



Dear Parents,

As the end of the school year approaches we can look back at what has been another eventful and successful year at The Children's House.

The senior class children have been writing about their personal highlights and it is quite impressive to read how varied and diverse these have been. We are including some of these to help give you a sense of what a fun year it has been for them.

All these activities wouldn't happen without the enthusiastic and hard-working Directresses, an involved and motivated parent group and a supportive Board of Directors.

Everyone has an important role to play in helping The Children's House be the best school possible, for our willing, enthusiastic, caring and interested 3-12 year olds.

As Maria Montessori said we are all here 'in service of the child'. It is our responsibility to ensure that their learning environment is safe, nurturing, respectful and stimulating.

Thank you all for the role you have played in helping this happen this year.

Our senior class summer concert and Sports Day and Naoise's graduation were entertaining, fun and inspiring to us all.

Over the summer, we plan to upgrade the outdoor play area. We will also be purchasing new materials for the class rooms. Thank you for supporting our big fund raising event of the year, The Children's House Art Sale. It was a very enjoyable evening for us all. Thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class children for all their help on the night.

Please let me know if there are any particular Parent Education Evening topics you are interested in for the coming year.

We wish our departing families the very best in their new ventures. We will miss you all. A fond farewell to Naoise Lynch who will be graduating from 6<sup>th</sup> class at the end of this school year.

Thank you all for your help and support this school year. Congratulations to Ms Ryan who will be getting married on June 14th. Happy and safe holidays to you all. We look forward to seeing you back on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Fondly,

Ms Kuh.

### School Fundraising Event, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

A great evening was had at the school Fundraising Event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Parents were asked to donate what they could, big or small for the raffle – and they most certainly did. There were wonderful prizes on the night and pretty much everyone went away with a prize of some sort – not to mention the delicious nibbles and tasty wine. But the real star of the night was the children's art, all lovingly presented with the help of some very patient mums.

To stroll around and see what the children were inspired to draw was a real eye opener. A fascinating insight into our children's worlds. There are quite a few homes with these very impressive original works of art hanging in them now. Who knows . . . in years to come . . . ?

This was the only fund raising activity carried out in the school this year and it was lovely to see so many parents and friends on the night. A total of €2,335 was raised which is really impressive and much appreciated. This will all go towards the Children's play area which will add to the all ready magical space the children have to play in.

Particular thanks on the night must go to Micaela Kuh and The Parent's Association, for all their hard work. A fundraising target of €3,200 was set at the beginning of the year, so all other ideas to reach our goals would be appreciated.

Well done to everyone involved and thanks to our very talented young artists.

*Jenny Kelly*

### The MS Readathon

The children take part in the M.S. Readathon every year. The M.S. Society is the only national organization that provides information and support to people living with M.S. There are 8,000 people and their families living with Multiple Sclerosis in Ireland. This year the children raised €1,134 for this very worthy cause. For the second time in a row, they won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Independent Schools Category for the amount of money raised. The big silver trophy returned to the Children's House for another year! Thank you to all the parents and children who support this fund raiser every year. Let's try and make it 3 in a row next year!

*Ms Corr*

## 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, you do not need to send a friend request.

## From the Children. . .

'I like when we made the buns and they tasted very nice. I like spellings and tables. I like Karate. It is very fun.' **John**

'I like hot days because we get to have lunch outside. I can't wait till Clara Lara and I hope it doesn't rain. I like going on outings. We went to the Shackleton Museum. We went to a Christmas play. I like doing experiments and projects, I also like drawing maps. I like reading. I usually read on Tuesdays and Thursdays and sometimes Mondays. On Friday we do Karate. On Thursdays we do our Irish spelling test. On Wednesdays we do Irish, then sports. On Tuesdays we do Irish.'

**Matthew**

'My favourite things about this year were going to the Shackleton Museum, Cheerios Breakfast Day and all our tours, the M.S. Readathon, entering competitions and joining people when they celebrate their birthdays in this lovely school. I loved the Christmas play and Halloween concert. I am really looking forward to the summer concert and Clara Lara. One more thing is thank you to all the teachers who have minded us and they put a lot of effort into it.

**Aimee**

## Highlights of '12/'13 By Martha Bolger Webb, Age 11

### Competitions

#### Science Fair

This year we entered The Primary Science Fair in the RDS with our project 'H<sub>2</sub>O, is that all it is?' It was all about finding out what else was in water apart from 2 hydrogen atoms and 1 oxygen atom. We got a participation award and it was great fun.

#### Eason Spelling Bee

We did a school Spelling Bee to choose who would represent our school and I won. I went to the Dublin Spelling Bee and came around 24<sup>th</sup> out of 61. I was happy with the result.

#### A.I.J.S Art Competition

This year the theme for the art completion was 'Music'. I did a picture inspired by Christina's Perry's 'Jar of Hearts'. Unfortunately it didn't get entered but I enjoyed doing the picture.

## Texaco Art Competition

This year for the Texaco Art Competition I did a picture of me thinking of what I was going to do. I didn't want to enter it but I liked painting it. Ella in 3<sup>rd</sup> class got a special commendation.

## Poetry Competition.

The theme for the poetry competition was 'My Family'. The results came back and Rose got a special commendation and Emily got 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

## Outings

### Carlingford

Carlingford was really fun. We did rock climbing and abseiling, archery, laser combat and C.B. (Communication Breakdown).

### Santa's Cracking Christmas Adventure

Before Christmas we went to a weird play. It was good but weird. It was about a guy who wanted to steal all the Children's Christmas presents.

### Random Stuff

I liked the raffle night. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class helped out.

I liked when Oisin McGann came in (an author) to talk to us.

It has been a great year!!

## The End.

## The Senior Class Trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre by Naoise Lynch.

It was the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2013. I was counting down the seconds till 3 o'clock. It finally happened. The waiting was over. We were going to Carlingford. The parents bought some food so we wouldn't be hungry. Then the bus (which was quite small) came. The bus driver then took our luggage and just like that we were gone.

Every time we passed a county we would go crazy. We eventually got there. (It was about two and a half hours.)

When we came through the door the guy at the desk gave us a warm welcome and told us to go upstairs to the upstairs common room. When we got there an instructor told us the rules.

We went down for dinner. To be honest it wasn't that great looking so I didn't have it. It was stew. Nobody really liked it so I figured I'd made the right decision. The only people who really liked it were the adults who came which were David (my Dad), Colm, (Catherine's Dad) and Ms Kuh (our teacher). I wasn't hungry at all. I hardly even had any ice-cream which was the dessert.

## Newsletter Summer Term 2013

We then got ready for Laser Combat. Our instructor was a guy called David. He handed us pretty cool guns, and split us into two teams. We were also handed these camouflage suits. We hiked up the mountains to play.

When we came back we played volleyball for a while. When we got into bed it was about 11.05pm. We all only got about 4 hours sleep. At 4 am we finally went to sleep.

We went down for breakfast at 7.30. I have to say that the breakfast was quite nice. I had two pieces of toast and a bowl of Rice Crispies. We had orange juice as a drink.

It said on the board that we had kayaking and rock climbing. However the guy at the desk warned us that our water activity might be cancelled over the windy waves. So we did rock climbing first with a guy called Gary. He led us in to the mountains for rock climbing. We stopped to play a game similar to 'Little Red Riding Hood' but it was called 'Ninja'.

Gary gave us harnesses and helmets to put on. We then went to the rocks to climb. We all had to climb to the top of a cliff. I made it to the top twice. And did abseiling in which I made it to the bottom but I really hurt my knee (I still have a bruise on it). When we came back we had lunch. It was chips and sausages. It was really nice.

After lunch we found that our water activity had been cancelled.

We went down to the tent to play Archery. Afterwards we headed down to play Communication Breakdown. It was very fun. You walk into this dark room which was very hot and you had to find your way out.

After all that we headed back for the adventure centre. We went in and got our bags. The guy asked us what we thought of Carlingford and then we went to get some sweets for the bus ride. I got 'pick and mix'. After that the bus came and took us home.

### The Children's House Parent's Association

The Parent's Association is currently looking for volunteers to help out with fund-raising efforts and social events throughout the year. It's a great way of getting to know other parents at the school and in developing links between the junior and senior classes. If anybody would like to help out, please sign up on the notice board at the start of the new term. Junior class parents are especially welcome. Thank you.

### Winter Term Dates

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August School Re-opens  
Half-Term 28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November (inclusive)  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December Junior Class Christmas Play  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December Junior Class Christmas Play  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December Senior Class Christmas Play  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December School closes at 12 noon.

### The Garden

Thank you to Dan Brennan for all his wonderful planting in the garden. It looked so lovely on Sport's Day. Dan is the husband of the late Liz Brennan who taught in the school for many years and is Ella's Granddad.

### Poet's Corner

My sister is so funny  
My Daddy is so weird  
My brother is so annoying  
And what is weird is my sister  
And my Mum are fine

By Emily Bell, 6

### My Funny Family

My family is funny  
They are like runny honey  
They are not fragile  
They are very agile  
My mummy is clean  
My daddy is green  
We have a doggy  
His name is Bobby  
He likes to eat runny honey  
Just like my family

By Rose Bolger-Webb, 9

### ..... And Finally

'Education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.'

Maria Montessori