

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

27th February 2020

A Chairde (Friends),

Another busy and really productive week at GBMDS. Yesterday, as a staff, we were working on our Library after school, and we are going to have a lovely opening day in April. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful books. We can't wait to share them with the next generation of Griffith Barracks children. Many thanks to Jenny for taking a lead in this project. Below is a flavour of life in GBMDS over the last week.



Coronavirus

Yesterday, I sent an email with advice and information from the HSE on the coronavirus. According to the HSE, these are the current affected areas:

- China
- South Korea
- Singapore
- Iran
- Japan
- Hong Kong
- Italy – specifically these areas – Piedmont, Lombardia, Veneto and Emilia Romagna

The advice is that any family returning from these areas must contact the Office of Public Health on 01- 6352145 and also contact us before returning to school.

Santry Athletics for Rang 3 – Rang 6

Athletics training for 3rd to 6th Class will start next Monday, March 2nd, with our first session at the Sundrive Park track. The trials will take place on March 23rd and 31st. An invitation to sign up was sent via the Aladdin app yesterday.

Athletics training is exciting and fun, but it can be hard for those who don't get on the teams going to Santry. We are always very proud of the great encouragement and sense of fair play that we see from year to year, but we know that it is tough for some. We thank you for helping manage your child's expectations and we focus on learning new skills, being healthy and being outdoors in the sunshine (!) together.

If you would like your child to participate in after school athletics this year, please tick the permission on your Aladdin App so they can be included in the training sessions.

We will send a separate permission for your child to walk home alone from the park, if you wish to avail of that option. Otherwise, they will be brought back to the school for collection here.

The cut off time for sign up is 1pm on Friday so we can send the other permission out to walk home from the park. Collection from the park is 2.30pm or 3pm from the school.

Many thanks,
Clare Dunne

Voluntary Contribution

In order to provide the service we do at GBMDS, we rely on the parental voluntary contribution, which is used to supplement the capitation grant we receive from the State. This grant only covers half of our running costs. We would be really grateful if any parent who has not paid the contribution yet could do so through our Aladdin online payment system, if in a position to do so.

Fun Friends in First Class

This week, First Class finished their Fun FRIENDS programme. The “*Fun FRIENDS Program*” was developed by Dr Paula Barrett to help guide the social and emotional development of children aged 4 to 7 by using fun, play-based group activities. Fun FRIENDS nurtures the child’s development by teaching them to engage resilience early on, encouraging them to thrive and smoothly transition into school life.

The secret to the Fun FRIENDS Program is the group activities that help children to learn new skills. There are a number of different evidence-based play-focused activities, which help teach the following skills to participants in a way that can be easily grasped, understood and used in everyday life:



- Smiling and making eye contact when communicating
- Speaking with a brave and confident voice
- Talking about and understanding feelings in themselves and others (empathy development)
- Helping other people, including family, peers and teachers
- Self-awareness of body clues, e.g. tense means stressed, butterflies means nervous
- Relaxation techniques to relax the body and mind during stressful situations
- Approaching groups of peers and making friends
- Trying new things and different approaches to problem solving
- Identifying negative thoughts and turning them into positive thoughts

Many thanks to Jenny and Anita for delivering this programme. Jenny, Anita, Claire G, Ruth and, as of today, Clare D, have been trained to deliver this programme which also incorporates “Friends for Life” which takes place in 5th class.

Report on Griffith Barracks Chess Team’s Adventure!

Our Chess Club has been running after school since last September and is developing well. Every Tuesday afternoon, we start with some skill-building work in our Chess Practice books and then play against each other in a Ladder Tournament. Prize-giving will be held before the Easter Holidays!

Recently we took part in the Leinster Schools Chess Association’s Division 2 Championships. This is organised on a regional basis and we were placed in the West Dublin group. We hosted the regional qualifying tournament on Tuesday, February 11th, and were visited by the Lucan East Educate Together team and a team from our near neighbours, St Catherine’s. Another team was due to take part from Edmondstown NS, but unfortunately, they were unable to come on the day.



Our team consisted of Joey, Rua, Fionn, Richard, Eve, Matilda, Myles and Durragh.

After a brave fight, we lost to a strong Lucan East team – but at least Richard managed to win and Rua got a draw. And it was brilliant to see Joey turning a setback into an opportunity – after losing to Lucan East’s top player, he asked his opponent to show him a few tricks and stratagems!

Lucan East also beat St Catherine’s by the same margin, so they took the title of West Dublin Champions, but we had some consolation in beating St Catherine’s in the last round and coming second! Our top performer was Richard who scored 1.5 points out of 2 – well done Richard, but well done everyone else as well!

The team are now invited to take part in the Division 2 Shield event in St Catherine’s Sports Centre, Marrowbone Lane, on March 10th. We are looking for a couple of parent volunteers to walk the children down and back and to supervise them from 10:15-1:15 that day. Contact Eddie if you can help.

Big thank you to Eddie for sourcing juice and popcorn for all the players and to Ben for allowing us to use his classroom!

April Cronin Chess Teacher

3rd Class visit to Kevin Street Library

Rang 3 Derek got to visit Kevin Street Library this week. The picture shows what a great place it is. I have even joined and every book under the sun is available from the friendly staff who have also been really helpful to us as we prepare our own library. Author Shane Hegarty was there to discuss “Boot, the rusty rescue”. Rang 3 will be studying this book in the coming weeks.



Teddy Bears Picnic in second class Anita

Even a Teddy Bears Picnic has an educational slant to it in Rang 2 Anita

<https://griffithbarracks.ie/News/Teddy-Bears-picnic/10582/Index.html>

Cake Sale Charity

A big thank you to everybody who contributed towards the cake sale. This week we are transferring the amazing sum of €646 to the Australian Bush Fire Relief, which was the charity voted on by the students.

Students of the Week

Well done to this week’s Students of the Week



Parents Association AGM

The Parents Association AGM Minutes are attached with the Newsletter. The next meeting of the PA takes place next Monday March 2nd. Many thanks to Anne Marie (JI and Rang 2) for preparing the minutes.

Dublin 12 Campaign for ASD Inclusion

The above group is organising a public meeting to establish an Autism specific school in the Dublin 12 area. The meeting will take place on Monday 9th March from 7pm – 9pm in the Hope Centre, Armagh Road, Crumlin. There is a flyer attached to the Newsletter.

6th Class news

Today, 6th class did their final Dragon's Den Presentations as part of the Junior Entrepreneur programme. The standard of the presentations was excellent. Many thanks to business owner and entrepreneur, Sinéad Clarke, (R4, 2, SI) for her insight and encouragement. It was a great help.

6th Class have also been doing a Ciorcal Gaeilge (Irish language conversation circles). Many thanks to parents Deirdre Thompson (R3, JI), Donnchadh O'Neill (SI) and Ailbhe Ní Mhaoilearca (R6) for giving their time. Its great to have their enthusiasm as well and that the children are hearing different voices apart from the teacher speaking Irish. When the sessions are over, 6th class will then do 4 weeks of sessions with Rang 5 Sabina.

Next week the class will take part in the Science Blast at the RDS. More information on what Science Blast is can be found below. Many thanks to class teacher Aisling for all her work with the class this year.

<http://www.esbscienceblast.com/about/>

Beir bua,

Eddie
Príomhóide

