

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

A Chairde (Friends),

21st November 2019

Board of Management - A message from Paul Howe, outgoing Chairperson

The last four years on the Board have taught me a lot, which is good, because school is all about learning, isn't it? Starting off as a parent who just dropped my kids off at the school, to see the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes was inspiring and delightful. Our children go to a great school.

The board oversees the running of the school, and every month we get a report from the principal, formerly Sinead O'Kane, Cathal O'Gorman as acting Principal, and now Eddie Fox. Our principals are hugely devoted to the school, and it shows. Through the report, we have seen the huge amount of work carried out by the staff and management team, their commitment to educating and supporting the children at the school, and the extra time they put into their jobs in after school activities.

We have seen the thoughtful work carried out by the Patron, the sub committees, the Parents Association, Percent for Art and all the other groups too plentiful to mention – all devoted to making the school a place for everyone in the community. I have met lots of talented and generous people in my role as chairperson. Everyone on the board volunteers their time and energy, and I am proud to have worked with Gina, Clare, Michelle, Cathal (McCann), Traolach, Sinead (Riordan), Mal, and Andy. We had to make some challenging decisions during the four years, including moving the school to Clogher Road, and finding a replacement for the legendary Sinead O'Kane. I like to think we leave the incoming board with a new, top quality school building and an excellent principal. No pressure!

Finally, I would like to say that when we had to make difficult or complicated decisions on the board, we returned to the reason we were there in the first place – to ensure the children get the best education and support from the school. Anytime I met the children, they were good humoured, lively, confident and thoughtful. They have lifted my heart. *Paul Howe, outgoing Chairperson*

The new Board is as follows:

Patron Nominees:	Andy Haydu (Chairperson) (SI Claire and Rang 2 Anita) Mary Greene (SI Claire and Rang 2 Jenny)
Elected Parent Nominees:	Niall Dunne (JI Cian and Rang 2 Anita) Aideen Burke (JI Cathal)
Elected Staff Nominee:	Clare Dunne
Principal:	Eddie Fox (Secretary)

Payments to the School

Many thanks to all who have already made a payment for trips, swimming and workshops, which was due at the beginning of November. A reminder to those that haven't made a payment yet to please do so on Aladdin. Junior and Senior Infants pay €40 and 1st - 6th Class pay €90 (includes the cost of swimming). A link has been sent today to anybody who hasn't already paid. It is possible to pay it in two instalments if you wish (minimum payment set at €40 per instalment).

Parent Teacher Meetings

It was great to catch up with all the many parents who attended the parent teacher meetings over the last few days. The level of interest and care that all parents show for the children in GBMDS is so encouraging and the children are so lucky to have you all in their corner. Many thanks to all the teachers who put so much preparation into these meetings. Junior Infants will have their meetings in February.

4th Class Trip to Dolphin's Barn Library

Last week 4th class and Eoin went to Dolphin's Park Library as part of the Dublin Literary Festival. They had a great presentation from writer Oisín McGann and the children made an appearance on News Today, RTÉ's young people's news programme, who were there to film the event. The children gave great interviews and were naturals in front of the camera. Many thanks to

teacher Eoin and to parent volunteers Paul and Aideen who came with us on the day.



PA Meetings Survey

The Parents Association (PA) would like to plan their meetings for the rest of the year to ensure that as many people as possible can attend. The survey can be accessed below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9Q97F7W>

Many thanks to PA Secretary Ann Marie Dunne for preparing the survey.

Patron Committee

If you would like to join our Patron, just follow the link below. Any person with an interest in our school can join our patron. For this year the €5 fee has been waived.

<https://sites.google.com/view/griffithbarrackspatron/signup>

Patron Gardening Group

A reminder to get in touch if you would like to be a part of the school gardening group. Our plan can be accessed here

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bfZrVHN_sZqE7KKPvtNaT9ydZd4mQbR_TTdB63IkcgM/present?ueb=true#slide=id.p1.

If you would like to join the garden group, contact patron@griffithbarracks.ie

Intercultural Day - Note from the Ethics Committee

Only one week to go to our Intercultural Day that will begin at drop-off on Thursday 28th November.

- Breakfast will start at 8.50am and run until 9.30am. All parents are welcome to stay and join in the fun.
- There will be a disco from 1.40pm to 2.10pm. Infant parents and children are welcome to attend the disco after collection time.
- A wide variety of workshops have been arranged for the children around the intercultural theme.

Class	Workshop
Junior Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Cartoons • Francesca –Mother Tongue workshop
Senior Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francesca- Mother Tongue workshop • Estelle Storytelling – Irish Legends • International Cartoons
1 st Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estelle Storytelling – Irish Legends • International Cartoons
2 nd Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Cartoons • Bollywood Dancers
3 rd Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yu Ming is Ainm Dom? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqYtG9BNhfM • Belly dancer (Elena) • Korean school • Nick Henderson (Irish Refugee Council)
4 th Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish of the Travelling Community workshop • Yu Ming is Ainm Dom? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqYtG9BNhfM • Capoeira • Nick Henderson (Irish Refugee Council)
5 th Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gill (Input on Anti-Racism campaigns) • The Breadwinner (Short Film)
6 th Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gill (Input on Anti-Racism campaigns) • The Breadwinner (Short Film) • Muhammad workshop on Syrian architecture • https://ijustreadaboutthat.wordpress.com/2013/08/25/new-boy-short-film-based-on-a-short-story-by-rodgy-doyle-2007/

- Lots of parents have volunteered to prepare a food item from their culture but we still need more. It is not possible to cook food on site so please prepare bitesize portions in advance. There are children with nut allergies in the school so please avoid using nuts. Also, let us know what country you're representing, and we'll prepare flags and banners.

If you can help us with this, contact anita.dermody@griffithbarracks.ie. We're really looking forward to the day.

Proposed Changes to the Number 68 Bus Route

Bus Connects is proposing to cut the 68 route and replace it with a circle 'O' route which will exclude the Inchicore area. They have agreed to consider keeping the 68 route for school journey times should they receive sufficient requests from users. If this affects you, you might like to make contact with them by email to consultations@busconnects.ie.

There will be public consultations at The Alex Hotel, 41-47 Fenian Street, Dublin 2 on Monday, 25th November from 11.30am – 5.30pm and Tuesday 26th November from 1.30pm – 7.30pm.

Library

We had a great working Saturday cataloguing and alphabetising our many library books. This work will continue over the next coming weeks. Many thanks to all the volunteers. Below are some pictures of the day.



This week in Assembly

This week we had a great Assembly. We looked at the climate Youth assembly and the 10 point plan compiled by all the delegates

<https://www.rte.ie/news/youth-assembly/2019/1113/1090623-show-support-for-the-youth-assembly-recommendations/>

We looked at the life of Dolly Parton and explored having your own likes and dislikes regardless of what others might think.

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Dolly-Parton-Mar%C3%ADa-Isabel-S%C3%A1nchez-Vegara/9781786037596?ref=grid-view&qid=1574285810539&sr=1-1>

In the Junior Assembly we looked at the story of "The Squirrels who Squabbled" by Rachel Bright.

https://www.bookdepository.com/The-Squirrels-Who-Squabbled-Rachel-Bright/9781408340486?redirected=true&utm_medium=Google&utm_campaign=Base1&utm_source=IE&utm_content=The-Squirrels-Who-Squabbled&selectCurrency=EUR&w=AFFPAU96GFQJG4A80T6R&pdg=pla-309606738122:kwd-309606738122:cmp-711089934:adg-39921983227:crv-163908794634:pid-9781408340486:dev-c&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlx9Gbp9v55QIVRbDtCh3NzABmEAQYASABEgJOifD_BWE

We looked at how taking turns, working together and sharing makes everyone happy.

Helpful Parent sought

On the 9th of October, a student fell on South Circular Road outside Griffith College on the way into school. A parent stopped to help him. The student's parents would like to contact this parent to thank him and touch base with him on what happened. If you are that person, please contact me at eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie and I will put you in touch.

Save the Date Winter Celebration

A reminder that we will all gather together for our end of term celebration on Thursday 19th December. There will be two shows:

- Show 1 - 9.05am - Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Rang 5, Rang 6
- Show 2 - 11am - Rang 1, 2, 3, 4

This day is always one of the special days of the year and shows off our community at its best.

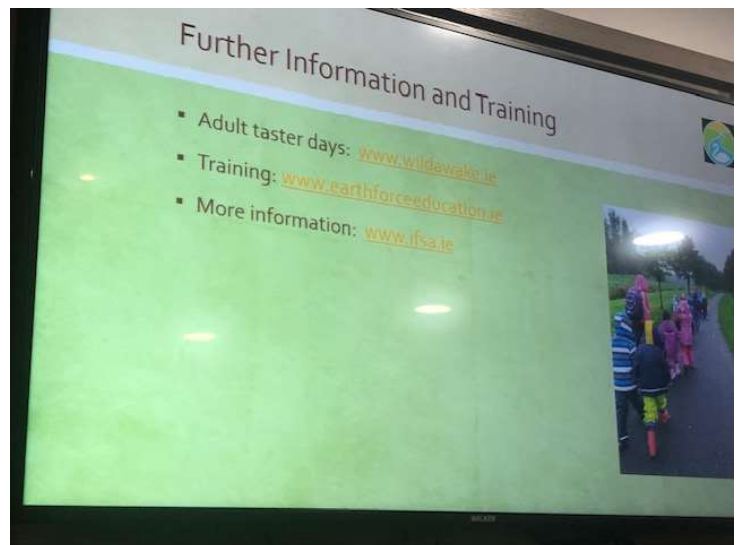
Students of the Week

Well done to all our students of the week.



Forest Schools

At the weekend, I attended the Educate Together Ethical Education Conference. Forest Schools was one of the items discussed. We hope to introduce Forest Schools in 3rd Class in 2021/22. If anybody has an interest in Forest Schools, please get in touch with me. For more information on what Forest Schools is click the link below.



<https://irishforestschoollassociation.ie/whatisforestschool/>

GBMDS – Around the School



Figure 1 Our magnificent choir can not only sing but dance at the same time!

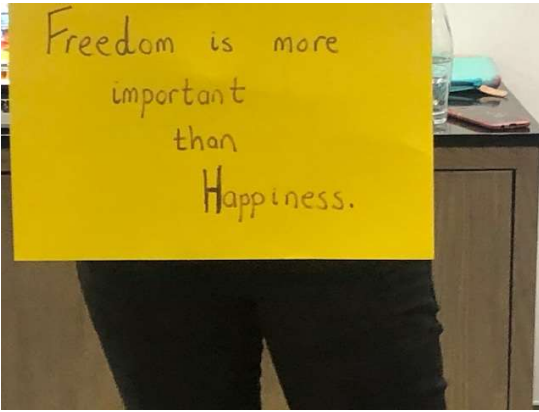


Figure 2 Some philosophical questions that we will be working with the children on this year.

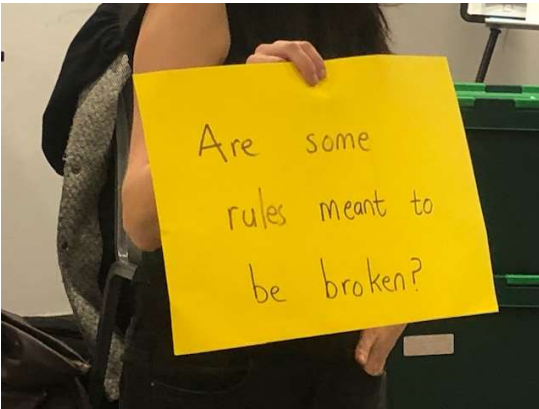


Figure 3 Many thanks to 2nd Class parent, Marcos Sanchez, who gave a really interesting talk on bridges with 2nd Class



Figure 4 Power Hour has just started in Senior Infants Ruth. Gina is going through the tricky words with one group.



Figure 5 Three life sized trees are waiting to be planted in the Infant Yard. They will be a great addition for the children.



Figure 6 Power Hour in action in Senior Infants Ruth.