

Community News

Bulb Planting

The daffodil bulb planting, scheduled at the start of October has been postponed until Saturday 15th October due to the heavy rain. A reminder note will be put on the notice board outside the school gates and in the school bags



Christmas Fair

The Balscadden Christmas Fair (that time of the year already!) has also been postponed, with the new date confirmed as Sunday 20th November, 10.00am-2.00pm. The Christmas Fair will be in aid of the school and the community hall this year. If anyone would like to help out on the day there will be a meeting on 17th October at 9.00pm in the Community Hall to discuss arrangements. Alternatively, contact Louise Landers on 01-8417819.

Join the Dots



Balscadden Parents Assoc. - Key Contacts:

Chairperson: Janice O'Rourke (086 362 9244)
Secretary: Jillian White (087 239 4992)
Treasurer: Paula Coscoran (086 819 7346)

For you to colour

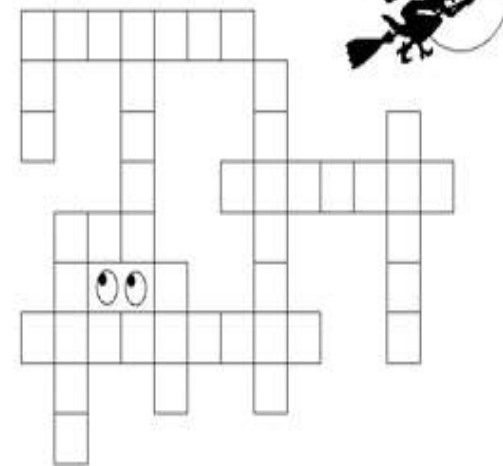


Can you complete the puzzle?

Halloween Crossword

Fit all the words into this puzzle below

CAT
 BAT
 BOO
 TREAT
 WITCH
 BLACK
 COSTUME
 PUMPKIN
 HAUNTED
 HALLOWEEN



Balscadden Parents Association

Newsletter October 2011

Welcome

The Parents Association would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the students and parents new to the school this year. The Association are very involved within the school and we communicate with parents through our newsletters, the notice board outside the school gate and also by sending notes home in the schoolbag.

The Principle, Mr White would like to thank all the parents for their continued support. He would like to thank the Parents' Association, in particular, for the opportunity to speak at their September meeting.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Parents Association, please come along to our next meeting. The Association meet once a month in the school.

Next meeting : Tues 25th Oct @8:30pm

Visitors to the school

In the interests of Child Protection all parents and guardians calling to the school should firstly call to the office. If your child is leaving school early you will need to sign out your child from the office. The same applies to those who arrive to school during the school day after a medical/dental appointment, i.e. you will have to sign in your child.



Severe Weather Sub-Committee

We would like to set up a Severe Weather Sub-Committee. This would involve a group of parents who would be on hand, in the event of severe weather conditions, to make every effort to keep the school open and safe. Please email Mr White at balscadden.ias@eircom.net, or contact a member of the Parents' Association, if you are interested.

Questionnaires

Thank you to all those who filled out the recent school questionnaires. The responses to the questionnaires will be used to inform school decision making.



New Building

The children of 5th and 6th classes have settled in well to their new classrooms. All that now remains is some landscaping and last minute snagging which will be complete in the coming weeks. Thanks to all the parents who helped over the course of the past year with the Building Project, including those who helped with the furniture moving over the summer holidays. We have achieved our aim of having all the children in the school in permanent classroom

Voluntary Contribution

The Voluntary Contribution remains at €50.00 per child and €75.00 per family. The funds raised through the Voluntary Contributions go towards specific initiatives that support the school's programmes and the participation of our children in a broader educational experience. Envelopes will be distributed to homes through the children in October.

Fundraising - New Building

At the beginning of last year the board of management had asked the committee if €15,000.00 could be raised through fund raising activities to help with financing the additional new classrooms. The following are details of our fundraising events.

Choir Night	€1,380.00
Church Gate Collection	€ 568.00
Cake Sale	€1,314.00
Social Night	€3,572.00
Bag Packing	€1,076.00
Donations	€ 400.00
Total	€8,310.00

As we had a small balance in the account, we were in a position to give €8,500 toward the building fund. We also gave €1,500.00 from the bank account and so, with the school raising €5,000.00 through sponsorship on Sports Day this brought the total raised to €15,000.00.

A special thanks to all of you for supporting these events during the year.

In the classroom



Junior Infants

Thanks to all the children in 5th and 6th classes who took part in the Buddy System with our new Junior Infants. They have made our new pupils feel at home!

Senior Infants

Senior Infants went on a nature walk to celebrate Tree Day 2011. They found an oak tree and an apple tree and collected some conkers. They are now putting together a project on their discoveries.

First class

Ms Ginty would like to say well done to Cathal, Marianne and Cillian who won Star of the Week awards during the month of September. The first class mascot Rainbow (a fluffy parrot!) has enjoyed staying with the most well-behaved children in the class over the past month. He had been well looked after.

Second Class

Ms Meehan's second class has already begun their First Holy Communion preparation. The 'Do This in Memory' programme begins at 9.00am masses in St Mary's Church, Balscadden on the following Sundays

- 9th Oct
- 6th Nov
- 4th Dec
- 5th Feb
- 4th Mar

Third Class

Ms Watters' third class have displayed Mark Rothko inspired paintings in the main hallway. They have also displayed history projects in the hallway with their children's timelines and their monastery with Round Tower. Third class also had a visit from Tara's granny Hazel who brought in her pet duck

Twitter. The children interviewed her about school life in the past. Third class would like to thank Hazel for an entertaining afternoon.

Fourth Class

We would like to welcome our new fourth class teacher Ms Falvey to the school. We wish her the best of luck in the school this year. Fourth class have displayed a history photography project in the gym. The costumes look great!

Ms Falvey's fourth class visited the Norman Castle in Trim on 6th October as part of their history studies. This trip was made possible by the **Voluntary Contribution** made by parents last year.

Fifth Class

Fifth class will visit Balbriggan Library on 11th October. They will also visit some local historical sites to tie with the work they are doing in class.

The Gardaí are coming in on 26th October to speak to 5th class about safety at Halloween. This annual talk is always beneficial to the children's safety at this time of year.

Sixth Class

Well done to the pupils in 6th class who have undertaken a number of leadership roles throughout the school. They are running the school Credit Union, distributing the school milk, demonstrating the playing of board games to younger children during wet breaks and publicising school charity events. Sixth class organised our recent GOAL Jersey Day which raised €340. Keep up the good work!

Standardised Testing

Standardised testing, in the areas of Reading and Maths, of the children in classes 1st- 6th will take place during the month of November. The results will be discussed at the Parent-Teacher meetings after Christmas. However, if a teacher has particular concerns about your child you will be contacted earlier

School Closure

The school will be closed on Thursday, 27th October for the Presidential Election as the school has been requisitioned for use as a polling station. Efforts are being made locally to ensure that the school year is not interrupted by future elections.

Extra curricular

Student Council

A Student Council will be set up in the school in the second term. It will involve students in 5th and 6th classes and will offer them an opportunity to be involved in the decision making processes within the school. Parents and students in the school who have any suggestions regarding the set-up and role of a Student Council can contact the principle by email to balscadden.ias@eircom.net.

School Credit Union

Well done to the newly trained tellers in 6th class who have started up the Balbriggan Credit Union once again. The Credit Union runs every Thursday morning in the school gym. Children who are already members in Balbriggan Credit Union can save on Thursdays. Those who would like to join are also welcome. **Adult supervision is mandatory for the success of this project – we need your help! Please email the school if you are a parent who would like to help out on Thursday mornings or call Paula Coscoran 086 819346**

Gaelic Football

Thanks to Ms Donnelly and Ms Falvey for running an after school inter-class gaelic football league for the boys and girls of 4th, 5th and 6th classes. The children are enjoying brushing up on their skills as well as playing matches. Training for the school teams will begin after Christmas.

School Choir

The school choir are singing every lunch time in preparation for our Christmas concert. It was decided not to do the Hallelujah Concert this year for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the cost of the audience tickets and secondly the programme of music is very long and the school wanted to try to devise a programme of their own this year. Ms McGonigle is delighted to report a huge turnout for the choir despite the change.

Green Schools

The school has earned Green Flags in the areas of Recycling, Energy Conservation and Water Management. The School hopes to apply for their travel green flag this year so they are really pushing for sustainable ways of getting to school. Ms McGonigle organised for some 6th class pupils to attend a forum in Skerries and the children returned full of enthusiasm and ideas! Mr Andrew Fleming visited the school and gave a presentation to 6th class

on the ecological survey that he is carrying out on the school grounds and area. Log on to www.balscadden.com for a photograph.

Walk to School

Ms Donnelly will continue with the Walk to School initiative every morning (known as the Walking Bus). Teachers, parents and students leave the Church car park at 8.35am. Each class is competing to be the most sustainable class using bike, bus and foot as transport and leaving the cars at home. If you can, please try to walk with us, at the very least every Wednesday on our WOW day (Walk On Wednesday). If parents of younger classes are concerned about safety we can set up a buddy system with children from senior classes. We also hope to have one car free zone day at the school in the last week in October. Look out for the note in the schoolbags!

Tree Day 2011

Pupils from each of the classes helped our school caretaker, Dougie plant a tree on the school grounds on 6th October to mark Tree Day 2011. Thanks to all students & Dougie for all their help. Log on to www.balscadden.com for a photograph.



Book Fair

There will be a Book Fair in the school on the 1st and 2nd of December from 9.00am-3.30pm on each of those days. Thank you for your responses to the questionnaires which helped in deciding a time of year that suited the majority of parents. Parents are welcome to come in and browse the books in their own time.

The Big Good Wolf

The school will have a visit from children's author and storyteller, Liam Farrell (as seen on RTÉ television) on Thursday 24th November. He will tell the *true* story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf! Following this, there will be a writing workshop with the older classes. This event is made possible by the **Voluntary Contribution** made by parents last year.