



St. Raphaela's Primary School

June 2008

Butterflies emerge to spread their wings and fly in Junior Infants

Not only Junior Infants, but the whole school was agog when five beautiful butterflies emerged from their cocoons this week and were waved of on their flights to freedom by a very excited Junior Infant Class.



Something similar is happening in 6th Class these days, as twenty-three very grown-up and gracious girls prepare to leave us and move on to Secondary School after the Summer holidays. Join us in celebrating their years here and asking God's blessing on them at their Graduation Mass on June 27th at 11am.

The Magic of Opera:

Nobody who was present in our school hall on the night of the 11th May will ever forget the sound of 4th & 5th Class singing "The Torch of Gold" with the National Chamber Choir. From those first swelling notes to the final thunderous chorus, which was drowned by even greater thunderous applause, we were spellbound, not only by the music, but by the acting, the costumes, the instruments and the story itself. Great praise and thanks to Liza Delaney and Mary McCoy, and to Treasa Lavin, Sharon Smyth, David Darcy and the members of the National Chamber Choir, but most especially to the children of 4th & 5th Classes.

Need us to recommend some authors for a good Summer read?

Our school boasts 220 promising Irish writers, all of whom took part in the "Write A Book" Competition. All their books are on display in the school corridors.



First Holy Communion:

Warmest congratulations to all the children of 2nd Class who made their First Holy Communion on 24th May. Special thanks to Lynda Hanrahan and the parents of First Class for the wonderful reception in the parish hall, and of course to Miss Geraghty for her dedication.

Swimming:

A message from Mags and Geraldine:

Our Gala Day was held on 23rd May and what a great hour of swimming it was! Well done to all swimmers who took part - whether winners or not - we think you will agree it was fantastic to have participated. Sincere thanks to all the supervisors who helped out during the year - without your help our job would be a lot more difficult. Finally, to all 6th Class students who are moving on to Secondary School - Good luck to all of you! Have a great summer break and we hope to see you all (and some new faces too!) back swimming in September.

Margaret & Geraldine, Swimming Committee

Megamix 2008!

Our annual Megamix took place yesterday, and we all had fantastic fun doing our sporting tasks. The ladies from the Parents' Association are counting the money and we hope to raise lots for interactive whiteboards for some of our classrooms. This is our **annual major fund-raiser** and we will need ALL the support we can get.



This year, 4th & 5th Classes climbed Three Rock Mountain, 6th did orienteering on our campus, and all the other children spent an hour skipping, dancing and running. Please find as many people to sponsor as you can! Thank you all for your support.

Football News:

Many of our children took part in the mini-all Ireland matches in Glenalbyn Sports Club recently. Our footballers are now formidable players, coached all year by Sheila Kehoe, Nuala Downes, Liza Delaney and the wonderful coaches from Glenalbyn. We have had two inter-school matches this term; one we won and one we lost. Our team are now resplendent in their new kit, donated by Paul Callaghan of our new uniform supplier, The Schoolwear House.



Potatoes:

4th and 5th Classes have been sowing potatoes!

4th & 5th Class planted their seed potato in a grow-bag on February 8th, and harvested the crop on June 9th. Our crop weighed 349 grammes. We have entered a competition



sponsored by Agri Aware to mark the year of the potato. Our 5th Class project included relevant extracts from our Famine Project and a photographic diary of our efforts. The prize is €1,000, and we are keeping our fingers crossed!

Dates for your diary :

- Wednesday 25th June 12 Noon till 2pm: Second-hand Book Sale in school hall.
- Wednesday 25th June @ 7pm: Senior Infants play: "The Litter Muncher"
- 6th Class play: "Joseph and his Techni-Colour Dreamcoat"
- Thursday 27th June: Graduation Mass for 6th Class at 11am in convent chapel.

New Junior Infants Class:

As you know, St. Raphaela's Primary School will be welcoming a second Junior Infants class this September! Many thanks to Ena, Rachel and Martina who have given us some lovely things for our new Junior Infants classroom. Miss Smyth would be delighted to have a look at any games or equipment (in good condition) which you have at home which might be suitable for infants. That way she can tell you if we have it already or not. Do please have a word with her or with Sr. Mary.

Sixth Class bid farewell to their school.....

Eight years is a long time and yet it seems like yesterday when most of us came reluctantly through the school doors for the first time. It is with even greater reluctance that we prepare to leave our school now and move on to Secondary School and the challenges that await us there. We leave with so many great memories

We remember back to our first days in Junior Infants when the seeds of our friendships were planted. These friendships have blossomed and flourished over the years. We have played together, prayed together, sung together, laughed and cried together, danced and acted together, and now we leave together.

We have had some very memorable school tours over the past eight years. We remember Clara Lara where Jacqueline lost her shoe, Breffni where we won the precious glass cup, and of course our recent trip to Carlingford where we went rock climbing, abseiling and kayaking with Peaches our lovely instructor. Even though the thought of wriggling into wet suits was not inviting, to say the least, we were very glad of them when Peaches collapsed our frenzies. Our favourite day in each school year was always Sports Day. From the moment when the first notes of "Match of the Day" struck up and everyone started to march out, we knew that we were in for a terrific day. Congratulations to Mehgan, Francesca and Isabelle who were the winners in this year's sprint race, and also to Mimi who won the Fair Play Award. We thank Ms. Clarke, the Fourth Year Secondary girls, Geraldine Power and all who made sports day so memorable.

This year we enjoyed organising Book Week for the rest of the school. Everybody looked fantastic dressed up as their favourite characters. Who will forget our excitement in Fifth class when Sarah's poem won the Poetry competition and was printed in the Green School's Eco Calendar? Each year we entered the Write a Book Competition - did you know that Emma Jackson distinguished herself by winning it twice? Congratulations to Jennifer Sorensen who is this year's winner.

To Sr. Mary and to all our teachers we say a very big thank you for all your kindness to us over the past eight years. We will be back!

From all of Sixth Class, 2008.



6th Class of 2008