



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2018

Welcome to our Newsletter for November/December 2018. For any newcomers, we will use the Newsletter to update everyone on school news and any events throughout the year. Anyone with any news to include is welcome to contact the school office with their contributions.

## Junior Infants

Christmas holidays are insight and it's hard to believe that the children are halfway through Junior Infant's. We have been very busy in the past few weeks: programming our Beebots, constructing new houses for the 3 little pigs as well as learning 24 of our Jolly Phonics' sounds and how to write 1, 2 and 3. We had lots of fun preparing for our Christmas show also we have been busy little elves!

We have had some birthdays in the last few weeks, in November we celebrated Aoife and Sean's birthday. We are looking forward to hearing about Callum's birthday, he is celebrating his on New Year's Eve!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Ms O' Brien

## Senior Infants

It has been a fantastic month getting to know all the children in Senior Infants. We have also been busy in art making jelly fish, painting crowns and we are now painting our snowmen using Q-tips! The children really enjoyed our 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations at O' Brennan N.S. and the children who took part did a fantastic job. They were able to see and compare the difference between schoolchildren at O' Brennan N.S throughout the years. The children had lots of fun with our Aistear theme of Winter and really enjoyed the Igloo. We will be moving on to looking at different Arctic animals. We have also began rehearsals for our Christmas performance – Barnyard Fun – we hope you enjoy it! We have been lucky to get our hands on some 'Bee bots' and the children have been busy coding the 'Bee

bots' to move. Our resident Elf has been bus keeping an eye on everyone. Our motto in Senior Infants is: "KIND HANDS, KIND WORDS, KIND FEET".

Kind regards,  
Mr. O' Neill

## First Class

The past few weeks in First Class have been very busy! We been learning about lots of interesting things for eg. Sharks, Teeth, Toys from different countries, length in Maths and lots of fun arts and crafts.

A cheeky elf aptly named "Cheeky" visited us and moves to a new hiding spot every night. He's keeping a close eye on us and reports back to the "Big Man".

The highlight for us was our performance of "Santa's Hat" which was a great success. We really enjoyed it.

## Second Class

Second class celebrated science week and space week back in November. Space week pupils learned all about space, the planets, Neil Armstrong and space travel, gravity and much more. In groups children made each planet using Paper Mache technique on balloons which were then painted and displayed in class. Pupils also constructed rockets from recycled materials which were really impressive.

For science week we had great fun experimenting with magnets. Pupils tested the strength of different magnets, investigated whether magnets worked through water and other materials, learned about the different poles and did some experiments.

We started a pen pal exchanged with another second class in Co. cork. We were delighted to receive our first letters and had great fun reading and replying to them. We just posted our Christmas cards to our pen pals and look forward to writing to tell them all about our Christmas.

For December we have been very busy practicing for our school concert. Second class put on a great show entitled 'Gogglebox Christmas Special' where we had some

appearances from Simon Cowell and Britain's got Talent, the Late Late Toy Show and The Greatest Showman.

The last few weeks we have been preparing for Christmas, writing letters, lighting our advent wreath, making clay candle holders and snowmen and painting crib silhouettes. I am sure Santa will be very good to us all for working so hard this year.

M. Broderick

### Third Class

During the month of November the pupils enjoyed reading the novel 'Brush – A Tale of Two Foxes' by Pierce Feiritear. They completed impressive projects on The Famine. In December, all pupils had the opportunity to play 'Jingle Bells' on boomwhackers. It was nice to try out a different percussion instrument. 3<sup>rd</sup> class pupils put a lot of work and creativity into their play which was called 'Lip Sync Battle.' Well Done! Enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Nollaig Shone Daoibh!

Ms. McCarthy

### Fourth/Fifth Class

The months of November and December have been unbelievably exciting in our class. We completed our novel "Kaspar the prince of cats," By Michael Morpurgo. Once we read the novel we typed up our book review and gave our opinions.

Science was our theme in November, we made slime, lava lamps, and discovered the colouring effects in skittles. But our favourite part was making chocolate biscuit cake in our groups.

December – saw our Christmas show "The late late toy show auditions" our class thoroughly enjoyed the characters of Lucy Kennedy, Ryan Tubridy and Michael D Higgins. We performed Winter Wonderland, Dance piece to the song "I feel good" and finally Silent night accompanied by musical instruments of tin whistle, accordion and keyboard.

Ms. Buckley

### Fifth/Sixth Class

"The fifth and sixth class students have been extremely busy since the Halloween break. All of the students took part in the schools celebrations of 150 years of education in O'Brennan National School and showed great

pride in their school and its history during the events. The students also put on an excellent display of singing and acting during their performance of their Christmas play, The Journey to Bethlehem. The students have begun to work on the Erasmus program which the school will be participating in over the next two academic years. There has also been some great examples of entrepreneurship shown by the sixth class in their J.E.P project. The boys and girls basketball teams are gearing up for the upcoming Castleisland basketball blitz over the Christmas break. Happy from everyone in 5th and 6th class."

Mr. Sheehy

### Christmas Mystery Movie Night

On Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> we held our annual Christmas Mystery Movie night here in O'Brennan which was well supported. The children arrived with their pyjamas and pillows and made themselves comfortable while watching a Christmas movie. A Christmas movie was also put on for the parents of the boys and girls attending and was very well supported. Thanks to all who did. Our parents council and school staff did great work in organising the event which helped to make it a very enjoyable night for all who attended. Well done everyone!

### Christmas Concerts

We held our Christmas Concert matinee on December 12<sup>th</sup> and our night show on December 13 in our school hall. Both occasions were very well supported and those attendance were treated to some fantastic performances by all our boys and girls. Well done to all our budding stars of the stage and their teachers for having them so well turned out! Thanks to all who attended our shows!

### Santa's Visit

Everybody at O'Brennan got a huge surprise last Friday when Santa Claus called in to us for a pre-Christmas visit! After a quick hello to all in Tír na nÓg pre-school, he was given a huge welcome by all the pupils and staff in the school hall. Our Parent's Council got together very quickly and were on hand to help out with treats and pictures during Santa's visit. All the boys and girls got to have a photo with Santa, and

most importantly remind him of what they wanted for Christmas!

### [After- Schools Club](#)

Our After-School Club will continue in the new year. If you are interested in registering your child for our After-School Club please contact the office.

### [150 Year Commemoration](#)

On November 16<sup>th</sup> we held our 150 year commemoration. The festivities began in our school hall where a ceremony was led by Fr. Gearóid. The boys and girls of O'Brennan then brought forward symbols of our school, read prayers, reminisced about school days, sang songs, and performed a drama sketch based on O'Brennan Reeling in the Years. All of this was done in front of a packed hall. It was great to see so many of our former pupils, staff, and parents attend in such large numbers. A huge thank you to our 150 Year Committee in our staff who out so much time and effort into the planning and organising of such a successful event. A big thank you also to our Parents Council who helped out on the day, and to the entire O'Brennan School Community for making the day a truly memorable occasion.

### [Lego WeDo & BeeBots](#)

Over the past month our classes here in O'Brennan have been using BeeBots (Juniors, Seniors, 1<sup>st</sup>) and Lego WeDo (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>). Both of these resources provide children with an opportunity to explore core STEM concepts and link them to real-life phenomenon. They also help to ignite children's natural curiosity as well as developing essential communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking-skills in a fun and exciting way.

### [Best Wishes](#)

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Marian Costello the very best as she leaves us for a short while going on maternity leave. I know that the boys and girls whom she teaches will miss her very much! I would also like to welcome Ms. Lucy Dowling back to the staff of O'Brennan as she will cover Mrs. Costello's maternity leave beginning in the new year.

For pictures and images of some of the wonderful activities happening in O'Brennan NS please check out our **school blog** and **gallery** on our school **website** and also our school **Facebook** page!

I would sincerely like to wish everybody a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every good wish for 2019.

Le gach dea-guí,  
Barry O'Leary  
December 2018