

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS

NEWSLETTER

JOHNSTOWN

March 20 2023



Dear parents,

Welcome to our March newsletter. It includes our latest news from around the school, together with important dates for your diaries.

Army Band Performance

The highlight of our school year to date, has to be the Army Band performance for us on March 16th. We are very grateful to Captain John Carpenter and the Army band who came to play for both the girls and boys schools together. There were two sessions one for the Junior classes and then one for the Senior classes. John said it was the best experience the band had enjoyed with a school. All the children sang their hearts out to 'Ireland's Call' and many other familiar songs. When the concert ended, the children, without prompting, gave the band a 3-minute standing ovation. All the band members and school staff were really touched by this.



Jackie's Day - Remembering Jackie

We had a lovely celebration on Friday, March 10th, to remember our dear colleague and friend, Jackie McGovern, who we lost so tragically, three years ago. Staff and children wore colourful clothes on the day. We also made pictures in her memory and had tea-parties in the classrooms. In the coming week we will see the installation of Jackie's Space in our school garden, with a bird bath and bench in her honour.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-Anam dílis.



Retirement Announcement

I wish to inform you of the retirement of Ms. Gabrielle Byrne. Gay has been one of our school secretaries for twenty-two years. During this time, she has been an intrinsic and valued member of staff. She is a friend and support to all who work with her and has always looked out for all the children in our school.

We will be very sorry to see Gay go. However, we know that she has lots of plans for a long and happy retirement traveling the world and enjoying time with family and friends. Gay will finish on the 21st of April 2023. We will celebrate Gay's retirement with the staff and children during her last week in the school.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí an-spraoi ag na paistí le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge. Rinne na paistí an-iarracht 'Cúpla focal' a úsáid. The teachers chose an Irish speaker of the day and an over-all Irish speaker of the week. We had a lot of great activities; whole school Bingó, two fabulous Irish assemblies with some incredible Irish dancing, a visit from the Army Band, Tráth na gceist and the Junior and Senior Infants also went on a parade around the neighbourhood.



Promethean Boards Update



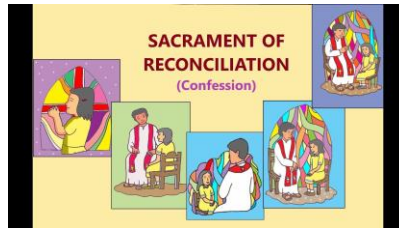
Promethean ActivPanels have now been installed in the Senior Infant classrooms. Work has begun preparing for the installation of these Promethean boards in The Meadow. We are working on funding Promethean boards for the Junior Infant classes also. Once they are installed in our Junior Infant classrooms, this technology upgrade project for all classes in the school and The Meadow will be completed.

Safety On-Line

We will host Zeeko Cybersafe talks for the parents of children of 5th and 6th class on the **30th of March 2023 at 7.pm**. The children's talk will take place during the day. We are respectfully requesting that a parent from each family in 5th and 6th class attend this very important talk.



Sacraments



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our 2nd Class girls will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Wednesday evening, March 22nd. We wish them and their families well on this special occasion.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulation to our 6th classes on their Confirmation ceremony which took place on March 10th. Thanks to Fr. John who officiated the ceremonies and all who helped to prepare them for the day.

Trip to Dáil Éireann



Both 5th Classes went to visit the Dáil on February 27th. The girls were impressed with the tour of the Dáil and received a certificate at the end. It was a fun trip.



World Down Syndrome Day

On Tuesday March 21st we celebrate Down Syndrome Day. The girls are encouraged to wear odd colourful socks to mark the day. They may bring in a small donation if they wish. All money collected will go to Down Syndrome Ireland.



On-Going: School Self Evaluation

All schools must engage in self-evaluation, these evaluations run in four-year cycles. Due to the disruption caused by Covid, this year is a year of review and reflection, with a focus on Well-being of the whole school community.



As part of our school improvement plan for well-being, the Homework Committee, comprising of both children and staff, have compiled a survey for the parents which will be sent to you shortly. We request that you engage with this as it will form the basis for our revised homework policy.

School Management Team

Over the last year, there have been many changes in our management team. We now have a full team to support the day to day running of the school. All members of the team have areas that they focus on, however the priority is the management and leadership of the school both now and in the future. Please see the website for further details of our management team.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support and collaboration.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Breen

