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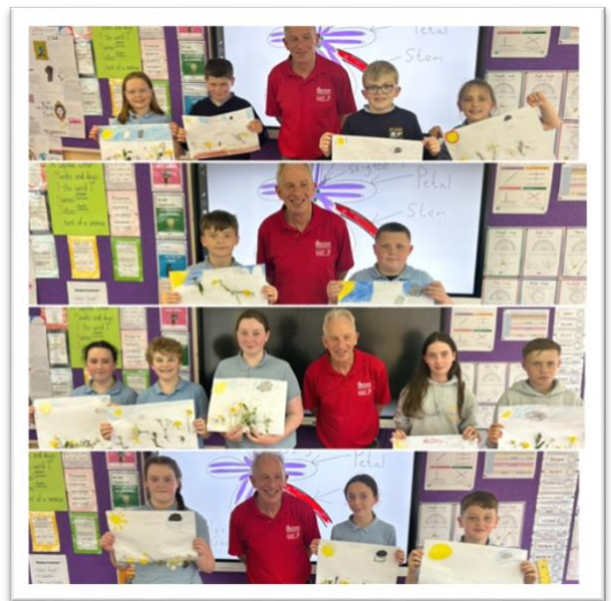
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Welcome to the May edition of the Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir newsletter. As the summer holidays approach, we have much to look forward to at our school.

In this month's newsletter, you will find updates and announcements about the exciting events taking place in our school and the opportunities coming up for our students in the final weeks of the term three before the summer break.

Heritage in Schools

We recently had a visit from Geoff Hunt, biodiversity consultant, to educate the children about local wildflowers as part of the Heritage in Schools initiative. With his engaging and knowledgeable approach, Geoff captivated the students, teaching them about different types of flowers, their unique characteristics, and the roles they play in the ecosystem. Each pupil had the opportunity to walk around our school grounds and locate as many different flowers as they could find. His hands-on activities and interactive discussions sparked the children's curiosity but also deepened their appreciation for nature.



College Placement

It was lovely to welcome back past pupil Beth Quaid to Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir as part of her college placement. Beth is in her third year in Mary Immaculate College studying Early Childhood Education and Care. Beth spent her four weeks in the junior room observing and interacting with the pupils, and assisting Múinteoir Carole. She radiated a warm personality and developed a lovely rapport with everybody. We really enjoyed having Beth in the school and wish her the best of luck with her studies.



Boxing Bootcamp

The Junior room tried out boxing in PE this month. Under the guidance of Múinteoir Carole, the children were encouraged to explore their potential, challenge themselves, and most importantly, have fun while discovering the art of boxing. Through playful drills and games, the pupils enhanced their coordination, balance, and focus, all while building their strength and agility.

After School Soccer and GAA coaching

After school training resumed in early April, with soccer, and we have now turned our attention to GAA training until the summer holidays. There has been a fantastic turn out and the pupils will be ready for the two teacher south Limerick Allianz Cumann na mBunscol blitz which will take place in the coming weeks.

Pizza Party

Congratulations to the senior room who reached the FAI Primary 5 county soccer finals in Corbally in early May. Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork were all on display on the day, and we were all incredibly proud of them. Every match played and every goal scored was a testament to their perseverance and skill. To celebrate their fantastic journey to the finals, we were delighted to treat them to some well-deserved pizza on Friday 3rd May. A huge thank you to a very generous benefactor for contributing to the cost of the pizzas and who wishes to remain anonymous.



Sponsored School Walk

Our Parents' Association have organised a sponsored walk on June 7th. We will meet outside the school from 6.30pm. The 4km walk will begin at 7pm, following the L1502 towards Herbertstown, taking a left at Kilcullane Cross and completing the loop back to the junction by the HoneyFitz Theatre. Refreshments will be kindly provided by the Parents Association afterwards on the school grounds. If you would like to donate, our pupils have sponsorship cards. Alternatively, you can complete a donation on our website by clicking on our school flyer which will automatically bring you to the iDonate page.



Newly installed Solar Panels

Solar panels were installed at Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir as part of the School Photovoltaic Programme by Solar Choices Ltd. The renewable energy generated from these panels will reduce our electricity bills. Any excess will be sold back to the grid.



Thank you to Tom Tierney, a member of the school's Board of Management, for assisting with the project. We appreciate the diligence he demonstrated in researching Solar PV and the guidance he was able to offer as a result.

Science Blast

The senior classroom travelled to the University of Limerick on 22nd May to participate in ESB Science Blast. The children had spent the weeks beforehand investigating the question 'Which toothpaste is best for cleaning your teeth?'. They showcased their findings at the event and gave a great account of their project to visitors and the ESB Science Blast judge. We are so proud of them for representing our school in this initiative. Thank you to Múinteoir Kate and SNA Mags for helping to prepare our boys and girls for this great day out.



BLAST Artist Residency

Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Gur is participating in the BLAST arts in education initiative, working with artist Yvonne Edmonds to create a mosaic celebrating the local biodiversity of Lough Gur. During 14 in-school contact hours, Yvonne is guiding our students in designing and constructing the mosaic, which features vibrant depictions of the lake's flora and fauna.



The project is a collaborative effort between Yvonne, the staff, and students, facilitated by the Limerick Education Support Centre. Through this BLAST residency, students are gaining hands-on experience in mosaic art while learning about the unique ecosystem of Lough Gur.

Stepping Up Transition Programme & JTBCS Tour

Our 6th class travelled to Knockainey National School on Thursday 23rd May to complete the Stepping Up transition programme. This one day programme was organised to prepare our 6th class pupils for their transition to secondary school next August. We would like to thank the staff and pupils of Knockainey N.S. for welcoming us to their school and hosting the programme. It was very beneficial for our students.

On Tuesday 28th May, John The Baptist Community School arranged for our 6th class pupils to visit the school on a transition tour. It was an opportunity for the

pupils to familiarise themselves with the school ahead of their enrolment next September. We would like to thank JTBCS for facilitating this tour.



Upcoming events:

- Sponsored school walk – 7th June
- Graduation for 6th class – 13th June
- School tours – 14th June
- School closing for summer holidays – 21st June

Finally, we would like to wish a former pupil of ours, Grace McLoughlin the very best as she participates in the Gaynor Cup with the Limerick County team from Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June. We look forward to cheering her on.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Denis Kennedy

Denis Kennedy

An Príomhoide

Carole Cleary

Carole Cleary

An Príomhoide Tánaiste