

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

21st June 2018

A Chairde (Friends),

Principal's News

This is our final newsletter of the year. Today, as you read this, we are formally getting the keys of the building, as the school reaches what is called 'substantial completion'. I am reminded of all the families who have left our school but who have had such a big part in making this amazing building a reality since our school opened its doors for the first time in 1994. Patron, BOM and PA committees have given up countless volunteer hours in the hope that this day would become a reality. Staff in GBMDS have been leaders in child centred equality based education for years in what have been challenging and often substandard conditions. I want to pay a special tribute to all who have acted as Principal in the school:

Maria Halpin, Tom Conaty, Mick, Cathal O'Gorman and, in particular, Sinéad O'Kane, whose drive and perseverance will mean that generations of children will get to learn in excellent surroundings and facilities.

I would also like to thank the OPW and Principal Construction and in particular, Charlie Moore who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the building is of the highest spec and standard. Many thanks also to Pearse College and St. Kevin's College who hosted us on their campus while the building work took place. Finally, our community of students and their families are more important than any building. Learning to live together where no child is an outsider will continue to be at the heart of everything we do at GBMDS. I do think however it is important to sit back and give ourselves a collective clap on the back.

School Reports

All parents would have received an important email and follow up text message on how to access your School Report and details through the Aladdin database and App. Using the App will reduce the cost of texting and will ensure that communication is more streamlined within the school.

School Reports will go live today. As a green school, we are committed to reducing the amount of paper used and money spent on postage. The reports will only be available through the Aladdin Connect App. You can contact the office tomorrow if you have difficulty accessing them (we are at the handover today so there will be nobody in the office). Any parents who haven't downloaded the free App will receive another link today to it.

It has been a privilege to read all the Reports and they really illustrate the special relationship that primary school teachers have with their students.

Graduation

Our sixth class graduation will take place in the library of St. Kevin's College next Tuesday at 6.30pm. This has been an amazing year for 6th class and their list of endeavours and achievements this year are too numerous to mention here. I know you will join me in wishing them all the best as they enter the next phase of their Education. They have been great ambassadors for our school.

Our New Website

A reminder to check out www.griffithbarracks.ie for all the latest news from the school.



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

Friday 22nd June – 6th Class will get a guided tour of the building from Charlie from the OPW followed by our poetry competition winners.

Tuesday 26th June – 6th Class Graduation at 6.30pm - Library St. Kevin's College, followed by refreshments organised by 5th class parents.

Wednesday 27th June – School finishes for a half day at 11.40am. Infants can be collected from 11.30am in order to ease the bottleneck at the gate. There will be no kids club on this day.

Wednesday 27th June, Thursday 28th June, Friday 29th June – School will be moved back to South Circular Road.

July 1st – Prefabs on Clogher Road will be moved to a new location.

Thursday August 30th June – School resumes with gates opening at 8.40am for an 8.50am start. Parents will be welcome to stay after the children are in class to have a look around the building. New Junior Infants will start at 9.30am so that we can give them our full attention in what will be doubly a very important day for them.

A final word....

I have really enjoyed every minute of the last seven months at GBMDS. I want to thank everybody for their support, encouragement, friendliness and for sharing in my vision of a child centred growth mindset education. Our Ethics Committee is an amazing bunch of people who meet monthly to discuss how we can best live the values we espouse in our school ethos. As part of our discussions at a recent meeting, we agreed to do a list of thank you's to all those who have made a difference to our school this year. As I start to write this list I am starting to get the fear the Oscar winner gets that they may leave someone out. Here goes!

- Patron
- Board
- Ethics Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Our wonderful staff
- Rene – who embodies all that is great about GBMDS
- Yellow Flag
- Parent Reps
- Fayres
- Quiz
- Sourcing expertise
- Providing storage
- Literacy
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Poets
- Secondary School preparation
- Swimming and swimming feats of inspiration
- Walking trips to museums etc
- Trips
- Sharing expertise - e.g. Drama, knowledge
- Moving
- RSG Maths
- Guided Reading
- Catering
- Intercultural Day
- Croke Park supporters
- Lift givers
- Musical
- Mini Marathon
- Kids Club
- Snow shovellers (with great snow clearing equipment!)

Bíodh Samhradh deas agaibh (have a great Summer). Remember the importance of water safety wherever you are. I hope you all get the space to enjoy some time with loved ones. Remember to keep reading over the summer and see you all back at the end of August.

Beir Bua,

Eddie
(Príomhoide)