

Notre Dame Junior School



Newsletter, Term 3, June 2013

A message from Ms.Sisk

It is hard to believe the long, lazy days of Summer are upon us. The 2012-2013 academic year has been busier than ever!

We were delighted to receive The Discovery Primary Science Award for excellence in Science and Maths and our 3rd Green Flag.

Of course, we have had many more successes. Our choir came second in The Navan Choral Festival and we had many winners in the AIJS art and short story competitions.

May I take this opportunity to wish our P6 girls well as they embark on the next chapter. They are a very special bunch of girls and have contributed much to Notre Dame Junior School over the years.

The Summer Term is always the most memorable for the girls. Class trips, graduations and shows create a real buzz in the air!

So please take a look through this newsletter to experience some of this 'buzz' yourselves!

Let's hope the sun keeps shining!

Le Gach Dea Ghuí...

Gilda



End of year show 'Fiends Reunited'...what a show!



Best of Luck to our Prep 6 girls as they leave Notre Dame Junior School for secondary school... We Will Miss You!

Farewell from Mrs. Murphy!



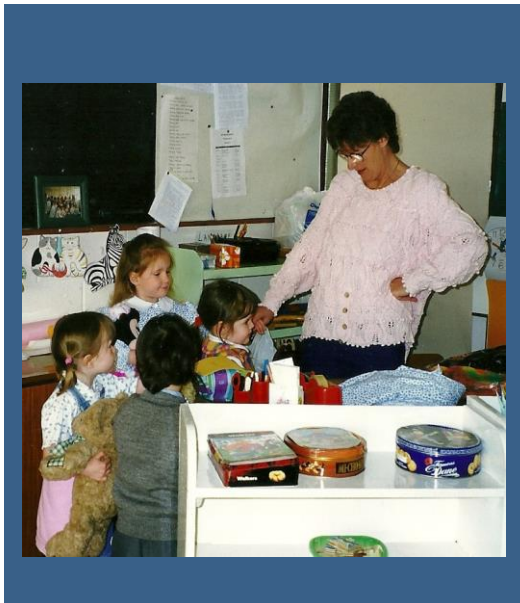
I would like to take this opportunity to say "Slán" to all my dear friends and colleagues in Notre Dame Junior School. Indeed it is with very mixed emotions that I will be leaving the Montessori Classroom in June.

The children have been a huge source of joy, enrichment and great fun in my life. To have been their first experience in school, to share special events in their lives, to watch progress through Junior School and beyond has been so rewarding. However, it's time for me to pursue new activities.

I wish to thank you the parents for entrusting me with your most precious little ones and for your support over the years. I especially want to thank all the staff of Notre Dame for their great company, friendship and encouragement. I have made many great friends through the Notre Dame family and while I will miss you all I won't be far away.

Best wishes and continued success and good health to you all.

Máirín Murphy.



Montessori

The Montessori girls were talking about the activities during the year which they enjoyed the most. Everyone agreed the dressing up for St. Patrick's Day was great fun. They also loved the Easter Bonnet Parade.

We had a wonderful time together, the girls are great fun. They worked very hard throughout the year and learnt so many songs and poems. I will miss them very much indeed.

I wish everyone all the best in their new class and in their new schools.

Enjoy the summer!

Máirín Murphy



P1

Our trip to Fort Lucan

Last Thursday we went to Fort Lucan Adventure Land on a school trip. Prep 2 went as well. First we played in the big playground and then we had lunch. After lunch we went on the waterslides. I went on the green slide which was a bit scary and the red slide was just so much fun. The blue slide was really cool and fun too. Lots of fun things happened, like when my lunch blew away and I had to chase it. I loved going on the really high bridge. I was running and looking down, it was scary. Our trip to Fort Lucan was so much fun, I hope that I can go again!

By Kate Bergin, P1

My Beautiful Teacher

My beautiful teacher came in one day,
She did not have hair that felt like clay.
It felt like silk,
She told me that she drank lots of milk.
Her name was not Grace,
But she knew how to tie a lace.
She also told me she flew a rocket to space,
What a crazy teacher!

By Katie de Marco, P1



Fort Lucan smiles!



Zara enjoying the zip line.



Alex & Katie, all smiles.



Daniella taking a well-earned break!

P3's Trip to Causey Farm

Causey farm was the best school trip EVER! We left school before nine o'clock and we were all so excited. When we got there we met PJ and Sinéad, our guides for the day. They were really nice. First, we all had our little break at the benches and when we finished our break we went to hold and pet some adorable puppies. They were so cute! They were about two months old and were Collie pups. Afterwards we went down a hill and came to a wishing bell. Everyone rang it once and made a wish. Then we went to the hens and chickens. P.J. showed us a trick that went wrong and one of the chickens tried to peck him.

After that we went and fed a donkey. When we finished doing that we had our tractor trailer ride. We all sat on hay and it was a very bumpy ride! Our guide encouraged us to sing some really silly but catchy songs. One of the songs was about some moose, it was a laugh. When we got off the trailer we had a little nature walk and Sinead told us lots of interesting facts. She told us that squirrels live in a drey. She told us why farmers carry a stick with them when they walk through the woods. It is to frighten away badgers. Bet you didn't know that!

We went across a big open forest and gazed at the tall brown trees. Then we reached a small bog. A man was standing there with a shovel. He talked to us for a while about the bog and cutting the turf. When the man asked us to jump up and down altogether, we could all feel the ground beneath us move. He threw some turf towards us and we had to catch it.

We then went to a very big bog. There were monkey bars over the bog and an area where you could jump in, it was so cool! We all took off our boots and socks and rolled our trousers up to our knees. Lots of people enjoyed the monkey bars first. When we jumped in the bog we were supposed to do it bum first but most of us did it legs first and got stuck big time in the bog. One of those people was me! It was so cold my toes went numb but I jumped in to the bog anyway. The bog was definitely the highlight of the day. Let's just say from now on I'm going to call Maya 'Maya of the Muck'. Mrs Kiernan called her the 'Bog Mermaid'!

Later on we went to little sheds to change and clean up. We got into our 'clean' tracksuits and we felt so much warmer and hungry so we sat down for lunch. We finished lunch and went to look at some more animals. There were calves, sheep, pigs and some baby ducks. Jessica and Niamh went to see the cows. Niamh and I (Jessica) squeezed the udders. When we saw the pigs I said 'I 'll see you in the frying pan'! Now Mrs. Kiernan loves piggies and she took it to heart. She was only joking of course!

It was time to leave and we were sad to say goodbye. It was a long journey home but we all had a good chat about our day. It was the best school trip ever, even better than Fort Lucan. We missed Kelly though as she had to do her Music exam.

By Orna, Claire, Jessica and Lily, P 3.



The 'Bog Mermaid'!



Causey Farm Fun.



Georgie knee deep in it!

P5

My dad came into Prep 5 and gave us a talk about bees. We all had a great time and it was really interesting. At the end we got to taste some of the honey that the bees made.

- ♥ Some of the main facts about bees:
- ♥ There is only one queen bee in a hive.
- ♥ The queen is only allowed in certain parts of the hive.
- ♥ The queen bee is looked after by the worker bees.
- ♥ The worker bee collects all the pollen and nectar from the flowers.
- ♥ The queen can lay over ten thousand eggs a day.
- ♥ There are forty thousand cells in a hive.

By Alannah Harrison, P5

Our Trip to Funtasia.

On May 24th, P5 went to Funtasia. We left at 9:30 and when we reached Funtasia it was 11:00. We got off the bus and ate our little break. After a while, an instructor from Funtasia came to talk to us and told us what we were going to do. We went to the water park area and we got changed into our swimming togs. Then we went to enjoy ourselves, there were two other schools there as well. All the water slides were lots of fun but the best were the *Superbowl* and the *Boomerang*.

The *Superbowl*: You go down a bit of a water slide, then you shoot out into a bowl, go around the bowl and then go down another bit of a water slide and finish.

The *Boomerang* : You go into a water tunnel, then go around in it, and shoot up a water slide and go down backwards.

We did not realise but we got an extra half an hour to play! We got changed quickly and ate our lunch on the bus. We sang on the way back, which was fun. The highlight for me was definitely the *Boomerang*.

By Zara Brady, P5.



Robert Harrison modelling his beekeeper suit.



Mmm tastes good!

Children Helping Children

On May 17th, fifth class had a very exciting day ahead of them. It was the Children Helping Children charity event. Our business companies set up their stalls and displayed their merchandise. We were ready to go; we counted down to 9 o'clock awaiting our first customers.

The eight business groups sold food, arts, crafts and some did a game of chance. We were well supported by our schoolmates from Montessori to P6, our parents, teachers, and pupils from Notre Dame Senior School. We had a surprise visit from Ali Hewson, who spoke to us all and gave us great encouragement. She was also very generous and supported us by buying some of our products. We were very excited to see and talk to her.

Reporters from 4FM came to interview some of my classmates. One of them came over to speak to Sarah, Lucy and I at our stall. She was very easy to talk to and our friend Haille was on 4FM radio station speaking about the day, she did really well.

Four representatives came from our chosen charities; our charities were Rainbows International, Down Syndrome Ireland, Crumlin Hospital and Ollie's Little Heart Appeal. We presented cheques to each organization. We felt we had achieved our goal, which was to support children whose lives had been touched with illness or other difficulties.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. King, our teachers, our sponsors and our parents for all their support.

By Hannah Crowley, P5.



Children Helping Children 2013



Sarah, Lucy & Hannah with their 'Cakelicious' stall.



Kate and Georgia with Ali Hewson and Down Syndrome Ireland's representative.

Food

I eat yummy food every day,

I love it in every way.

I love to eat sweets,

They are such tasty treats.

You hve food for your lunch,

I love the ice-cream Brunch.

You eat food for your dinner,

If you don't eat food you get thinner and thinner.

By Emily Leonard, P1.



Lara, Han Bi, Maggie & Laura...some P4 friends.

Friends Acrostic Poem

Friends in P4,

Real friends forever more.

I love yard time in the sun,

Every day is so much fun.

Nothing comes between us,

Dearest friends are what we are,

Sticking together like a big toffee bar.

By Lara Smith, P4

Spy Time

When I left school that beautiful spring day, I had no idea what was in store for me. I was walking home from school, my head in the clouds. Thinking it was going to be another normal boring day in my normal boring life. But boy was I wrong. When I arrived home nobody was there to greet me. I wasn't really bothered by it, I just thought my mum had nipped out to the shops for a minute. It never occurred to me she was doing anything else. I glided into the kitchen and grabbed myself a snack. I thumped my books down on the table and started my homework. After a while I started getting worried about being home alone just then there was a sharp knock on the door.

I jumped, I don't know why I was startled. I figured it was my mum and she'd just forgotten her keys but something in the back of my head told me otherwise. I tip-toed cautiously down the corridor scared out of my wits for some unknown reason. My shaking hand reached for the doorknob, my fingers grappled at the handle. My sweaty palms clenched it as tightly as I could. Without knowing I swung the door ajar and peeped out of the crack. Before me I saw a tall thin middle-aged man with pursed lips and a dull expression. He had pale unshaven skin and his eyes seemed searching yet faraway. He looked serious and overworked, as though he hadn't slept in days. He was wearing a grey 3-piece suit and was holding a small black briefcase in his left hand. "Hello, my name is Mister William Stone, I am a colleague of your father's" he said in a cool crisp tone. "May I come in?"

As far as I knew my dad was a bank teller at the Royal General Bank. My mum was a secretary for some stingy dentists down the road. "Erm, I 'm not really meant to talk to strangers." I muttered more to myself than to him. "But I'm no stranger, and I have some information that will have a very big impact on your life" he said. Suddenly as if he put a spell on me I swung the door open and in shock of what I was doing. But before I had time to think he had stepped inside. "May we go somewhere more private?" he asked as he broke the silence of us eyeing one another up in the corridor. "Em ok, what about the living room" I suggested nervously. "I was thinking of somewhere a little more private" he said mysteriously. He walked slowly down the hallway stopping in front of the full length mirror. He turned towards it and put up both his hands as if the police were pointing a gun at him. Then he said his name "William Stone" loud and clear. Suddenly my mirror was there no longer.

There was a hole in the wall where it had been, it had disappeared like magic. I looked around expecting to see cameras and for someone to jump out shouting "pranked you". But my eyes were met with silence. He stepped inside the hole, I followed him nervously as we went down a flight of dimly lit steps. When we got down the steps we entered a HQ, computer room. I pinched myself hoping it was a dream gone bad. "Who are you, how did you know this was here?" I questioned. "Even I didn't." There was a pause. "You are a spy" he said.

"What" I said exasperated. "I will explain everything, just give me a chance" he said. "Your parents are spies and you are destined to be a spy" he exclaimed. My jaw dropped open, it hung there in mid-air for a moment whilst I took in what he said. "You weren't meant to find out for another few years but disaster has struck and your parents have been kidnapped and are being held for ransom, it's an occupational hazard. They were kidnapped by the notorious criminal commonly known as Nightmare, this morning. You are the only one who can save them" he explained. "You are to come with me to HQ". "What HQ, isn't this it?" I asked still half believing him. "No this is your parents' private lab" he chuckled. "OK, how do we get there?" I murmured. "Through here" he said, pointing towards a black door in the corner. We went through and immediately were in a different place. It was a clean white room bustling with people. Mr Stone walked towards a young looking purple haired agent who was wearing vibrant colours. "What's new Agent K?" he asked urgently. "We've got word of a robbery taking place at Dublin Castle Museum tonight by Nightmare" she said. "He broadcast it on national radio. He said if anyone came near him, he would kill his two hostages".

I had a queasy feeling in my stomach that his hostages were my mum and dad. Mr Stone turned around and announced "This is K-kat and she will be going with you on your mission tonight to stop Nightmare and get your parents".

That night at the museum various people were lurking in the shadows. K-kat and I snuck around the outside of the museum. We had a special rope gadget that got us up on the roof. When we were up there, we used a special spy hairclip to open the vent, it was amazing, I could hardly contain my excitement. But I was nervous and scared beyond belief. I tried to calm down but it was really hard. We crawled through the vent looking for the room where the Carpathia diamond was kept, the biggest diamond in the world. Apparently it is the size of your hand. Once we were above the room with the Carpathia diamond, we looked cautiously down from the vent and saw Nightmare and his posse sauntering around. In the corner of the room we saw two tied up hostages AKA my parents. Nightmare was ranting on to his posse about how amazing he was and all the time making his ego bigger. "How will we distract them?" I whispered to K-kat. "Don't worry I have got a cunning plan to distract the posse. I left my phone somewhere in the museum on the way in. I have set my ring tone to a clattering and banging noise. So if it rings it sounds like someone else is in the museum and the posse will have to go and check it out leaving Nightmare undefended" K-kat whispered craftily. "But we can't just leave it to chance that someone will ring your phone" I whispered back logically. "Exactly, so if we use your phone to call mine our plan should go smoothly. Then we will slip out of the vent, I'll fight Nightmare and tie him up and you can take care of your parents" she whispered knowingly. I nodded "let's do it" I agreed.

The plan with the phone went perfectly and the posse were gone in no time. As soon as they had left, we lept from the vent, both of us as agile as a cat. Nightmare turned around quickly expecting a gang of people and sighing as he saw us "I was expecting a whole gang but you will do. One on one combat is sometimes fun" he cackled nastily. "Oh yeah, let's see if you can balance with such a big head" insulted K-kat. I didn't care all I could think about was saving my parents. I rushed over towards two struggling black lumps in the corner of the room. Everything else was gone from my mind but saving them. I knelt down beside the nearest one which I thought was my mum and started undoing knots. They were tighter and more difficult to undo than I thought but I wasn't the only one finding it difficult. K-kat was locked in arm on arm contact with Nightmare. For such a boastful guy he sure can move fast. You would think he would be laid down with all the jewellery he was wearing but no. He like me was concentrating on one thing, getting K-kat out of the way. He tried once or twice to make a grab towards the Carpathia diamond which was sitting on its stand looking very regal. Each time K-kat thwarted him with a painful jab, kick or punch. K-kat had found his weakness, the Carpathia diamond. She kicked it high in the air, immediately Nightmare lunged for it giving K-kat the perfect chance to tie him up. She reached for the rope and seconds later Nightmare was unable to move no longer and was entangled in K-kat's clever knots.

Meanwhile I was still struggling on undoing the knots in my parent's ropes. K-kat grabbed the diamond and put it on the stand perfectly and stood back to admire her handiwork. I finished undoing the knots of my parents' bindings and removed their blindfolds and gags. "Oh Jessie, my clever gorgeous little girl, I can't believe you have managed to defeat Nightmare. You have saved us. Thank you" praised her dad. "You make the perfect little spy" said her mom proudly. Then they both hugged her lovingly. "Come on guys, we cannot take all day here, we have to get out of here!" hurried K-kat. "Right, oh yes" said Jessie's Dad, sorry that the family reunion was over. K-kat called the police who were on standby and quickly rushed to the scene. But by then we had all escaped out into the night and went.....home!

That is the amazing and true story of how I, Jessie Hart became a fully-fledged spy!

THE END

By Siobhan McGuinness, P4
2nd prize winner in Wicklow Montessori short story competition.

K1

Our Trip to the Farm

On Wednesday 15th May the K1 and Montessori classes went on a trip to Leonard's farm. We travelled by bus and were met at the gate by farmer Luky. We were farmers for the day and we had a lot of work to do.

We fed the ducks, held the baby rabbits, watched the naughty geese and gave the lambs their bottle!

The walk through the long grass was fun. Farmer Luky needed wood for her fire so we loaded the trailer with logs (some of us were very strong!). We tried out the cows' scratching post and visited them in their field. There were cow pats everywhere and a few of us jumped in them!

The horses had to be fed and groomed and then we had lunch sitting on hay at a hay table.

Afterwards we danced and played musical statues in a shed (the teachers were exhausted!) before we thanked Luky and set off back to school.

A good day's work done!

What I would like to be when I grow up...

The girls in K1 have decided on their future careers.

We will all have our needs seen to!

For ...

our health...we have a nurse and a doctor,
our wellbeing ...a hairdresser and numerous nail painters,
our education...a teacher and a ballet teacher,
our pets...vets and a pet minder,
our general needs...a shopkeeper,
our future...a scientist,
and most importantly of all a mum!



Cristina with the naughty geese!



The baby bunnies were a big hit!

P2

We can't believe that our year in P2 has come to an end. We have been so busy it has literally flown by! We made our First Holy Communion on April 28th and what a fantastic day it was. All our hard work and practise paid off and the service went beautifully. Ms McNiffe was very proud of us all for doing such a great job. We had a celebratory party in the school after the mass. The P1 mums and girls decorated the hall and made yummy food. We even had our own 'top table', we felt so special!

We were all very lucky to receive gifts on our Communion Day and as a class we know just how lucky we are so decided to donate some money to charity. We chose two charities, the DSPCA and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. As a special surprise Ms McNiffe organised a surprise trip to the DSPCA to give them our donation. We all got a huge surprise when Ms McNiffe told us we were going to the DSPCA that minute! We visited all the animals and even got to hose down the pig as it was very hot. With our donation we sponsored five animals, 3 pigs; Vincent, Nellie & Arkle a dog called Beckham and a cat called Hooch.

In May we had sport's day and our end of year trip to Fort Lucan. Sport's Day was great fun. We all ran super-fast and we really worked up our appetites for our BBQ lunch! Fort Lucan was fantastic, it was the best trip ever!! The green slide was really scary, but exciting too! Some of us got absolutely drenched, it was so funny!

What a year it's been, we deserve a break!



Some of our Sport's Day Champions!

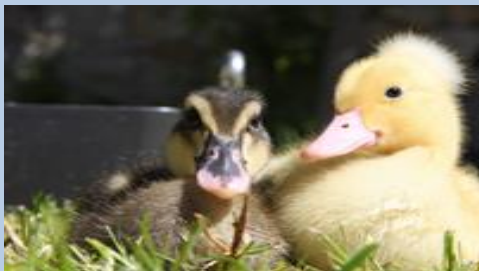


Self-portrait painting, Michelangelo style!

K2



Petting the baby goat at Newbridge Farm.



Our Trip to Newbridge House

We went on lots of trips this year and the last one was to Newbridge house. We went on a bus, it was a long way. Miss Sisk tricked us and said we were going on a plane, I didn't believe her. There was a little goat that was 2 days old it was tiny. We gave its Mum grass to eat. We climbed trees and went to the playground.

Laura, K2

Treasure Hunt in Dundrum Church

We went to Dundrum today for an adventure. We walked there it was sunny. In the church we had to find things. A cross is not the same as a crucifix because it has to have Jesus on it. We drew a stained glass window and lit a candle and then came back to school for lunch.

By Ruby, K2

Notre Dame Ducklings

First we had an incubator and had to turn the eggs every day for 28 days then we got the ducklings. Spike Tights and Lucky stayed the longest in the class. They went to my house for a sleepover. Nibbles didn't like the noise so went back to the farm. My brother and my sister had lots of fun. We watched them run, they were very fast except for Lucky but he got faster. I helped him when he fell down. I loved holding the ducklings they might come and visit again.

By Kate, K2

Spike, Tights and Nibbles.

Ducks hatched in our class. First there was Early who was actually a chick. We guessed when we looked at his feet but first we thought he was a duck. Next came Spike and Nibbles and Tights and then Lucky. Lucky is very wobbly and is lucky because he was very slow to get out of the egg. It was great fun in our class but lots of poop alerts, They are now on Lukys farm she is Anna in P2's Mum.

By Yasmin. K2



Laura & Mimi on egg turning duty.



Rosie giving Nibbles a cuddle.

Children Helping Children!

Businesses are set up, the going is tough,
For those poor children who are living it rough.

Scicle Ice cream will give you a chill,
Their ice cream's nice, it's really a thrill.

Cakes are done by Cakelicious,
They really, really are delicious.

Pizza 'n' Prizes they manage the lunch,
If it's raffle tickets you want they'll sell you a bunch.

At Pitch 'n' Put come hit a ball,
They're a very energetic stall.

Lucky Dip close your eyes,
Put your hand in and pick a prize.

Rockin Ring Toss come have a go,
Grab your hoops and see how far you can throw.

Glitz 'n' Glam with the shine and the glimmer,
Come to our stall with a sparkle and a shimmer.

All in all, there's a great collection,
And on the day, there's a fab selection.

By Rachel, Sarah and Caoimhe, P5



By Lisa Bergin, P2

My First Holy Communion

On Sunday April 28th we made our First Holy Communion. It was on at 10.30am in Holy Cross Church at Dundrum. The first song we sang was Happy in the Presence of the Lord and we were very fabulous at singing. Most of us were excited and about a quarter of the class were nervous. Me and Gen were singing the Responsorial Psalm and we were a bit nervous. We did a really good job and at the end we sang another song. My favourite song was If I Were a butterfly with all the actions. It was a great day.

By Lisa, P2.

Notre Dame Debating Club

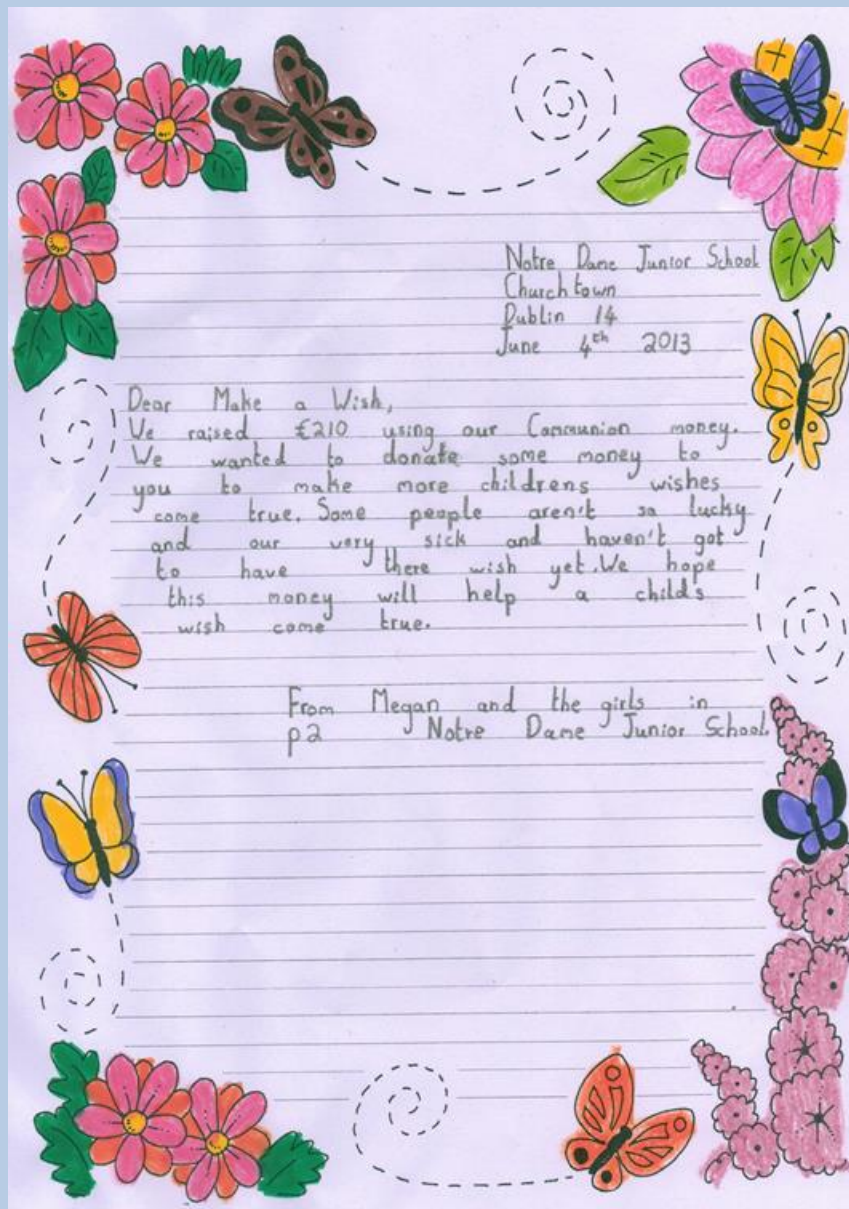
Congratulations to all the very talented debaters who so eloquently shared their skills with the school in the final.

The winning team of Kate, Haille and Niamh just pipped Aisling, Orlaith and Alyson to the post.

Much thanks to Miss Walsh and Miss O'Donovan who have helped the girls throughout the year.



Our Debating Finalists.



P2's letter to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, beautifully written by Megan.

Monkey

A mad cute monkey,
That monkey thrashed my house ,
I heard a 'ding dong!'.

By Jade, P3

Marshmallows

Marshmallows are yum,
Marshmallows are quite squishy,
Just like my Daddy!

By Lily Boyle, P3

Flowers

Flowers are pretty,
They are different colours,
But some don't smell nice.

By Orna, P3



Moya, Mia, Roaa & Megan.



Lottie got just a 'little' wet!!



Anna & Gen 'hanging' around!



Scientific Fun!

P2's Trip to Fort Lucan

At quarter past nine we were all so excited to go to Fort Lucan. We had to wear our coats and bring our treats. P1 came with us on the coach, it took us ages to get there, about 45 minutes. Finally when we arrived a boy came and told us all about Fort Lucan. When the boy finished we all got to play. There were four sheds, a shed for P1, a shed for P2, one for the boys and a spare one. We brought spare clothes and put them in the shed.

There were lots of things to play and lots of fun on the zipline. After a while when we were all finished playing we had our lunch. After we had our lunch, finally the waterslides were open. The waterslides were red, blue and green. Myself and Moya rode the blue slide and the red slide together. We screamed a lot! Jasmine was the first person to go on the slide. After the waterslides we all got changed into our spare clothes and hopped onto the bus. We had so much fun!

By Roaa, P2



Jessie experimenting with her volcano.

Discovery Primary Science Award

We are delighted to receive once again, the Discovery Primary Science 'Award of Excellence in Science and Maths' this year.

We love science in Notre Dame and really enjoy taking part in this challenge every year. Each class carries out experiments in science and while it is very enjoyable we also learn a great deal about different aspects of science and the world around us. We also discover the importance of Maths in our life and how it can impact on our everyday experiences.

We wish to thank all our parents and friends of the school for giving up their time to share their knowledge with us. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you have a scientific background and wish to share your talents with us next year please contact Ms. Kiernan or your child's teacher. We look forward to hearing from you. We also look forward to taking part again in this excellent programme next year.

Well done everybody!

My Mum

*My pretty mum,
My gorgeous, pretty mum,
My amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My kind, amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My caring, kind, amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My great, caring, kind, amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My loving, great, caring, kind, amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My happy, loving, great, caring, kind, amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My merry, happy loving, great, caring, kind amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
My good, merry, happy, loving, great, caring, kind, amazing, gorgeous, pretty mum,
That's my Mum!*

By Claire, P3



Emily, Chloe & Lauren, P4 enjoying Causey Farm.



Sport's Day fun!

Book Review by Emily, P4

Title: Under the Hawthorn Tree

Author: Marita Conlon-McKenna

What happens in the story?

There are three children in this story, Eily, Michael and Peggy. Eily is the oldest, Peggy the youngest and Michael is the middle child. The story takes place during the Famine in Ireland. One day their mother leaves them to go find their father who is working on the road works. After a couple of days the children's mother has not come back and the children are worried, so they leave home and set off to find their mother's aunts to take care of them, but will they make it there or not?

Who are the main characters? What are they like?

Eily is the eldest. She is kind, loving and mature. Michael is a sensitive boy. He is also very fast thinking. Peggy is the youngest. She is very shy but she is also a very brave little girl.

What parts of the story did you like and why?

My favourite parts of the book were when the dogs attacked Peggy, when the thunderstorm came and when Peggy caught the fever. The reason I like these parts is because there is a lot of describing words that make the story more interesting.

What parts didn't you like and why? Would you change any part of the book if you could?

I would change the ending because I would have preferred if the mother and father had turned up at the Aunt's house and for them to be all reunited.

What did the story make you think about? Did you learn anything from the story?

The story made me think of how families survived during the Famine. I also learned some new and useful describing words to help me with my own writing.

How did the story make you feel?

The story really touched me. Some bits were funny and others quite scary. The part that made me feel really sad was when poor Bridget died.

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why?

I would recommend this book to children 9 years and up. I think people who love reading would really enjoy this book.

Book Review by Cristina, P3

Title: Famous Five on Treasure Island

I am doing this book review on 'The Famous Five' by Enid Blyton.

I recommend it to children aged 7/11 years old.

The main characters are Julian, Dick, Ann, George and Timmy the dog.

The story is about the famous five going to an island that's very small and they find something very interesting on it. I found the book very well written. The plot was very easy to follow. It is a very good book and also very addictive. If you start reading it you really want to finish it!

A message from our Head Girl

Erica Macari



Acrostic name poem...
'Niamh' by Laura, P2

No matter how many times we look back at the years in Notre Dame Junior School, the memories of those years will always bring a smile to our faces. Here are a few of my favourites:

They start 7 years ago in K2, when I first joined the class. I will never forget when I asked Holly, on the first day of school, where the toilets were and she kindly pointed to the wall. Thanks for the help Holly! Or the day we were dancing to the "Ugly Bug ball" and Miss. Sisk who was so enthusiastic about her dance moves, broke the heel of her shoe. I just hope they weren't Louboutins!

In P4, the April Fools Prank Mrs Kiernan played on us. She made us each plant a popcorn kernel in compost making us believe that a popcorn tree would begin to grow within a few day...of course that never happened. But Michelle O. to prove Mrs Kiernan wrong brought in her "popcorn tree" which she had created by sticking popcorn onto the leaves of a plant...good thinking Michelle.

I am sure we will not forget the day Mrs. Gumisiriza at "Children Helping Children" was introducing me to my own dad. How embarrassing was that Mrs. Gumisiriza!

I mention but a few of the great memories we bring with us as we start on our new journey.

On behalf of P6 I wish to thank the teachers and all members of staff of Notre Dame Junior School for their support and help throughout the years. We are so lucky to have attended this school. No amount of thanks will be enough to show our appreciation for all that you have done for us and for all that you have taught us.

We also wish to thank our parents and guardians who have remained committed to our education and most importantly to us. We love you for that!!!

And thank you to all my classmates for the wonderful years, for all the fun, the hysterical laughter and the valuable lessons learned.

And last but not least thank you to the wonderful Miss Walsh, she above every other has put up with us for not 1 year but 2...now that shows commitment!! You have been so good to us no matter how much stress we have caused you.

Thank You!!



Congratulations to Olivia, Imogen and Hannah who represented Notre Dame in the A.I.J.S tennis tournament in Alexandra College.

P6 Remember...

Montessori

We remember with smiles our first year in Notre Dame. We went in a day before all the 'big girls' came into school to meet our teacher and our friends. Our teachers names were Mrs. Murphy and Mary.

The rest of the school seemed so big. Alysia's older sister used to chase us around the playground and tickle us. We all loved circle time but our favourite time of the day was when Mrs. Murphy would read us one of her stories. We loved to hug the teddies if we were feeling lonely and enjoyed our outdoor nature walks.

Each girl would get a chance to bring home the 'golden box' and fill it with their favourite stuff and the next day they would tell the class all about it.

When we left Montessori, Michelle's mum made a huge cake with all our names on it. It was delicious! We all loved our year in Montessori!





K1

It was such a big step for us going from Montessori to K1. We made lots of new friends and new teachers.

At first, it was scary but the minders and the teachers settled us in. We all wanted to be first in to lay in the sand-pit and we loved making pixie dust. We had great imaginations! We remember the first time painting pictures. We had stencils to help us draw shapes and angles.

Our first school trip was to Airfield and we will never forget the excitement. We loved bringing in the magic box and bringing in our special things. Circle time was great fun too!

Ellen's nose bled all over Aisling's smock. It was very scary! We loved the Christmas plays. Everyone wanted to be an angel or Mary!

But the highlight of the year...it was our first time to get homework. We were so excited and felt so grown up. How times have changed!

K2

Looking back over our time in Notre Dame, one of our fondest memories was K2. Miss Sisk used to tell us that she was in the 100's when we asked her what age she was. It would only make sense that someone in their 100's would need a special chair for their back!!

We will never forget the countless number of goldfish we had, whom we now know have gone to a better place...no thanks to Rebecca who decided dirt would be a healthy diet for them!!

In K2 we learned lots of different songs and dances.....many of which Miss Sisk still does today! One that stuck out for us was the 'Ugly Bug Ball' where Miss Sisk got so into dancing, she even broke her heel and had to go home at lunchtime to change her shoes!

One of our favourite school trips was going to St. Stephen's Green and visiting the Art Gallery. The highlight was meant to be the art...but the ice-cream won out in the end! You always knew in K2 that it was a special day when the foam crowns and stickers came out. All day we would wear the special birthday crown with pride.

This was also our last year in the old school and we will always have special memories of that time.

P1

Prep 1 was a great year. Our teacher was Miss Kelly and we were her first ever class.

The new school had been built and it was bigger and better than the old one. We were all so excited. We loved going to the office to photocopy and we soon learned that it got you out of work!

We learned about dinosaurs and the song 'Day Dream Believer'. We thought it was hard to understand Miss Kelly's accent at the start but we soon got used to it. We went to the zoo and learned all about the animals. Miss Kelly and Amy used to play draughts.

Unfortunately the worst thing about this year...we got homework journals and had to write our homework down for the first time!!



P2

This was our first year in our new blue uniform. We felt so grown up! Miss Conboy went on Maternity Leave so we had a new teacher called Miss Horan whilst she was gone. This was a very special year as we were making our First Penance and our First Holy Communion.

A couple of weeks before our Communion, Miss Conboy (helped by all the other teachers) played a prank on us. They told us we had to wear our uniforms on our First Communion Day. We went crazy saying that we had already bought our dresses. The teachers let us believe it for a whole day! We forgot it was April 1st!!!!

We did our first projects and loved them. Unfortunately...that's not always the case anymore!!





P3

We were finally moving upstairs to the senior end of the school. Our teacher was Miss Walsh. We learned joined writing and soon enough we got our pen licences...we had to be careful though...three penalty points and it was back to pencil!

We'll never forget the first day when Miss Walsh was trying to get rid of a wasp and she fell over! We all laughed. Ms. Walsh introduced us to Scruffy, our P3 teddy and we used to take him home each weekend. We had a marble system where if you were good, you would get a marble and you had to fill your jar to get prizes!

It was coming up to our Christmas tests and we learned songs and poems for these. I loved Ellis Island. We went to the Titanic Exhibition and we had our first Notre Dame Thanksgiving dinner. We filled up balloons full of glitter and popped them over Ms Walsh's head (she hates glitter!!) We went carol singing and earned lots of money for charity.

We had a great year with Ms Walsh in 3rd class and we are having another great year with her this year!

P4

We had another great year in P4. Tyler joined our class and we had Mrs. Kiernan as our teacher and she loved pigs and blue softmints so much that Caoimhe made her a robot out of blue softmints!

We were all in love with Justin Bieber at the time and we even threw him a birthday party. Whenever we were confused about an issue, we held a mini courtroom to decide on what action to take. The most historic was the jelly tot trial!!

Mrs. Kiernan played an April Fools trick on us and we all planted popcorn seeds to grow our own popcorn trees!!

For our geography test Mrs. Kiernan helped us learn all our mountains by teaching us a special song. We even had some mini disco's.

It was a great year!!



P5

P5 began meeting Mrs. Gumisiriza, formally known as Miss Hughes! She was really kind and funny. We called her Mrs. G as it was easier. She showed us all the photos of her wedding. All the teachers were there and they all looked very different!

One of the highlights of the year was Children Helping Children. We all set up mini businesses and sold products for charity.

We did lots of projects including The Famine and Native Americans. Another highlight was each Friday for 12 weeks, Joe, an artist from DLRC came into teach us art.

The whole school went to UCD to watch P6 in the Hockey Final and we wished we could be like them the next year in P6!



P6

We were finally the big girls and we were all looking forward to our last year in the Junior School. We had Miss Walsh once again and it was time to be P6'ers. We all received our jobs and got our new responsibilities.

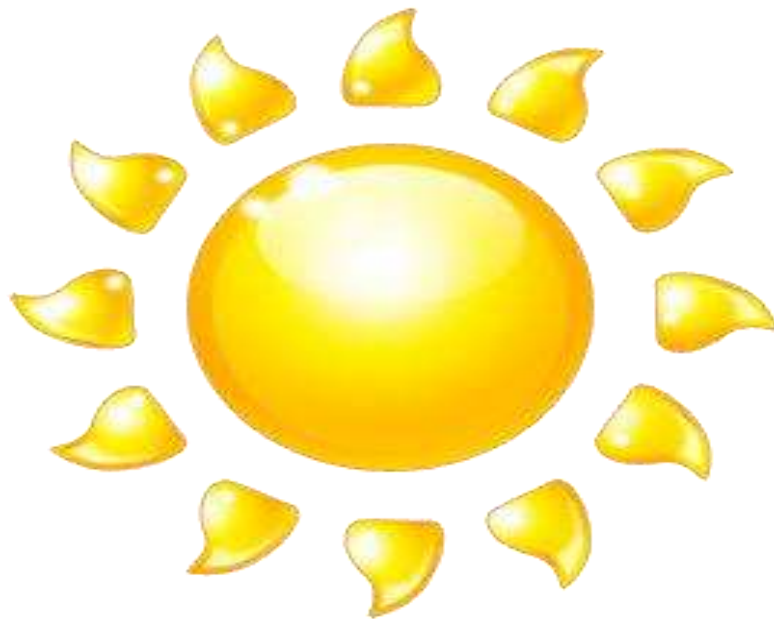
We did an assembly for Grandparent's Day and learned the song 'When I'm 64'. We went to the Dundrum Town Centre and the Village Centre carol singing. It was great fun. We made our Confirmation and that was a special day. We had special SPHE talks and all became much closer.

The highlight of the year was our overnight trip to Newgrange Lodge. It was brilliant! We had ensuite rooms and our own keycards. We stayed up half the night chatting and it was the best night ever!

We have the most fantastic memories of the Junior School. We have made lifelong friends and have learned so much. We would like to say thank you to the staff who have helped and cared for us along the way.

It has been a very special journey!

*We hope you all have a safe,
fun-filled summer!*



School re-opens Thursday August 29th.