



# Bunscoil News!

Mar 2017

Welcome Parents and Guardians, to our March edition of Bunscoil News! We really value your feedback as parents – please do get in touch if you have ideas or suggestions. You can arrange an appointment with the secretary to meet with the principal, Sinéad Flannery, or the deputy, Alan Carney. Their emails are [po@bsrac.ie](mailto:po@bsrac.ie) and [acarney@bsrac.ie](mailto:acarney@bsrac.ie). Keep in touch!

### Dates for your diary...

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					St Patrick's Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9	20	21	22	23	24	25
16	27	28	29	30	31	



**Mental Health:** There has been a big focus on Mental Health recently in BSRAC. We have trained a number of teachers in the 'Friends for Life' programme which focusses on mental health for children and we have implemented many other programmes to help children overcome anxiety.



**Readathon:** The last week of February was Book Week in BSRAC which incorporated World Book Day. The Library Committee helped plan some great activities such as Drop Everything And Read (DEAR), quizzes, buddy reading, story time and lots more. The highlight was certainly World Book Day when the students (and teachers!) dressed up as characters from books. The effort was amazing and thanks so much to all the parents for the extra effort to get out costumes on a Thursday morning. A special word of thanks to Ms Hennessy who co-ordinated the week and puts in such tremendous effort to get the activities and timetables organised. The funds raised will go towards books and resources for our Library.



**School App:** Thanks to all those who have downloaded the App. Don't forget, if you sign in, you can get sent information about your child's class level only, rather than all messages. Just click 'sign in' and either set up an account or sign in through Facebook. Then click the class levels you want. If you are not signed in, you will get all messages. We want to use the App lots more to communicate because it is so convenient, and free for parents!



**10 at 10:** Teachers and Students alike were pushed to the limits during Active Schools' Week. There were lots of different activities going on throughout the week to keep everyone moving and promote an active lifestyle. The main event was the 10 @ 10 which saw the whole school gather in the yard to do ten minutes of organised activity. A big thanks to Ms O'Neill who acted as fitness instructor – there's a job in boot camp awaiting her! – and to the students from the Students' Council who led the activity.



**Healthy Eating:** We have a committee in the school currently looking into our healthy eating policy. There is a new Food Pyramid so our policy needs to reflect that. We need to include a section on the use of nuts also. In relation to healthy lunches and snacks we would welcome your suggestions so please do get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions!



**Buddy Reading:** Ms O'Gorman's Rang V have partnered up with Ms O'Neill's Rang I for some buddy reading once a week. The older children read stories and books to the younger students and vice versa. It's a source of great excitement and Rang V have been so well able to share their brilliant reading with the younger classes and act as super role models.



**Parking:** We would like to note that it is Cork County Council who decide the location of double yellow lines and designated parking/drop down areas. Furthermore it is a matter for the Gardaí to monitor traffic violations. Any concerns should be directed towards them. We would, however, ask that anyone using the roads around the school be particularly mindful of the designated areas and not to double park or mount kerbs. This is for the safety of the 800+ users of the school each day. We really appreciate those who do make the effort to park only in designated parking areas and not come into the school grounds or park illegally.



**Basketball:** The new school basketball teams entered their first blitz in February. The boys and girls headed off to Neptune Stadium and Parochial Hall with Mr Kiely, Mrs Sheehy and Ms Murphy. All their training paid off with the boys playing really well but and the girls making it to the finals. We're really proud, especially given that it was their first ever outing. Well done team!



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**Green Schools:** To keep up our efforts of environmental protection, the Green School Committee have organised labels for our bins. While we were pretty good for recycling, we needed a reminder for our waste bin usage for pencil chippings and waste art supplies. We'll still keep up the usual mantra of 'what comes in the lunch box, goes home in the lunch box'. Thanks to all for the huge effort. The committee led by Mrs O'Sullivan have also been busy with the Big Travel Challenge in February. There was a definite increase in people walking to school so great work! The committee also did a surprise check on energy efficiency – 9 classrooms had their doors and windows closed to keep heat in when they went out on break so we'll be working on this as the year goes on.



**Building Bridges:** This is a comprehension activity being used in the school – you may hear your child talking about *predicting* or *de-clunking*. A *clunk* is a word the child cannot read or does not understand. If they can't read it, they *de-clunk* – break it up into chunks / sound it out. If they can read it but don't understand, they read on or read back a line and think about what would make sense. Ask your child if they can remember the hand signal for a *clunk*!



**Garda Vetting:** New laws are now being implemented by the Government in relation to Garda Vetting. The law now says that any person working with children (anyone under 18) or with vulnerable adults must be Garda Vetted. While teachers and those employed by the school have always been vetted, this new law affects parents and other volunteers who help out in the school. Our Parents' Council have been vetted already. The process is very simple and requires an on-line form to be filled and a form from the school to be sent off. We just want to flag this with any parents who may be interested in helping out in future with teams or with transport to matches: now is the time to send of the forms! Again, these are new laws that the school must follow. We completely understand that Garda Vetting could be seen as an inconvenience, but it will go a long way in ensuring your children's safety and protection. Thank you for your continued support!



**Debating:** The students of Rang VI were so enthused by their teachers' debating lessons that Ms Murphy and Ms Ryan organised a Debating Club for them. They meet once a week to thrash out ideas, argue their points and prepare their motions. This year, a first for Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh, we entered the School Debating Competition. The first motion, entitled *No Child Should Have a TV in their Bedroom* was held late February in Little Island. Our team were proposing. The motion was passed meaning Team BSRAC are through to the next round! Watch this space!



**Indoor Hurling Blitz:** Congratulations to all the boys who took part in the training and matches for indoor hurling over the last few months. The day of the blitz saw matches as good as All Ireland Final Day! We had two great wins against St Joseph's and the Gaelscoil, drew with Glounthaune B and narrowly lost to Glounthaune A.

The Camogie teams showed great sportsmanship and commitment throughout their training too. They played four matches on Blitz Day which were very competitive. A particularly noteworthy performance was their match against Brookelodge. The day finished with a close encounter with the Gaelscoil finishing in a 1:1 draw.

Well done also to the 4th class girls who attended a Camogie Blitz in Little Island on the 3rd February. We played two matches in our side against Middleton and Kilworth. The second game went to extra time and penalties to see which team went through to the semi-final! The girls fought very hard and won on penalties with some great saves! Unfortunately we were beaten in the semi by a strong Castlemartyr side. Well done to all the girls who took part on the day.

Thanks to Mr Clohessy, Ms Wade and Ms Moynihan for all their effort in training the teams.



**Active School Flag:** We're still working hard to get our first active school flag this year. The committee of teachers and pupils have been busy over the past month in our efforts to get it. In February the teachers completed surveys about PE within the school and looked at how we can make improvements; our student committee have started to design a survey for parents and pupils as well as involvement in community sports – keep an eye out for those soon! The 10 @ 10 will also earn us merit in our efforts to get a flag.



**CAPER:** This year saw the launch of our new initiative in Rang III called CAPER – *Children and Parents Enjoying Reading*. We gathered some volunteers, organised by the Parents' Council, who come in three mornings each week to listen to the children read in the class. It has made a huge difference in Rang III and we have had such good feedback that we are looking into the possibility of doing it at other levels. The main benefit is that all children get heard reading, get the opportunity to talk about their book and all in ten minutes! A big thanks to the parents who have volunteered and trained so far. If you are interested in helping out in future be sure to get in touch!



**Parents' Council:** Continued thanks to our Parents' Council for all their hard work and support to the school. They have set up an email address [bsracparents council@gmail.com](mailto:bsracparents council@gmail.com) should you want to get in touch or offer any help.