

# Spring Newsletter

## Update on Ongoing Blue Star-related Activities in the School

As well as the more high-profile activities which have been taking place in relation to the Blue Star project, such as the visit of Eamon Ryan T.D. and EU Ambassador, David Daly, lots of activities have been going on in the classes to advance the project. Here is a snapshot of what is going on around the school.



**Junior Infants** have recently had guest speakers on both France and Italy.

Lisa, Liam's Mum, came in to talk about Italy. The children watched a PowerPoint presentation on the country, listened to Italian music and got to taste traditional Italian foods such as Parmesan cheese, breadsticks, and Italian lemonade.

Isabelle, Eamon's Mum, had also prepared a PowerPoint presentation on France for the children. She spoke about living in France and taught the children a French song.

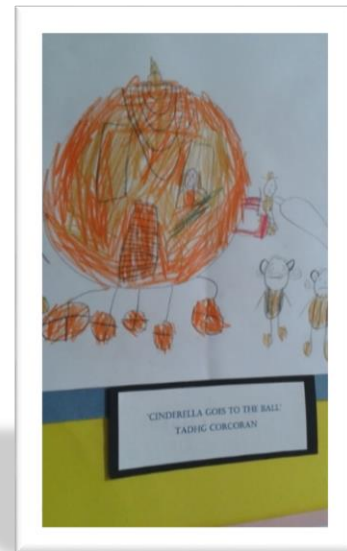
**Junior Infants have also been to Imaginosity this term!**



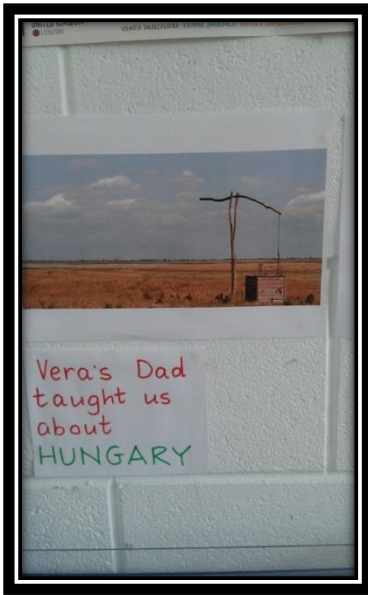
**Senior Infants** have been doing European history recently. They have been learning all about the Caves of Altamira in Spain. They heard about eight year old Maria who, while exploring a new cave with her archaeologist father, discovered prehistoric paintings on the walls and ceilings.



Senior Infants have been studying images of the paintings, done in charcoal and ochre, of bison, an extinct species of ox called an auroch, deer etc. Earlier in the year Senior Infants had a guest speaker from Germany (Lotti's Minder, Hannah), who told the children all about Germany and answered lots of interesting questions from the children as well as teaching them to count to ten in German. Senior Infants have also learnt all about the work of the Grimm Brothers, Wilhelm and Jakob, and all the Fairytales they collected. They have been having fun learning more about these stories and drawing wonderful pictures based on them. More recently they have started learning about Poland. Luka's mum Alexandra answered lots of questions about her home country.



**First Class** have been doing a lot of work on Hungary recently. Vera's Dad spoke to the children about life in Hungary and gave them many interesting details about the country. First Class also enjoyed listening to the story on Hungary which the EU Ambassador's wife Aideen read to them during the Ambassador's recent visit to the school.



**Second Class** had visitors from both Bulgaria and Finland and so learnt many interesting facts about both countries. They have also made individual EU Fact Books in which they record interesting facts about EU countries.



**Third Class** have been working on European Folk Tales. Recently they have been having lots of fun dramatizing these in small groups. Here's what they have to say:

3<sup>rd</sup> Class Blue Star Project !!!

First we picked an E.U. country and researched a folktale from the country we had picked. Secondly we told our stories to the class. Saul made a video at home of his story, here's a link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB2zPmJthM&t=8s>

A month passed and then we retold our stories in small groups and voted which was the best.

Finally we acted our stories and recorded them. We hope you enjoy them.

By Grainne and Max.

**Fourth Class** are presently working hard on their Fact Files on the member countries of the E.U.



**Fifth Class** focused on a different European country each and completed a factfile. The children then completed an EU project with the following criteria:

- ❖ Formation of the EU
- ❖ Structure of the EU
- ❖ EU member countries and flags
- ❖ Pick one country to focus on
- ❖ Research an influential European person and complete a factfile.



**Sixth Class** have done a lot of work on European related themes this year. Just one of these has been the great videos each child made on Inspirational Europeans. Subjects covered included Anne Frank, Marie Curie, Florence Nightingale, JK Rowling, and Christopher Columbus, to name but a few.

Sixth Class have also recently sketched famous EU landmarks such as the Trevi Fountain, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Eifel Tower, The Little Mermaid, etc



## European Tree Project

This project involves swapping images of trees and leaves with people across Europe.

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## Ireland

As part of the Blue Star Programme, focus is also being put on our own country, Ireland, which is also a significant player on the E.U. stage. The choir recently sang Óró Sé Do Bheatha Abhaile for the EU Ambassador. The Ambassador was also addressed in Irish by a member of the student council. All classes have sung Molly Malone in Assembly. Junior Infants will be reading “A Dublin Fairytale” in the coming months while Senior Infants will be reading and hearing some old Irish legends.



## The Hive, Herbert Park –



**eTwinning** An eTwinning project has also been instigated between Senior Infants and schools in Portugal and Poland. This involves illustrating and retelling fairytales.



## Dodder Gathering.

The Green Schools Committee enjoyed a great range of activities at the Dodder Gathering in The Hive, Herbert Park.