

## Padraic Colum Celebration Week

In May, our school commemorated the centenary of the death of famous writer, dramatist and poet, Padraic Colum. Padraic Colum was born in Longford and he and his brother attended St. Michael's School for a short time before the family moved to Co. Cavan. Colum's early days around the Workhouse (where his father worked) probably inspired some of his best loved poetry.

Local historian, Eamonn Brennan came into our school to take 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes on walks around Longford, visiting places associated with Colum's early life. 4<sup>th</sup> Classes studied the poem *A Drover* and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes studied *An Old Woman of the Roads*. Sr. Angela Bracken obliged by visiting the senior classes *in role*, as the old woman of the roads. The pupils asked questions and participated wholeheartedly in the activity.

The classes then responded with pieces of art, poetry and writing, reflecting on the poetry.

6<sup>th</sup> class pupils, Frankie and Evidence were chosen to read their pieces at the annual Padraic Colum Gathering in Longford Library, where they amazed the audience equally with the quality of their writing and their delivery of it. They were great ambassadors for our school.

Mr. Gannon recorded a video of some of the activities that week, including a beautiful rendition of *An Old Woman of the Roads* by Mr. Delaney's 4<sup>th</sup> Class and a wonderful reading of a reflective piece created and delivered by William Stokes in 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

Finally, Mrs. Sorohan has been compiling a book to commemorate the week and to include more of the amazing work completed by the pupils.

We would like to thank all who were involved with this memorable project.

## Miss Keaveney and Mr. Kenny's 6th class

On Monday 23/5/2022, some students from 6<sup>th</sup> Class made their Confirmation. It was a brilliant event and was great to see everyone there including family members to celebrate this big occasion. A special Thank you to Mr. Kenny for helping us prepare for Confirmation.

We recently studied all about our famous past pupil, Padraic Colum. Padraic Colum attended St. Michael's BNS and later on in life, he wrote many famous books and poems. We thoroughly enjoyed our History Tour around Longford showing us the many historical places

that Longford Town has to offer. Evidence and Frankie both attended a library event and read out their fantastic pieces of work to different members of our community. We were all so proud of their hard work. A special thanks to Ms. Sorohan for organising this interesting Local History Study.

On 18<sup>th</sup> of May, we competed in the final of Cumann na mBunscol. We were thrilled to win the final. It was an excellent achievement and I am super proud of all my students who trained so hard. A special thank you to Mr. Delaney, Mr. O'Brien and Mr

Carberry for working with the boys. I hope many of my students continue their GAA career with Slashers GAA Club.

Miss Horan threw the boys a post celebration party and it was delicious! Lucky us!

Currently, as we wrap up the final few weeks, we are really looking forward to our School Tour in Tayto Park.

It has been a wonderful school year. I wish all my students every success going forward. St. Mel's, Templemichael College and Ballymahon Convent are lucky to have such great students joining them.



## St. Michael's B.N.S. Newsletter Summer 2022

28st June 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians and members of our school community, we have had an extremely busy 2021/2022 as you will see as you read through this newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and support during the school

year. I would like to express my gratitude to the parents and families of the boys who attend our school for your continued support and co-operation and I am very much looking forward to an exciting school year ahead for 2022/2023. Thank you to all the members of the

school staff for your continued hard work and dedication. School will re-open on Thursday 1st September 2022. Enjoy the Summer Holidays.

Best wishes to you all,  
Nora Horan, Principal.

## St. Michael's G.A.A.

Gaelic football has a proud tradition in our school. Past pupils from our school have gone on to play for Longford and even Ireland. This year, our school team began training in March. From the very first training session, we had lots of boys playing with big smiles on their faces. The coaches, Mr O'Brien, Mr Delaney and Mr Carberry knew that it would be very tough to pick a team of 15 with so many good players.

Our first game was in Colmcille. For some of our boys it was their first ever game of Gaelic football. The boys played really well in a very close game. In the end, it was a draw. The boys were very happy on the bus home and learned a lot about the game. In our next game we won our first

game of the year against Edgeworthstown. The boys played really well from start to finish. We defeated Colehill in our next game before playing Colmcille again. In another close game, the boys battled hard in bad weather conditions and came away with another win. We had qualified for the semi final!

The boys put in a huge effort in training before our semi-final in Slashers. In another very close game, our boys in blue played really well and showed all the skills of gaelic football to defeat Dromard and qualify for the final.

Our final took place in Pearse Park. We were very excited. Teachers and parents came out to watch the boys put in a fantastic performance. Each and every boy gave their all and we came away as winners

and Division 2 champions. Our captains, Evidence and Isaiah accepted the trophy for our school and Martin won the man of the match. Despite the bad weather, we were all delighted. It was a great year and we hope that the boys keep training over the summer. Training takes place in Slashers every Thursday at 6pm during the summer and all new players are welcome.

We thank Ms Horan for all her support during the year. We also thank Denise who sent out the messages every week. Thanks to our coaches Mr O'Brien, Mr Delaney and Mr Carberry and to all the boys who took part in training all year. We hope to see even more boys playing Gaelic football for our school next year!



## Ms. Barrins, Ms Walsh & Ms. Foy's 2nd Class

2<sup>nd</sup> class boys have had a fantastic, fun filled 2022 so far. We started off in January watching a wonderful play called "Tracks in the Snow" by the Henry Girls. It was filled with magic, music and excitement.

The boys have practiced their soccer skills with Damien throughout the year. The boys practiced their swimming skills after Christmas. Well done to any boys who were a bit nervous learning to swim. They fought their fears and won. We also took part in some athletics trainings in The Mall.

We are so proud of the boys' behaviour during the course of year. Every boy has been a pleasure to bring outside the school for external activities.

Ms. Barrins organised a wonderful "Wellness Week" for all the children and staff in St. Michaels. Every day had a new theme and we began with a new thought of the day. Mindful Monday was all about meditation and mindful breathing. Thankful Tuesday was

about showing gratitude. On Wacky Wednesday the whole school dressed up in colourful, miss-matched clothes including wigs. On Try It Thursday, we tried various dances, games and enjoyed the outdoors. On Feel Good Friday, we tried some yoga. Thanks everyone who participated during the week. We had a brilliant week filled with laughs and smiles. Well done to Max, Jaroslav and Alexey and who won the poster competition for drawing a wonderful poster about their ideas of what 'wellness' means.

Ms. Jessup organised a competition before Easter about renewable energy in countries across Europe. Well done to all the boys who entered the competition. There was so much excitement when the Easter Bunny came to the school to give each of those boys and Easter egg.

We would like to say a huge congratulations to the boys who made their Confession and Communion this year. We would also like to thank the parents who helped their

sons at home to prepare for the day with learning prayers and readings.

We had a Pizza Party in 2<sup>nd</sup> class to celebrate all the fantastic work throughout the year and for all the preparation for the Communion! It was a great afternoon!

Well done to Joris in Ms. Foy's class for participating in the Handwriting Competition for Longford South in St. Joseph's N.S. Not only did he participate but he won a medal for second place. What a fantastic achievement.

Roger in Ms Barrins' class was picked for the school Athletics Team. Well done Roger!

We are all so excited for our school tour on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June in Glendeer Pet Farm and Planet Adventure in Athlone. Hopefully all the boys will make it. It will be a brilliant day out.

We wish all of you a fantastic summer holiday wherever you may be. Thank you all for your continued support and we will look forward to seeing you all in September. Happy Holidays!!

Ms. Foy, Ms. Barrins and Ms. Walsh



## Mr. Delaney's 5th Class

We had a fantastic year in 5<sup>th</sup> class this year. In the last six months we have participated in a number of fun events.

In Music we learned the Ukulele every week on Mondays. The students progressed from playing the basic chords to recording their own song professionally at the end.

5<sup>th</sup> class also spent a lot of time in the water this term. We went swimming in the Mall every week and our School tour on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May combined both land based activities such as archery and rock climbing with a fun filled afternoon of water based activities. The boys all had a wonderful time.

We were also fortunate to attend athletics in the Mall over a 3-week period and to participate in the Daily Mile in school. Due

to all of these events the student's fitness levels really improved throughout the year. An added bonus at the end of the year was the fact that we won the Division 2 Cumann na mBunscoil title in Pearse Park. A number of players from 5<sup>th</sup> class were members of the panel and they received a Pizza on Friday as a treat to celebrate their victory

On Thursday mornings we regularly used iPads in the classroom. The students were extremely passionate about researching information for numerous projects and also very competitive in our weekly games of Kahoot. We also used the I pads to learn all about Pdraig Colum and our class recorded a fantastic version of The Old Woman of the Roads with the help of Mr. Gannon.

Our class had a student teacher, Miss Sheahan for a number of weeks. The boys thoroughly enjoyed having another voice in the classroom and she taught them many new games, did various science experiments and also came with them on school tour. Many thanks to her for her hard work throughout her stay.

One final thing to note from this term was the participation of a number of our students in the St Patrick's Day Parade. This was a fantastic initiative and our school won an award for best float on the day. Many thanks to Shane Crossan for his help with this event and also to all the teachers, coaches, parents and mentors who helped out at various times throughout the year. It was my pleasure to teach 5<sup>th</sup> class this year and I wish all the students a fantastic summer break and good luck in 6<sup>th</sup> class.

## Sports Day

Second and Third Classes were blessed with beautiful weather for our sports day on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June. It was wonderful to see all the boys enjoying a variety of races. They competed in sprints, backward races, crawling races, three legged races, wheelbarrow races, potato and spoon and ball and plate races. The most novel race was called "Find the Shoe"

where the boys had to find their own shoes and put them on, half way through the race. The boys raced against members of their own class groups and earned points for their teams. Teams were made up of members from each class. The afternoon was spent playing soccer in a tournament between all of the teams. The games were ably refereed by

some of our teachers with help from 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils Leon and Martin. Huge thanks go to Mrs. Jessup for organising the whole day and to all the teachers for running the races. Thanks also to the 6<sup>th</sup> class boys for being at the finish lines and being a great help to everyone. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes will always remember this wonderful day.



## Ms. Quinn's 5th Class

We have had a fantastic last term in Ms. Quinn's 5<sup>th</sup> Class. Just before the Easter holidays we were very lucky to be chosen to take part in this year's St Patricks Day parade. We were given the theme of modern St. Patrick and we spent the weeks before the parade getting our costumes ready. An artist came to our classroom to help us make and decorate our mitre hats. There was a glitter explosion in our classroom but the hats looked brilliant! We completed our costumes with capes, beards and sunglasses. Unfortunately, they were not needed on the day because it rained for the entire parade! The weather did not dampen our spirits too much though, and we won most colourful entry! Well done to Ms. Heavey and all the boys and teachers involved!

Before Easter we focussed on energy use in Geography and completed a whole school project, organised by Ms Jessup, about energy use in countries all over the world. The boys did a fantastic job and we have learned so much about renewable energy sources. As an added bonus, we had a visit from the Easter bunny and every boy who completed a project

received an Easter egg!!

Our Gaelic football team has had a brilliant year which ended with a fantastic final in Pearse Park! Seven boys from our class were part of the panel and we were all delighted when they returned to school with the trophy. The boys are already out training again for next year and have inspired more boys in our class to join the team and work on their skills. Well done to Mr. Carberry, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Delaney and all the team on their fantastic win.

At the end of May we had a fantastic day out at Shannon River Adventure. Both 5<sup>th</sup> classes went on the tour together and we were split into two mixed groups. It was great to get to play with the boys from the other class as well as our own. First, we did archery and had a competition to see which team could win the most points by hitting the target. Mr Delaney and Cian were the experts and their team won. Next, we did rock climbing, there were three different walls of different difficulty levels, the boys were fantastic and by the end some even completed the most difficult wall blind-

folded!! We also did an outdoor obstacle course and a tug of war, luckily the rain stayed away and we were able to do it all while enjoying the sunshine. After lunch it was time for the water sports, we completed kayaking, mud sliding and cliff jumping! I think everyone agreed that the mud slide was the best part! We had a fantastic school tour and it was brilliant to have a well-deserved day out together after all our hard work all year.

The last few weeks we have been making the most of the nice weather when the sun shines. The boys had been running laps before Christmas and have done really well on improving their fitness and running times. We have been lucky enough to have football coach Damien on our teaching staff, who has been taking us out for soccer coaching sessions when we have the chance. We have also had our GAA coach Enda with us since Easter. We have really enjoyed improving our ball handling and gross motor skills with him and many of the boys have started playing Gaelic football with local club Slashers.

In the run up to the Summer break we have been writing about summer holidays and completing projects on countries in Europe. We are really looking forward to the break and for 6<sup>th</sup> Class in September, although Ms. Quinn will be sad to see them go!

## Mr. Carberry's 3rd Class

As soon as the Christmas holidays were over, we got straight down to work again as we began 2022. We learned all about the Vikings and we did a project on Denmark. We talked about boats and floating and sinking in science. The boys really enjoyed learning more about water.

Throughout the year all the boys have made a huge effort in Maths, English and Irish. These are 3 very important subjects and the boys know they must keep working hard in 4<sup>th</sup> class.

When we took a break from all the writing and maths, we did some really fun things too. We took part in drumming lessons every Monday. We learned different rhythms and played drumming games. It was

brilliant. Every Thursday we took part in GAA training with Enda the coach from Longford Slashers. We improved our skills over the year and we hope to see lots of boys training in Slashers over the summer so they can join the school team next year! We have also started swimming lessons in the last few weeks. Swimming is very good exercise and a lot of fun too.

For the first time in a few years, we had a visit to the Backstage Theatre. We had a great afternoon at the show 'Luminaria'. For some boys it was their first trip to the theatre – what a treat.

All year we had great help in our class from Ms McGinnity. She helped us with our work and taught us lots of things throughout the

year. Thanks Miss!

At the end of May we had our first school tour in St Michael's school. We visited "The Zone" in Navan. The boys had a wonderful day out and enjoyed the go-karting, laser tag, x-box room and bowling. The boys were really well behaved and all the boys (and teachers!) had a great day.

As the school year draws to an end, the boys should be very proud of a great year. Behaviour was good and we worked really hard throughout the year. We all hope that everyone has a fantastic summer and we'll see you all back in September for another busy year in St. Michaels.

## Ms. Mollaghan's 3rd Class

Our 3rd class have had a very busy and enjoyable summer term. We completed many art projects, the latest of which involved making our own kites. The boys had a super day drawing out the shape of the kite and decorating them. The boys got the opportunity to taste different foods on a Thursday with Cian and Patryk serving up some very tasty dishes, burgers, chicken and spaghetti bolognese to name a few. We have had the opportunity to continue working on our football skills with Enda.

The boys love this session and learning new skills. We will put these new skills to the test on Sports Day coming up next week! We also got the chance to go swimming in the mall complex over the last few weeks. The boys made fantastic progress in the water and really enjoyed the experience. We were delighted to see the return of activities and day trips. We travelled to the Backstage Theatre to see a show 'Luminaria'. The boys really enjoyed this show and had a fabulous afternoon.

The boys were working hard on their drumming skills all year. On their final day we recorded them with their instructor David. I will email this to all families this week. We travelled to 'The Zone' in Co. Meath for our school tour. Here the boys got to go bowling, Go Karting, Laser tag and VR/Xbox room. The boys had a fantastic time. It was brilliant to be able to take them on a tour again. Keep up the great work boys and the very best of luck to you all in 4th class!



## Mr. O'Brien's 3rd class

We had a very busy few months once we came back after Christmas in Mr O'Brien's 3<sup>rd</sup> class. The boys came back ready for all the hard work and fun that we were going to have.

In January the boys really enjoyed learning all about Egypt, we studied how they lived and how they made the pyramids. We had a virtual tour of the 'Pyramids of Giza' and then did projects on what we had learned. We also continued with Irish Myths and Legends and also added in some Greek and Roman legends too. Achilles was one of our favourites and we had lots of fun doing different work on this including free writing and art. It is great to read the amazing imagination of these lads.

In Art we have

concentrated on learning the skill of drawing. Some of the boys have really excelled in this and definitely have a future in the arts!!! The paintings of the sun coming up were fantastic.

In February we read the novel 'The Yuckee Prince'. It was short but the boys loved it and we had lots of fun acting it out and doing work on it. This helped to hugely improve the reading level in the class. We also read the novel 'Wonder' with the help of Ms Rowley and we can't wait to watch the film as the book was amazing.

We started swimming in May and are very lucky to get 3 weeks of this amazing skill. Our school tour was to 'The Zone' in Navan and the boys had the best day out. They all had a try at go karting, laser shooting, bowling and all loved the X-Box room. It was one of

the best days of the year and the boys behaved superbly.

Mrs Jessup came in and did the Weaving Wellbeing course which the boys loved and this really helped the class mature. We also talked a lot about looking after ourselves and we decided we would focus on getting everyone to have a healthy lifestyle from now on. We focused on 4 things: healthy eating, exercise, sleep and having fun. This included lots of advice on what to eat and when to eat, we did circuits which the boys loved and some Fridays we went for a walk to either the Canal or The Mall. The boys have really improved their lifestyle so much both at home and at school and I hope they continue it for the summer.

They really are a super class in every way. We hope everyone has a great summer.

## St. Michael's B.N.S. Athletics

On Wednesday, May 25 St. Michael's boys went to Tullamore to the athletics track. We took part in the Fast kids kids and the diversity games. The boys were outstanding and finished first in nearly all the races in the diversity games. In the main athletics we were placed fourth and fifth in the country for track and field.

During the day there were some outstanding performances both individually and as teams in the relays. After a very busy day we all got on the bus and went back to Longford. We got a nice treat on the way home and last week Mr Gannon and Miss Jessup treated us to pizza and chips in school as a reward for our effort and our good

behaviour. We are looking forward to next year already.



## Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Lennon's 4th class

It has been a busy year for the two 4<sup>th</sup> classes, with lots of hard work and fun.

The boys completed fantastic projects on Padraic Colum – including his poem *The Drover*, along with art work and information about the famous Longford poet. Many thanks to Mrs Sorohan who brought the classes on a walking tour which concluded at St Joseph's Care Centre – the location where Padraic Colum was born and spent some of his childhood. There was lots of information shared on the walk, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Some projects were displayed in Longford Library as part of the celebration of the poet. Wonderful work by all of the boys.

Gaelic training continued each Thursday afternoon – an event which was eagerly awaited by everyone! We had said goodbye to Ciarán earlier in the year, and then welcomed Enda. Everybody's skills have greatly improved since the start of the year which was the proof of all of the work put in by Ciarán, Enda and the boys.

In other sporting news, the two classes were represented by Daniel, David, Eduard and Quasy

in the Athletics Meet in Tullamore recently. They were superb and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. Their sporting attitudes and hard work did us proud. They even managed to bring home some medals. Well done to all of them.

Having had gymnastics lessons earlier in the year, the classes had swimming lessons after the Easter holidays. Each week they walked to and from the Mall Sports Complex for the lessons. Again, the skills of all of the boys were enhanced with a large group also swimming in the pool's deep end.

Every Monday, David came to teach djembe drumming. Everyone took part and learned some challenging drumming pieces. At the end of the term, each class performed their own piece and sounded wonderful. It was amazing to see how quickly everyone learned their own part and how fantastic it sounded when it was played as one group piece. Well done boys and many thanks to David.

Each Friday, boys did some cooking and made amazing dishes and treats. They were helped Cristin and Ms Burke. Again, they were wonderful and showed their skills and

confidence in cooking for themselves and for others. Well done all.

The arrival of Covid two years ago resulted in the cancellation of all school tours. Thankfully, this year the school tours were back and the 4<sup>th</sup> Class boys certainly made up for lost time! The destination was Shannon Adventure Centre in Roosky. A full day of fun was had by all of the boys and teachers. First there was archery – with Thomas shooting a bull's eye and completing the ultimate archery challenge of shooting a shoe off the top of the target. Skills similar to the great legend William Tell! The archery was followed by rock climbing, an obstacle course, running (as far as you could scream), a web game, kayaking, mud slide and pier jumping. Each activity was great fun and loved by everyone.

June has arrived already and the boys are ready to leave 4<sup>th</sup> class to move onto 5<sup>th</sup> class. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer break and all the very best for 5<sup>th</sup> class and their future education.

