



Mini Newsletter Spring 2018

As we finish another great term's work and head off for our Spring break I would like to thank everyone for their great efforts this term. I would also like to take this opportunity to inform all of you in the school community of my decision to retire from my position in RETNS at the end of this school year. This is a bitter-sweet decision for me as, while I am happy to be in a position to retire, I am sad to be leaving this wonderful school community. It has been my privilege to have served in a teaching capacity in the school since 2001 and as Principal since 2013, and to have worked with so many amazing people throughout the entire school community.

Although the time is right for me personally to retire, it is not a decision I have made without due thought for the school. I believe that RETNS is in a very good place at this time. There is a committed, hard-working and dedicated staff who are all self-motivated and passionate about the job they do. There is a community of children who have a pride in their school and who want to play their part in building their school community and striving to make it a better place for all. We have strong parental involvement and parental support whenever it is needed. Overseeing all of this we have a Board of Management whose commitment to the school is exceptional. All of these elements make this school the vibrant learning community that it is and will serve to take the school forward into the next phase of its development.

For now, there is still much to be done before the end of the school year. A meeting of 2018 Junior Infant parents will take place in April and the new Junior Infants will visit the school in May to familiarise themselves with their new classroom. Sixth class will prepare to leave their primary school years behind with their graduation ceremony in June to mark their achievements in RETNS. We will have our Greens Schools Action Day, our Student Council charity fundraisers and our Sports Day. And throughout the summer term there will be lots of hard work and many personal achievements.

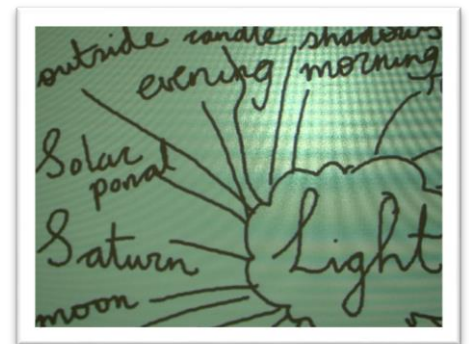
I wish all families a great Spring break and see everyone back on April 9th.

Mary



Art Exhibition

Second class took part in the DLR organised Primary Arts Programme, where an established artist, Tunda, worked with the children to produce some lovely work on the theme *Light and Shadow*.



Everyone got involved and the children felt like real artists as they explained their work to the visitors who came to their exhibition. See more images online at <http://retns.ie/blog/primary-arts-programme>

Visit of Eric Dempsey (The Birdman)

On Thursday of last week we had a visit from Eric Dempsey, one of Ireland's leading bird experts. Eric is author of several bird related books, '*Birdwatching in Ireland with Eric Dempsey*', '*The Complete Field Guide to Ireland's Birds*', '*The Pocket Guide to the Common Birds of Ireland*', '*Finding Birds in Ireland*' and '*Ireland's Wildlife Year*'. He is also a guest speaker, a bird guide and a regular member of the popular RTE Radio 1 '*Mooney Goes Wild*' team.

Eric's particular area of heritage expertise is in his knowledge of Ireland's superb birdlife. Eric told us that his passion for birds was strongly influenced during his

own school days by his nature-loving teacher and he now enjoys sharing the joys of Ireland's birdlife with a new generation of nature lovers.

Through his workshops in a number of classes Eric introduced the wonderful world of birds, taking a look at feathers, beaks, nests, flight patterns, etc. Eric received a very enthusiastic reception from pupils and staff alike, who found his workshops full of fascinating facts about birds.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

An Céilí



Ag caint as Gaeilge i Rang a Trí



Tráth na gCeist Rang 3 agus Rang 4





ag ceiliúradh

Skipping Workshop - February

After our very successful Skipping Workshop in February, we were treated to a wonderful skipping exhibition to display the skills learned.



Some images from this term



5th class enjoyed their day in Kilmainham



3rd class visited Croke Park



2nd class visited the Lexicon, Dun Laoghaire, as part of their Primary Arts Programme.



Making the most of the snow.



Junior Infants enjoying Aistear.

See

<http://retns.ie/principalsblog/> for more pictures.



Crazy Hair Day



Sixth class gave a wonderful assembly presentation based on their Rural Electrification project.

4th class beautiful Silhouette Art.



Senior Infants on their Spring walk and keeping fit at their 10 at 10! Senior Infants also made a really big effort to cut down on packaging during Plastic Free February!

First class pupils have been leading the way with their brilliant yoga poses and they have inspired us all to try out new poses.



Yoga Tuesday (doing a yoga pose for homework on a Tuesday) has proven to be a very popular initiative with even the most reluctant willing to give it a try!

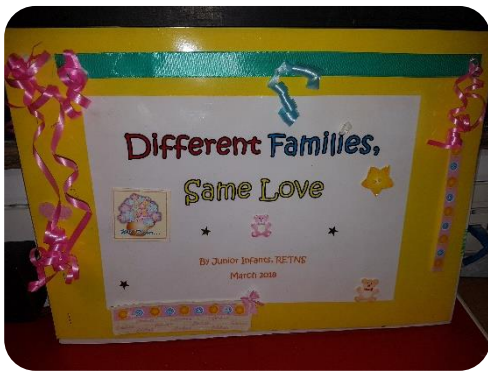
3rd class pupils have made a lovely display of stick figures.



Our Green Schools noticeboard reflects just some of the work we have been doing towards our sixth green flag. See <http://retns.ie/green-schools> for more of our work.



Some classes took part in the *Different Families, Same Love* competition



Classes looked at diversity in families through the lens of literature and art.



A range of books for all ages was on display in the school and these inspired discussion on diversity in all its forms.



Write-A-Book



Congratulations to our Write-A-Book winners

Connie Crawley (3rd) and Laoise Dennehy (4th)

Recent talks in RETNS



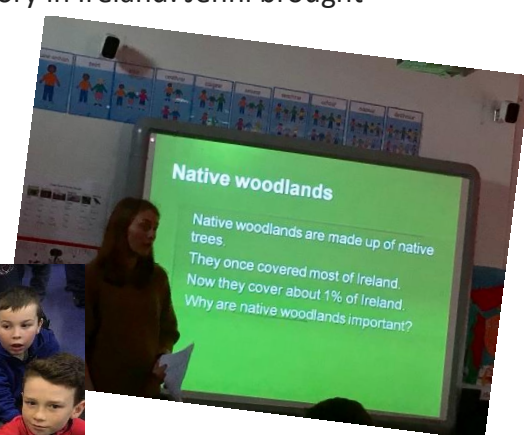
Peru



Betty (Diego's mum) gave a very interesting talk to third class about her native country, Peru. Betty showed the children slides of the beautiful country, showed the children some traditional Peruvian dress and talked about Peruvian customs. The children really engaged with the talk and learned a lot from the first hand experiences of one of our parents. Talks such as this are very valuable to the children's learning experiences.

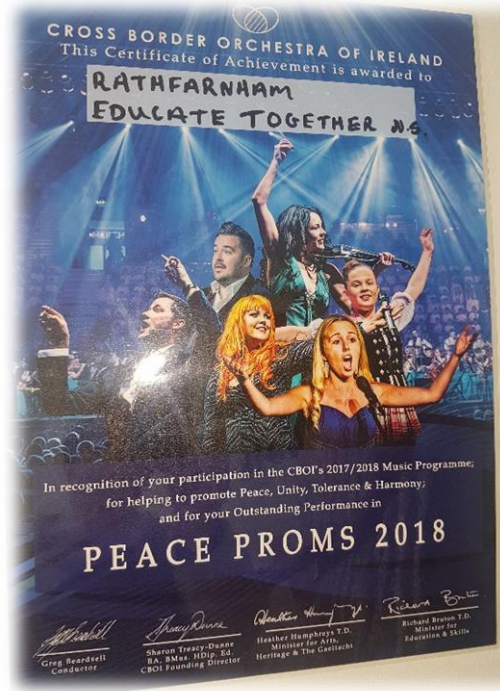
Tree talk – Scot's Pine

Some classes had a very interesting talk from Jenni Roche, cousin of Alex (3rd) and Samuel (1st) on the Scot's Pine. Jenni is a biosphere co-ordinator with Dublin City Council has done PhD research on the Scots Pine. She gave the children many interesting facts about this tree, its significance to the world's biodiversity and its 9,600 year history in Ireland. Jenni brought along an ancient tree stump (up to 4,000 years old) for the children to examine. Her talk was very well received by the children, with some interesting questions asked.



Alex with the 4,000 year old tree stump.

Fourth class had a fantastic experience at this year's Peace Proms. They were excellently trained by Fiona Sweeney and each and every child gave 100% to their performance. We are all very proud of them.



Pancake Tuesday was once again a great success this year, raising €365.20 for the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght.



Making use of different technologies on Arcade Day, a student ICT Committee fund-raiser.

Check out more of our work on www.retns.ie