

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2011

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais! We hope the children had an enjoyable break and are ready for an exciting term ahead. Congratulations to our President-elect, Michael D Higgins, who will be inaugurated on Friday. We look forward to his term as Uachtarán na hÉireann.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

The formal parent/teacher meetings will be held on Thursday, 10 and Friday, 11 November from 1.30 to 4.00 pm. **The children will be dismissed at 1.00 on both days** in order to give the teachers a fifteen minute break before starting the meetings and to facilitate school cleaning. The children are looking forward to your visit to the school so they can show you their wonderful work! We also invite you to come upstairs to the library to see a slide show of some of the children's activities. In order to keep the meetings running smoothly please knock on the door of the classroom at the appointed time. I will be available on both days should you wish to talk to me.

School Photographs

The Junior Infants will be taking home their school photographs today. Tommy Dandy, the photographer has indicated that he has reduced the price of the photographs on this occasion. If you have any queries regarding the photographs please contact Mr Dandy on 087 9292011.

GAA Coach

We are all very sorry to hear that Neil O'Driscoll will be leaving us at the end of the month. Neil has been working with the children in the Belgrove schools for the past six years and for many children he is the face of the GAA in Clontarf. He is an excellent coach and has developed a great rapport with the children and staff over the years. He will be leaving at the end of the month to take up another coaching position with Trinity Gaels. As he will be training-in a new coach for our schools during the month of November there will be no coaching for the next few weeks. We wish him the best of luck in his new position and a big thank you from all here in the school!

Parents' Association

The members of the association have been very busy over the past month helping in the school garden and helping with our Health Awareness Week. The Book Fair was a great success despite the bad weather and thank you all for your support. This year we are reviewing our English policy and with the proceeds from the Book Fair we will be able to supply extra books for all the First Classes. Thanks again to all who were involved.

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Recycling

The First Class children enjoyed a very informative talk from a representative of WEEE Ireland before the break who encouraged them to collect used batteries for recycling. If you wish you may send your used batteries into school this week.

School Garden

Work in the garden is coming to an end now for the winter season. The Senior Infant classes have finished their work in the raised beds. Ms Kelly's class planted a green manure bed -beans and peas which will be cut back into the soil when they grow in order to fertilize the ground. The second bed is the worm bed and Ms Rochford's class filled the bed with horse manure and worms and covered everything over with plastic to make a winter duvet for the worms. Ms McGuire's class has sown garlic, onions and broad beans in the third bed. The last planting session will take place next Monday when the Junior Infants will plant some winter bedding. A big thank you to the parents on the garden committee for their continued support.

Attendance and time-keeping

Thank you for your continued good attendance and time-keeping in coming to school. Please keep up the good work.

School Enrolments

The closing date for enrolment applications for next year's Junior Infants is 31 January 2012. Enrolment application forms are available on the school website www.belgrove.ie and from the secretary's office. Parents will be notified in early March regarding availability of places. The Junior Boys' School is currently taking enrolments also.

Parking

We have had a number of complaints from local residents regarding parking at drop-off and collection times. We have also had complaints from the Management Committee in the Merchamp apartment complex regarding unauthorized parking on their grounds. We respectfully ask you to park carefully, observe the road signs and do not obstruct access to residents' premises in the area. Be careful when reversing and pulling out, as there are many small children and toddlers in the school environs at these times.

School Closures

We would like to draw your attention to our policy regarding notification of school closures. Calendars have been distributed to all children notifying you of the school holidays during the year. However, in the event of the school having to close at short notice e.g. severe weather, notification of school closures will be posted on our school website www.belgrove.ie, on the school telephone and via web text. **Our policy is to keep the school open at all times unless there are health and safety concerns for the children and staff.**

PATRICIA O'DONOGHUE

Principal