



<p>Every year when it comes to St. Patrick's Day we celebrate with a concert in our school where pupils entertain pupils. This year along with that concert we are going to put on a <b>concert for parents</b> on the night of <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> as a fundraiser for our pitch. The concert will begin at <b>7pm</b> and tickets cost <b>€10</b> per adult with children free and are available from the school office. The number of tickets will be limited so get your orders in early. Every class in the school will be involved in the concert.</p>	<p>Our <b>"Dress in Red"</b> day went very well and it raised €395 for the Parents' Association who would like to thank everybody for their generosity.</p>
<p>We ask that parents <b>DO NOT</b> use our <b>car park</b> for after school activities as it becomes very dangerous for our pupils whose safety is our priority. We thank those who have already refrained from using it.</p>	<p>Our <b>Lapathon</b> will take place this week and we thank Nicola Butler (Stretch 'n Grow) for assisting the pupils in their training for the event. We also thank all those who financially sponsored pupils and all money raised goes to the work of our Parents' Association.</p>
<p>Our <b>school orchestra</b> has been busy of late putting together a piece for Waltons Music for Schools Competition. We now have our fingers crossed awaiting results.</p>	<p>During the month of February our school was chosen by the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate to pilot a <b>subject inspection</b>. The subject chosen was <b>music</b>. Two inspectors arrived at our school and for two days watched music being taught in classrooms along with musical initiatives which took place in the school. They were very impressed with what they experienced during the visit and were very complimentary of our staff and their dedication to the music programme for the pupils. They will furnish us with a written report in time and I intend to publish it on our school website.</p>
<p><b>Liturgical events</b> that we celebrated during the month of February included St. Bridget's Day on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the feast of St. Blaize on February 3<sup>rd</sup> where pupils received a blessing of throats. While we were on mid-term break the season of Lent began. This started on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue until Easter Sunday which is on April 5<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>In our world of <b>sport</b> we are currently preparing for mini 7s football and camogie and the FAI school blitz. GAA coaches are back from next Monday morning to do hurling with pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes again. We wish the very best of luck to our past pupils and their team who are representing GCS in an All Ireland Camogie Final on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.</p>
<p><b>First Penance</b> for the pupils of 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will take place on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently the teachers of 2<sup>nd</sup> classes are running the pilot of the new religion programme which is set to replace the Alive O scheme.</p>	<p>Each year our Parents' Association ask the staff to put together <b>"wish lists"</b> of items that would assist them in their teaching should they have the finance to purchase such resources. Following this the members of the committee purchase "wish list" items for each teacher. This has been an amazing support to the teaching and learning in each classroom and we thank the members of the Parents' Association sincerely for their unfaltering support of the staff and the school.</p>
<p>Parents' Association will run an <b>Easter Raffle</b> in the coming weeks. The draw will take place on March 27<sup>th</sup>.</p>	

We have a busy four weeks ahead! Easter holidays will commence on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12pm and I think we will all need the break at that point.

**Happy Easter to all our families.**

