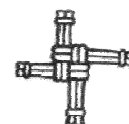


anois teacht an earraigh beidh an lá dál chan shineadh,  
is tar eís na féil bríde ar dóigh mé mo sheol.

The above lines from the classic Irish poem by Antaine Ó Reachtabhra (1784-1835) serve to remind us of the coming of Spring once we reach St. Brigid's Day - 1<sup>st</sup> February. Many will no doubt be aware of the wonderful legend of St. Brigid and the place in Irish society for St. Brigid's Cross. It is said that she explained the story of Christ to the King of Tara with a cross she made from rushes. Christians today still make crosses from rushes and hang them in their houses and sheds to keep the family and animals safe. It is said that she died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and thus she is celebrated on that date every year. This date is also regarded as the start of Spring in the Irish calendar. Here in Portumna Community School St. Brigid and the emblem of the cross is of particular significance to us as it forms a central part of our school crest, we are located on St. Brigid's Road and Portumna Vocational School (and the Catholic Church in Portumna) was called after the much loved saint. St. Brigid is the most celebrated Irish woman of all time and is second only to St. Patrick in the esteem of the Irish people.



## BLESSING OF THROATS

Next Tuesday (3<sup>rd</sup>) we celebrate the feast of St. Blaise. Blaise is the patron saint of those with throat illnesses and of wild animals because of his care for them. The Blessing of Throats takes place on this feast day where two unlighted candles are blessed and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said.

Saint Blaise's protection of those with throat troubles apparently comes from a legend that a boy was brought to him who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. The boy was about to die when Saint Blaise healed him.

Blessing of the Throats will take place in Suaimhneas from 9.00 am to 9.25 am, 11.20 am to 11.35 am and also through lunch time if necessary.

All are welcome.

## VISIT TO CHURCH OF IRELAND

All First Year students will travel to the Church of Ireland, Portumna, on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, for our annual visit. Preparations will take place during R.E. classes for singing, readings, prayers, etc. The prayer service will take place during the last two classes. Rev. Alan and Ann Menhennett will be our hosts.

Fr. Abe.

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

The All-Ireland Senior 'A' Camogie Semi-Final will take place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, at 1 pm in Tynagh between Portumna C.S. and St. Mary's, Magherafelt.



## ATTENTION

### 6<sup>TH</sup> YR. LCVP STUDENTS:

The **RECORDED INTERVIEW** for the Link Modules (LCVP) will take place on Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. ALL Portfolios must be handed in by then for binding.

Ms. Fogarty (LCVP Coordinator)

### LCA STUDENTS - STATE EXAMS:

Contemporary Issues (LCA2) : Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. from 9.20 a.m.  
Vocational Education Task (LCA2) : Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9.30 am.  
Practical Achievement Task (LCA2) : Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 am.  
General Education Task (LCA1) : Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 pm.

## JUNIOR HURLING DRAW

This Draw was organised to help fundraise for the Junior Hurlers' Training Weekend. The group left the school earlier this morning and travelled to Waterford.

Many thanks to the sponsors and all who contributed to the draw which took place during the week when all the cards were returned. The result as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize : €150 Hamper  
(sponsored by Carroll Cuisine)  
Winner – Jason Kilkenny, Kiltormer.

2<sup>nd</sup> : Cooper Helmet  
(sponsored by Cooper Leisure)  
Winner – Johnathon Cormican, Gortanumera.

3<sup>rd</sup> : Hurley (sponsored by Larkins, Killimor)  
Winner – Nicola Walsh.



## STILL UNCLAIMED!

A number of pencil cases, LOCKER keys with keyrings and a pair of glasses are still unclaimed in Anne's Office.



The School Credit Union will be open in the Social Area from 1.25 pm to 1.55 pm every Friday to the end of May.

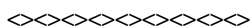
Also note that fabulous prizes will be on offer to students who are regular savers. So don't forget to bring your money and Pass book each Friday.



## CREDIT UNION SCHOOLS QUIZ

Good luck to all of the National School students that will be taking part in the Credit Union Schools Quiz.

It is taking place here in our School Hall on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb., at 2 pm.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Good luck to the students taking part in the Schools Cross Country Competition which is being held on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February in Dangan, Galway City.



## DATES TO NOTE:

Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. : Information Evening for incoming first years.

Mon. 16<sup>th</sup> – Fri. 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. : Mid Term Break

Mon. 23<sup>rd</sup> : **Mock Exams** begin for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> yrs.  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. : Work Experience – 5<sup>th</sup> yrs.

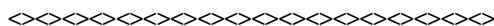
Mon. 16<sup>th</sup> Mar. (full day) : Parent/Teacher meeting for parents of 1st and 2nd year students.  
No school.

Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Mar. – St. Patrick's Day – No school.

Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> – Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> April (incl.) : Easter Holidays.

Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> May : Bank Holiday.

Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> May @ 3.50 pm : Summer Holidays begin.



*"Learning is a treasure which accompanies its owner everywhere."* Chinese Proverb

## Events Diary: (31<sup>st</sup> Jan. – 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.)

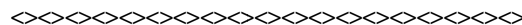
- Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> : Senior Hurling Training in School grounds at 4.10 pm.
- Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup> : Junior Rugby – leaving at 9 am
- Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> : Senior Hurling Vs. Gort.
- Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> : Leaving Cert English classes trip to Galway @ 8.00 pm (King Lear play)
- Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> – All-Ireland Senior A Camogie Semi-Final Vs St. Mary's, Magherafelt, in Tynagh @ 1 pm.



## EOLAS BY EMAIL

We are offering the facility of receiving Eolas by email to all parents, past students or indeed anyone with an interest in our school community. To sign up for this service simply send a blank email with the word 'Eolas' in the subject line to: info@portumnacs.com.

The Email edition will be sent every Friday shortly after 4 pm to those who sign up. (We will continue to publish the traditional paper based copy of Eolas and distribute to all students each Friday afternoon!)



## ROAD SAFETY

On Monday, 26<sup>th</sup>, the Garda Road Show was presented to the Transition Year students by Garda Gabriel Gormally and Garda Derick Quinn who were from the Traffic Unit in Loughrea.

Gabriel Gormally began the presentation by saying in relation to accidents many people have the attitude of "it won't happen to me", but he stated that an accident can happen to anyone at any time.

There has been a reduction in the amount of people killed on the roads over the last few years partly due to the Penalty Point System and presentations on Road Safety being given in schools around the country.

Some statistics given: In 2000 there were 415 killed, 2001 (411), 2002 (376), 2003 (335), 2004 (374), 2005 (396), 2006 (365), 2007 (336), 2008 (278).

The students found the presentation informative and it is a key life skill to learn to drive carefully and respect other road users.

They are looking forward to Pat McNeely's presentation on Road Safety later in the term.

## BLOOD TRANSFUSION TALK

*Mark O'Dwyer from the Blood Transfusion Clinic in Dublin came to the school and gave a very informative and incisive lecture on the importance of blood donation. It was great to observe the students asking key questions on a most charitable act of the donation of blood for donor purposes.*

J. Coughlan

