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Welcome to the Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir newsletter. This month, we celebrated several special days that brought joy and appreciation to our school community such as Grandparents' Day, Mother's Day, International Women's Day, and St. Patrick's Day. Let's take a look back at the wonderful moments that brought us together in March.

### **Black History Month**

The senior classroom pupils celebrated Black History Month in February by delving into the lives of prominent activists such as Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali, Aretha Franklin, Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela. They engaged in thorough research and completed group projects on these iconic figures, immersing themselves in the rich history and contributions of each individual. Through this exploration, the pupils have gained a deeper understanding of the struggles, triumphs, and lasting legacies of these remarkable leaders.



### **Flossie and the Beach Cleaners**

Flossie and the Beach Cleaners, an environmental marine charity, recently visited our school to educate the children about the impact of litter on beaches. During their visit, they engaged the students in a discussion about the various types of litter commonly found on beaches and the detrimental effects on marine life and ecosystems. One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity for each pupil to immerse themselves in a virtual reality experience where they could swim alongside sea creatures.

## Grandparents' Day

On Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, we welcomed grandparents to a special Grandparents' Day celebration in St. Patrick's Church. The day began with Rev. Fr. Cleary leading us in a beautiful mass, where our pupils actively participated, to celebrate the important role grandparents play in our lives.

Afterwards, grandparents were invited to the school where they were treated to a delightful performance. Led by Múinteoir Carole on guitar, the pupils showcased their talents by singing three songs: the school anthem 'School Days', 'Wonderful World' and the classic 'Stand By Me'. Refreshments were thoughtfully organised by the Parents' Association, ensuring that everyone could enjoy some quality time together. The pupils then had the opportunity to showcase their grandparents' projects, art work and their classrooms.

This event not only strengthened the bond between generations but also highlighted the sense of community within Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir. We would like to thank Rev. Fr. Cleary, all the grandparents who attended our special day and the Parents' Association for preparing refreshments.



## International Women's Day & Mothers' Day

We marked International Women's Day and Mother's Day on Friday 8th March.

To celebrate IWD, our pupils discussed the evolution of women's rights over time and the different ways women are treated unfairly worldwide, such as unequal access to education, fewer opportunities in top jobs, and unequal pay. The pupils then illustrated and wrote about a woman in their lives who inspires them. This exercise encouraged reflection on personal connections and the impact of influential women on their lives. It was lovely to see our boys and girls choose their mothers, sisters, aunts and friends as the women who inspire them.

Both classrooms prepared for Mother's Day in the evening. The Junior Classroom pupils performed a special rendition of 'She's a Lady'. Each pupil then created a Mother's Day card to express their gratitude, love, and admiration for their mother.



## **Swimming:**

Our swimming lessons in UL started in February from first class up to sixth class for a block of 6 weeks. The aim of these lessons is to gain competence and confidence near, in, under and on water. The emphasis is also on enjoyment and developing specific swimming techniques, including learning to swim a stroke or a variety of strokes while also gaining an awareness of water safety.

## **Pupil Achievements**

Congratulations to three current pupils and one past pupil who have been excelling in music and sport.

Kate Dunworth had the amazing opportunity of performing the violin at the MRF Music Festival in Rome on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.



Conor Hayes made it onto the Limerick County U11 soccer team. He will also be playing hurling in Croke Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> April with the Knockainey U12 hurling team.

Jack O' Donnell won the Munster Boxing Final in his division in Dungarvan on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Jack proudly brought in his medal to school and spoke about his win.

Grace McLoughlin has been selected to play on the U14 Limerick County Gaynor Cup squad. Grace showed herself to be a talented sportsperson during her time in Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir and we were delighted to hear this news.

Well done Conor, Jack, Kate and Grace on these fantastic achievements and representing our school so well in your chosen hobby.

## **Parents' Association**

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Parents' Association and its committee for their valuable contributions towards reducing the cost of swimming lessons and school trips for the children. Your support is greatly appreciated by the school community.

## FAI Primary 5s

Pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class recently participated in the FAI Primary 5-a-side soccer blitz in the Seanchóill Complex, Corbally. Our students had a great time showcasing their skills on the field and competing against other schools. It was a fun and competitive event, and our teams displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

The mixed boys and girls team progressed to the second round on 20<sup>th</sup> March and won all of their matches on the day. They will play in the county finals on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Well done to all involved and thank you to the parents who came to support us on both days. A special thank you also to two very kind and generous members of our school community who sponsored the purchase of ice creams as a treat for our pupils for representing our school with great pride.



## Team Limerick Clean Up

As part of the 'Team Limerick Cleanup' initiative, our boys and girls spent some time on the morning of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March picking up litter between the school and the nearby well. We were amazed at the amount of litter we were able to collect.



## Easter Holidays

Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir closed on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and will reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Thanks to the Parents Association, all children received an Easter egg to mark the beginning of the Easter holidays.

The Parents Association will host a cake sale on Easter Sunday morning after mass at 10.30 a.m. in the Honey Fitz Theatre. It's a wonderful way to come together as a community and celebrate this special time of the year while fundraising for the school. We hope to see you there.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

*Denis Kennedy*

Denis Kennedy

*An Príomhoide*

*Carole Cleary*

Carole Cleary

*An Príomhoide Tánaiste*