ran an after school art club for boys from 1st – 4th class. A varied programme of work was under-



taken which included : *Drawing games, Fabric and fibre portraits, Canvas board shape designs, Animal drawing tutorials,*

*Animal clay modelling and Painting clay animals*



Of particular interest was the lesson called *Michelangelo – lie down drawing*. The boys learned all about the very famous artist Michelangelo.

They learned how he painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by lying on his back. It took him four years!! The boys replicated Michelangelo's technique by lying on their back on the floor and drew pictures on a sheet stuck to the underside or "ceiling" of their tables. They had great fun doing this activity!



## The Army Band Visits SSN

All pupils from Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh were treated to a magnificent concert earlier this year as the Army Band, from Collins Barracks visited our school.

They were conducted by Company Sergeant, Noel Galvin, whose two nephews, Rian and Sam are in the

school. David Holland in 6th class, was even allowed to conduct the band as a special birthday treat!

The sound made by these talented musicians was amazing. All the boys and staff were enthralled. The boys sang along to many favourites, including 'Let it Go' from Frozen!



## French Classes

Boys from second to sixth class took part in a six week French course earlier this year.

Ms. Ní Chrualaoí coordinated and led the course, and a group of enthusiastic boys joined her.

During the course topics such as numbers, colours, foods and basic conversation were covered.

The boys also wrote a letter to a pen pal.

Great fun was had during the final week of the course when a café was set up in the hall. Some lovely croissants, brioche and "chocolat chaud".

Délicieuse!

The course was a great success and Ms. Ní Chrualaoí commented that she was

very happy with the outcomes.

Such access to a different learning experience can but be of benefit to the boys and Ms. Ní Chrualaoí is hopeful that further courses can be organized in the next school year.

Well done to all concerned.







# The Wizard of Oz

Great excitement was to be held late in the Springtime as strangely costumed people were seen in the vicinity of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh.



A performance of The Wizard of Oz had been arranged for the boys in the school. This performance told the well loved story and all the main characters from Tin Man to Lion were present. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the show. The pictures will give a little flavour of the day in question. The boys certainly enjoyed the experience. A big thank you to the CIT Arts office.



## Projects in School

### Project Spraoi

In collaboration with the Sports Department of CIT, we ran Project Spraoi in school this year. This is a project whereby children's fitness levels are measured, a year long activity intervention occurs and the same children's fitness is again measured at the end of the year. This is a very worthwhile programme and we are very thankful to PHD student Lisa Bolger for all her expertise in running the programme here with us.

### Sport for Life Project

In collaboration with UCC, we ran the Sport for Life programme here in our school this past year. This programme focused on developing fundamental movement skills with 3rd class. It was extremely worthwhile and an excellent relationship was developed between Dr Fiona Chambers, her P.E. students and our school. The project culminated in a lovely fun day for 4th class in Neptune Stadium.

### Sense about Maths

As part of developing interests in Stem careers whilst also demystifying some of the mysteries that come with maths, we were fortunate to have a programme run here this term called Sense about Maths. This was a 6 week programme whereby people who work in technology industry come into schools and teach 6th class approaches to tackling maths problems. Again, this programme culminated in a trip to Trend Micro on Model farm Road.