

The Children's House

Spring Newsletter, 2013

Dear Parents,

The children are now settled into the year. They are enthusiastically pursuing their many areas of interest. It is a pleasure to walk through the school and witness the enthusiasm they display towards their varied activities.

With spring in the air the vegetable patch has been given a boost and is ready to accommodate the seedlings being grown in all the classrooms.

The Senior class children have been busy creating their beautiful art work for the Texaco and AIJS art competitions. Their fabulous portraits have been on show in the hall for all to behold and admire. The 6 – 9 Greek projects are also a feast to the eyes and the mind. The Junior class children also wholeheartedly embrace the importance of regular artistic expression. We look forward to seeing their masterpieces at the upcoming Art Show on Thursday, 2nd May.

Whether your child is busy spooning beans, building the pink tower, writing a story, researching a project or doing a trinomial equation it is important to honour their efforts and to keep in mind that they are busy in their paths of "self construction". As we know, the child of today is the adult of tomorrow and it is important that we provide them with the best environments possible.

Thank you to all our teachers for your hard work in helping each child develop to their "Maximum Potential".

Happy Holidays!

Regards,

Ms. Kuh

School Fundraising Event, Thursday 2nd May, 8pm

This year the Parent's Association is hosting an evening for all parents and friends of the school on Thursday 2nd May. The aim is to raise much needed funds for school equipment and materials and we are asking for your support.

At this sociable event, you will be invited to purchase a beautifully presented and unique piece of art, created for you by your child. All support is gratefully received and much needed.

In the meantime, we would like to ask you to donate a gift for the raffle, big or small it doesn't matter, we're relying on your generosity. Suggestions are, wine / champers/vouchers / art/ beauty/ antiques/tickets. In short, we will accept anything and everything

If you would like to donate a gift for the raffle, please do so before Friday 19th April. Gifts can be left in the staff room (to the left of the back entrance) and should be marked for the attention of Fiona Mullin.

As this is our only fundraising activity this year, we are hoping to see every family represented at this event. Junior class parents are especially welcome.

Thanking you all in advance for your support and looking forward to seeing you there on the night. There will be wine and nibbles and it promises to be an enjoyable evening. Please keep an eye on the notice board for further information.

Book Fair

Thank you to all those who bought books at the book fair. Your support means the school was able to receive books for its own library.

Charity Events

During the first term, all children took part in the Cheerios Breakfast Morning and the Senior Class did the MS Readathon.

Mandarin Lessons

As well as having Yoga and Drama as extra-curricular activities, some children in the senior class are now being offered Mandarin lessons. These are taught by Kevin's Mum, Yan Zhao and they are proving very popular.

Confirmation

Naosise Lynch made his Confirmation this year on 14th March. We wish him well on this important occasion.

First Holy Communion

Two Children will make their First Holy Communion on 21st April. They are Aimee Keily and Matthew Keogh. Nearer the time, a reminder text will be sent as flowers are always needed to decorate the school as well as cakes and treats for the traditional party which takes place at the school after the service.

All senior class children and parents are invited to St Lawrence's Church to join the choir on this joyful day.

The Young Scientist Exhibition

This year, for the first time, The Children's House participated in the Young Scientist's Exhibition. Those taking part were in the 9-12 group and the project was on water.

Sarah Bell had two children participating; David and Jessica, and she contributed the following piece.

H₂O, is that all it is?

The junior part of the science fair was open to entries from 4th -6th class and so we had 9 children involved. Weeks of preparation went into collecting water from various sources and various areas in and beyond Dublin, as well as materials for presentation. There was a group outing to the Water Treatment Plant where the water samples had previously been tested. There the children learnt how water gets treated to make it suitable for domestic use.

The Fair was on a Saturday and a rota was devised so that there were about 4 children manning the stall at all times with each team doing 2 shifts of 2 hours. Ms Kuh was there for the whole day (hugely appreciated!) and Ms Corr called in to lend support. We parents also had a rota to provide additional supervision and manpower.

The junior Fair was in an area adjacent to the Secondary School Science Fair and had about 40 schools participating. The place was absolutely heaving for most of that day and with the crowds and heat you would have expected the children to fade after a while. But aside from the beautifully presented project, complete with an interactive part, what really struck us was their complete engagement with the visitors and their polite and friendly approach.

Visitors were invited into the stall and then given a run through of the information by whatever child was available and helped do the interactive section which involved making a model of a water molecule which they could then take away (and eat – it was made of berries!). Very novel! Again, it was the children's confidence and engagement with both adults and other children which really stood out for me. It was quite surprising in a situation where I would have anticipated more awkwardness. I also loved seeing the children work closely together as a team and to see no self-consciousness while delivering the information.

The Children's House came away with a well deserved award and a valuable experience. It being the school's first time entering, I am sure it took that extra bit of effort. If the class decides to enter another year they will have learnt what works best for themselves and for their audience.

Sarah Bell

School Tours

This year the senior class has gone on plenty of outings and field trips. The class went to see a wonderful, fun filled Christmas play at the Mill Theatre in Dundrum. The children played close attention to characterisation, projection, props etc before their own Nativity play. After the play the children were delighted to engage in a question and answer session with the Director and actors.

On Tuesday 12th March, the senior class visited the Shackleton exhibition. This outing was organized by Naoise, following his interest in exploration and research work he is presently involved in.

Next term, we hope to make our long awaited trip to the zoo and the 9 – 12 group will once again head off for some action packed days to Carlingford Adventure Centre.

Class Reps

There are now two parent representatives in each class.

They are:

Senior Class:

Karen Morris – 0868064579

Ruth Fanning – 0868747545

Middle Class:

Antonia Brennan – 0868305204

Yan Zhao – 0877592221

Front Class:

Fiona Doran – 0872840221

Joyce Quirke – 0879582954

Useful Dates

Friday 22nd March – Easter Holidays.

Monday 8th April – Staff in-service Day, Pupil free, School closed.

Tuesday 9th April – School re-opens.

Monday 6th May – May Bank Holiday.

Monday 3rd June – Whit Bank Holiday.

Friday 7th June – Sports Day.

Friday 14th June – School Closes.

Friday 28th – School closes for ECCE pupils.

School Website

Jonathan Tuliani is working hard to update the website which should be up and running shortly.

The Children's House Facebook Page

If you would like to get updates from the school about upcoming events, please 'like' the FACEBOOK page. You can search for it under The Children's House, Thornhill, Montessori and all you have to do is 'like' it, and you do not need to send a friend request.