

# GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

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23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

A Chairde (Friends),

## *Questionnaire about Childcare at GBMDS*

Many thanks to all the parents who completed our childcare survey. I will send another link by text and app today, so every parent has a chance to complete the survey. The survey will close on Friday morning and we will then use the results to inform our tender process which will take place over the month of February. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## *Re-scheduled Sponsored Walk Day*

We are hoping to re-schedule our sponsored walk for Monday week, 3<sup>rd</sup> February. We hope to leave the school at 11am. The walk will take about 40 minutes. We would love as many parents as are free to join us and get out in the fresh air. Contact your child's teacher at **teachersfirstname.surname@griffithbarracks.ie** if you can come along. We cancelled our spooky walk in October due to inclement weather.

## *Annual Bake Sale*

The annual Student Dáil bake sale will take place next Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January during school time for the children and after school for the parents. Children will need a euro or two. Baked goods can be dropped directly to the sports hall on the morning of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> where the Student Dáil will look after them. In keeping with our green credentials, we won't be using any plastic bags, so please give your child a spare lunchbox in which to carry their baked goods. While we often have gluten free/dairy free goods, we can't 100% guarantee these products so we ask that you let your class teacher know at **teachersfirstname.surname@griffithbarracks.ie**. If you would not like them to purchase or eat anything, we will still make sure they can feel part of the event. The students will vote this week on what charity to support. Last year it was the DSPCA. There are some excellent bakers at GBMDS and this is always a much loved and positive event on the school calendar.

## *Mother Tongues Families Parent and Toddler Group*

Please see attached leaflet regarding a new Mother Tongues Families Parent and Toddler Group starting on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

## *Patron Planting group*

The Patron planning group met this week. Many thanks to all who have been part of this really positive project in the school. Below is a link to the report from the meeting and the plans that the group are working on. Many thanks to Aaron Tay our Patron chairperson for leading this project.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sovi4Sl\\_vbxEfqGIYcgpS1BlIWmMQpThXiGYKSJNmXs/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sovi4Sl_vbxEfqGIYcgpS1BlIWmMQpThXiGYKSJNmXs/edit)

## *Language Curriculum Training Half Day*

A reminder that the first of two language curriculum half day training days will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February next, which is the day we break up for the mid-term break. School will close for all children at 12pm that day.

## *Enrolment*

Families with siblings need to make sure to send back their Junior Infant enrolment acceptance forms by Monday at 12pm. We will proceed to our second round of offers next Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January.

### ***Friends for Life Programme***

Thanks to all the 1st Class parents who came to the Fun Friends information meeting in the staff room this morning. Anita and Jenny gave a talk on the programme which focuses on guiding children through their social and emotional development and helps them to develop resilience through the use of fun play-based activities. There is a strong home and school linked approach and 1st Class are currently in their second week of the programme.

### ***GBMDS Poetry Book***

Work is still ongoing on the school Poetry Book. The children are finishing off their poetry pieces as we speak. Watch this space in the coming months.

### ***School Trips and Workshops Payments***

We have sent a payment reminder for any outstanding trips and workshops payments. Trips and workshops are a really enriching aspect of the children's education at Griffith Barracks. Please contact me if you have any questions in relation to this. If any parent has difficulty in making the payment, please come and speak to me in confidence.

### ***Library update***

Last Saturday a group of parents joined us to work on the library. We got lots of work done and put lots of books on the shelves. Many thanks to all the parents who came along. These events are a great way to help the school and have a chat and meet new people along the way. Jenny will be working next Tuesday and Friday in the library during the day and we will have a substitute teacher in her class. If any parent is around on these days to help out, get in touch with Jenny at [jenny.mccrohan@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:jenny.mccrohan@griffithbarracks.ie) Our library will be a great addition to our school and will be used by all our students and afterschool care.

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Class Musical***

Rehearsals are well underway for our 6<sup>th</sup> Class Musical. Parents and students have gathered for the past two Fridays and the feedback from the children has been great. There is a great atmosphere and sense of purpose in the group. Many thanks to all the parents who have given their time and energy to this project. It will be a source of great memories for the children and we wish the group the very best of luck in the coming months.



### ***Reminders – Healthy Eating Policy***

The consultation process on the review of our Healthy Eating Policy is coming to an end and we will bring our finalised policy to the BOM for ratification. Last week, Anita hosted a parents' consultation meeting. As part of the process, one of the points raised by children, staff and parents has been the goal that we as a school would reduce the use of single use plastics in all our lunches. Last year 6<sup>th</sup> class made this part of their Junior Entrepreneur project when they sold their reusable lunch boxes. Below is a recent Irish Times article on the experience of some schools in their efforts to reduce the use of single use plastics.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/irish-schools-are-going-plastic-free-but-are-parents-ready-1.3839326>

### ***Korean School visit***

This week we are celebrating the new Lunar Calendar. The Korean School are presenting to R4,5,6 on this. We are also looking at the Chinese New Year.

### ***Gaeilge Volunteers Shout out***

We are hoping to run Irish conversation circles in 6<sup>th</sup> class this year. We are looking for volunteers to commit 4 mornings over 4 weeks. Conversation circles are groups of 6 children and an adult conversing over 7 themes. We will have all the questions and answers ready. A basic working knowledge of Irish and lots of enthusiasm are all that is required. We did this last year with 6<sup>th</sup> class and it was really successful. If you would like to take part, contact Eddie at [eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie) – Go on, ‘bain triall as’ (give it a try)!!!



### ***Chess Jamboree***

This week, to finish off the chess module in 2<sup>nd</sup> class, we had a visit from our neighbours in St. Catherine's NS. We had some great friendly matches and got to meet our friends from down the road. 6<sup>th</sup> class are now doing a four week module in chess. Many thanks to our chess teacher, April Cronin, who is also part of our after school programme. We will have a chess team from the school taking part in the Leinster Chess League in the coming weeks.



### **Peace Proms**

The School choir are at the end of their rehearsals as they prepare for the Peace Proms on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Many thanks to Jenny and Anne Marie for leading this project. For more information on what Peace Proms is click on this link. An email was sent to all the participants yesterday by Jenny and Anne Marie. Please don't hesitate to contact Jenny, Anne Marie or myself if you've any questions.

<https://peaceproms.com/about-cboi/>

### **Skipping Day with Skip-Hop – 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

I am delighted to inform you that we have invited **Skip-Hop** for two days of skipping on the above dates. Every child has the opportunity to take part in the workshops in which they will learn a selection of moves including individual, double-dutch, long rope, and partner skipping. The second day culminates with a demonstration of skipping skills performed by children chosen from each workshop. This workshop is funded through the trips and workshop payments and through funding from the Parents Association.

**Skip-Hop** has presented demonstrations to over 3,500 schools throughout the UK and Ireland, China and South America. Their aim is to encourage children and adults to skip for health, fun and fitness, whilst introducing traditional skipping games back into the school playground. The school supports these aims wholeheartedly. Further information can be obtained from their web site [www.skip-hop.co.uk](http://www.skip-hop.co.uk)

The highest quality speed ropes are available for children of all ages. For parents who are interested in skipping with their children or who simply want some useful exercise themselves, there are adult ropes, family ropes and Double Dutch ropes available. Should you, your child or children require a skipping rope, they can be bought on either day or ordered through the school.

Children's ropes 2.1m and 2.5m - €6

Xtenders - €3

Double Dutch ropes 4.5m - €15 per pair

Adult ropes 2.7m - €8

Family ropes 4.5m - €10

The School will be buying ropes for the yard so please don't feel you need to buy any ropes.



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### **Junior Infant Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher meetings for Junior Infants will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Parent teacher meetings are an opportunity for parents to sit down with the teacher and discuss their child's learning and development away from the hustle and bustle of the classroom. Parents will be able to self-schedule their meeting through the school app. The meetings will be released on the app tomorrow. We will send a message out letting you know when the booking is live.

### **Curriculum**

This week, as a staff, we have been looking at our Ethical Education curriculum, Our Digital Learning Framework and the use of the resource Khan Academy for children across the school.

### **Music in 1<sup>st</sup> Class**

Music teachers Dave Murphy and Rita Garland will be working on a music workshop with Anne Marie and 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the coming weeks. Dave and Rita also give music lessons after school as part of our ASA programme.

### **Open Day at St. Patrick's Grammar School**

Reminder that St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School are holding an Open Day tomorrow from 1.30pm – 3.30pm. This is particularly relevant to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class parents but all are welcome.

## Students of the Week

Well done to this week's Students of the Week



Beir bua,

Eddie