BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford Co. Carlow Roll No. 17756D Registered Charity No: 20109301

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January 2021

Welcome back to all, we hope you have a had a lovely relaxing Christmas and wish you every blessing and success in the year ahead.

Enrolment 2021 The school has published our Admissions Notice for 2021 on our website. Applications will be accepted from the 14th of January 2021.

The school's Admission Policy and the Application Form for the 2021/2022 school year are available on our website, by emailing ballinabrannans@gmail.com or by writing to Ballinabranna NS, Ballinabranna, Milford, Co. Carlow R93T9N4 The closing date for applications is 4th of February 2021.

Christmas Crib – Well done to our pupils in 6th class who, under the guidance of their teacher Mrs Agars, created a wonderful backdrop for the Christmas Crib in St. Fintan's Church Ballinabranna. Bishop Denis McNulty has suggested that everyone in Kildare and Leighlin Diocese might leave their cribs in our churches and homes up for the month of January, as a message of solidarity, encouragement and hope during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Climate Change Competition As part of our Greens school initiative we invited everyone to take part in our Creative Christmas competition. Every year we throw away a shocking amount, from six million Christmas trees to over 227,000 miles of wrapping paper. So, with that in mind this year our Green School's Committee encouraged everyone to get creative and reduce, reuse, and recycle.

There were two categories in our competition. The first category was to create a Christmas decoration using sustainable materials. The winner of this category was Charlotte Hutton (5th class) with her sustainable angel decoration. The second category was to wrap a pretend present or object using an alternative form of wrapping paper, from newspapers, old book pages or even old pillowcases. The winner in this category was Amelia Flanagan from Senior Infants. Each winner received a €25 One4All Voucher. Well done to all who entered!

Road Safety - In December as part of our road safety education programme each child received a free high-vis jacket from the Road Safety Authority of Ireland to help keep them safe as they walk or cycle on footpaths and roads. Extra hi vis vests are available to order from www.rsaorders.ie should you need more for your family.

Raffle –Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Raffle which raised an amazing €2710 for the school. We are extremely grateful to all who helped in any way, selling tickets, buying tickets or sponsoring a prize, with a big thank you to Brenda in the office for all her hard work!

The prizes winners and sponsors were:

Winner	Seller	Prize	Changan	
			Sponsor	
Ciara Lyons	Fionn & Oran Lowry	42" Samsung Smart Television	Clogrennane Lime	
Anita Pilsudska	Maria Pilsudska	€200 One4All Voucher	Ronan Byrne & Co	
Paddy Lowry	Amelia Flanagan	€100 Cash Prize	Donated	
Seán Foley	Seán Foley	€25 Ray Whelan Voucher	Ray Whelan	
Marguerite O' Brien	Pippa O' Brien	€100 Fenlon Voucher Fenlor	Heating &Plumbing Ltd	
Ciara Leigh	Callum Leigh	€25 Jones Business Systems Voucher	Jones Business Systems	
Clíona Raftery	Clíona Raftery	€50 One4All Voucher	Grass Tech	
Gabrielle O' Neill	Áibhín O Sullivan	€100 Voucher Aboretum Aboretu	m Home&Garden Centre	
Emma Doyle	Scott Kelly	€50 Fairgreen Voucher Woods	s Contract Cleaners	
Arlene Sharkey	Eva Dooley	€50 Lord Bagenal Voucher Carlow I	Electrical – Cathal Lawlor	
Zach Fitz	Emma Walsh	€150 One4All Voucher	Brealey Windows	
Becky Amond	Caitlin Amond	€50 Voucher	Campus Oil	
Ciarán Breen	Ciarán Breen	Hamper Aboretum Hor	Aboretum Home & Garden Centre	
Sarah Darcy	Sarah Darcy	€25 Ray Whelan Voucher	Ray Whelan	
Willie Kelly	Amber Bolton Clarke	€50 Voucher	Macs Menswear	
Nathan Stedman	Nathan Stedman	Jewellery	Douglas Jewellers	
Fiach Donnelly	Fiach Donnelly	Christmas Knitted Hamper Cather	ine Ayres Sellers Prize	

Credit Union Art Competition- Our congratulations to three pupils from our school who were winners in this year's Credit Union Art Competition whose theme was "Imagine More". In Senior Infants Ruby McDonald was a winner in the under 7's category, Naomi Picovici and Brendan Byrne were winners in the Under 10's category. Henry Roberts from Leighlin Credit Union ensured that they safely received their prizes at the school. Thank you Henry and well done to Naomi, Brendan and Ruby!

Thank you to Annie – Every child in the school made their own individual card to say a very warm and heartfelt thank you to Annie Geraghty for the wonderful care she has taken of them during her time as school crossing warden at Ballinabranna NS. Annie will always have a very special place in the hearts of the staff and pupils of our school and we look forward to when she can visit us in the future!

Santa's Visit- We were delighted to have Santa visit the school on a drive-by visit before the Christmas holidays, we are very grateful to In Safe Hands Creche, who made sure that Santa knew his way to Ballinabranna NS! Thank you also to Mrs Claus who came to the school on the day of the Christmas Holidays to ensure that each child received a delicious Christmas Selection Box Treat.

Creative Schools We are very excited to get started on our Creative Schools Project in association with the Arts Council. Mary Bourke, our Creative Associate met with all our classes virtually in December. Mary has asked the children to become Creative Detectives for the next few weeks to see what creative things are going on all around them! Mary prepared an introductory video for parents about our Creative Schools Project which will be shaped by the children, staff and parents. You can view the video at https://youtu.be/kqgljGZ6HM8

John Tyndall Maps – Thank you to Randall Dempsey who has given each child in the school a map showing all the places in the world (and further afield) where John Tyndall, Scientist and Mountaineer is remembered. Thank you also to Recharge Print and Office Supplies who printed the map for free for Randall.

Beechwood Christmas Messages – Mrs Agars 6th class have been writing to the residents of Beechwood Nursing Home in Leighlinbridge since their return to school this year. The children will be delighted to hear that they have received individual Christmas messages from the residents by post to the school!

Bumbleance Draw On the 1st of December Ms Ní Cheallaigh's 3rd class helped Amira launch her "50km My Way," and met Bizzy Bee from BUMBLEance who brought lots of treats for all of the children in the school.

3rd class came out to cheer and wave for Amira as she started her 50km challenge. Lots of us have signed up to take part at https://www.popupraces.ie/race/run-for-amira/ You can too!

Amira's BUMBLEance raffle, took place on December 22nd live from the school. There were fantastic prizes and many happy winners, you can see the draw on our Facebook page. Well done Amira and thanks again to Caroline O' Toole!

Split the Pot Thank you to all who are supporting our Split the Pot fundraiser which is a great opportunity to raise funds for the school and perhaps win a few for yourself too. Our final draw in December was a double draw meaning that two names were drawn, and the entire pot was split between the two winners.

The December winners were: Baylee c/o Brenda €110 Neasa Fitzpatrick €110

Double Draw Aoibhín Coen €172 Mike and Katie €172