

Kilcolgan Educate Together.

April/May 2012



Parking



A reminder to all parents that there is a one way system in place. Please enter at Raftery's and exit at O' Donoghues. Parking along the wall directly across from the school obstructs local traffic as the buses pull up outside of the school. Therefore we would ask parents not to park in front of the school. We would also ask parents to drive slowly and carefully at pick up and drop off times as the safety of all children is paramount. Please remember to show courtesy to other road users and model the respect that we constantly aim to instil in the children. Please remember to pass this message on to minders/ crèches etc.



Calendar



April/May Birthdays

Friday 25th May—International Day	2nd Apr ~ Toto	2nd May ~ Rachael
Monday 4th June—school closed	5th Apr ~ Jack D	3rd May ~ Ché
Tuesday 5th June—school closed	8th Apr ~ Jackson	5h May ~ Saoirse
Sunday 10th June—Summer Fair	9th Apr ~ Arthur	WO'M
Saturday 16th June—Tesco Bag Pack	12th Apr ~ Alex	8th May ~ Oisín Allen
Fri & Sat 22nd, 23rd June—Supervalu Bag Pack	13th Apr ~ Amber F	9th May~ Amber Browne
	15th Apr ~ Connor TL	26th May ~ Bonnie
	15th Apr ~ Aoibhín	28th May ~ Adib
	16th Apr ~ Kaelan	28th May~ Albert
	23rd Apr ~ Abigail	
	29th Apr ~ Megan	

Tokens

Tesco are currently issuing tokens for schools. Please note that we do collect them but we do not want to put parents under pressure to change their shopping habits. In the past we have been able to trade our tokens for visualisers, yoga mats and a variety of classroom resources. If you have tokens please send them in to your child's teacher.



Student Led Conferences

We would like to thank everyone involved in the success of our Student Led Conferences.

Thanks to you for supporting your children during their presentations and for your valuable feedback, to the teachers for preparing them to present so well and to the students themselves for demonstrating their learning clearly and competently. It was so satisfying listening to the presentations and seeing all the smiling faces. In the feedback sheets, many students said they really enjoyed talking about their school work, demonstrating what they have learned, and getting positive feedback from their parents. They did a great job and we are proud of each and every one of them! A special word of thanks to Mary for introducing and supporting the concept.

Anti-Bullying

Anti-Bullying month took place in November. Since then much work has taken place revising and redrafting our anti-bullying policy. The staff, children and board of management have all had a chance to input. The resulting draft is now available for viewing on the school website at www.kilcolganetns.com in our online library (scroll down to the bottom of the page). We are inviting parental input at this point. If you have comments or suggestions please email them to info@kilcolganetns.com by the 23rd May. If you do not have internet access Noreen will happily give you a paper copy of the policy and you can drop comments back to her.



International Day



International Day is set for the 25th May. Eimear is co-ordinating events and looking for parents to get involved and represent a nationality. This is one of the highlights of the year for many of us. If you would like to get involved please speak to Eimear. The Parents Association will be working on publishing a cookery book that will feature some of the recipes and various cultures represented on the day.

Dates for your Diary

A note went home in school bags recently with information on up-coming fundraisers. It is as important as ever that parents support these events in order to help raise much needed school funds. Please put the following in your diary and support where possible:

Summer Fair	10th June	School
Bag Pack	15th, 16th June	Tesco, Oranmore
Bag Pack	22nd, 23rd June	Supervalu, Gort

We will need lots of help with our upcoming backpacks and would really appreciate if as many people as possible could put themselves down for at least one 2hr slot. Please contact school if you can help out and watch out for our backpack rotas which will be on the school noticeboard. If you can help out with our Summer Fair please contact the following Patsy 087 2220611/sales@tarabookco.ie or Jill on 087 2299128/jill@mykidstime.ie

Art Exhibition



The Burren College of Art is hosting an art exhibition titled *What do you see when you look at me?* It features work from IMMA's national collection. The exhibition is running from May 12th to June 2nd from 9.30 to 5.30 Mon-Sat with the opening reception on Saturday 12th May at 3pm. All children (and parents) are invited. Eimear will be taking her class to the exhibition next week but unfortunately we could not bring other classes this year.

Visitors Galore

We have had many visitors to the school in recent weeks and as usual the children are benefiting from the expertise these visitors are kindly sharing with us. Aongus' class have been continuing their Burren project and have also had visitors from GMIT who have been instructing the children on computer programming. Genevieve's class had a visit from the Applied Optics group from NUIG who carried out interesting experiments and Aoife called to Anna and Fionnuala's classes to talk to the children about rocks and the seashore. Aoife also kindly accompanied us on our field trip to the seashore at Traught beach. Thank you to Ann Hill who came to Eimear's room and made lovely paper bag puppets with the children. We also had an extra special visit from Gallagher who is a retired guide dog. Thanks to Frank Downes for bringing Gallagher to school and to Roan for organising the visit.

News from the Board of Management

We are delighted to have received planning permission on the site behind Topaz, there is no update in relation to a timeline for building as yet. In September we will be remaining where we are.

We have had very little feedback from secondary schools in relation to enrolment and encourage parents to continue to enrol in the school of their choice, we will update the school community when we have some comprehensive information.

We would like to give a huge thank you to Suzie and Sylvia for all the Yoga time they gave to the children this year, every class participated which was a huge time investment on their part.

There is a lot of work going into fundraising at present, thanks to everyone taking part. If everybody takes part the work is shared and the rewards are great.

There has been some disruption in school over the past months, due to necessary staff absence, please rest assured that we are working to minimise the changes for children by using consistent subbing and thanks are due to the great teachers who have subbed for us in the past few months.



Science & Maths



An application has been submitted for an Award of Science and Maths Excellence. This is part of the Discover Primary Science and Maths (DPSM) programme. Much work went into it and it documents the science and maths journey undertaken by the children during the year including many experiments, talks on geology, dissection of eyes and hearts, signs of spring, planting and growing, materials, and water to name but some of the activities. Thanks are due to Mary and Anna for co-ordinating the initiative and to those parents who offered their time to share their scientific and engineering knowledge. To find out more about the programme visit www.primaryscience.ie. We are delighted to report that the DPSM Team were very impressed with our submission and we hope to have a further plaque to add to our collection soon.



Now that the weather has improved check timers on heating and water boilers to ensure they will only come on when necessary.