

# *Belcarra N.S. Newsletter*

January – June 2023

## **Bucket Collection**

€2220.58 collected in Annual Bucket Collection in Castlebar on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

## **Handball Competition**

Two fifth class students took part in Cumann na mBunscol U13 Doubles Handball competition

## **Quiz**

Two teams represented the school in the Credit Union quiz in Castlebar.

## **Visiting Author**

The children enjoyed a visit from author Olive Mooney who read excerpts from her books.

## **World Book Day**

Children dressed up as their favourite book character for World Book Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>

## **St Patrick's Day Parade**

Children from all classes took part in the St Patrick's Day parade in Balla. The school band put on an excellent display. Flags representing the many different nationalities in Belcarra N.S. were carried by the children.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

Children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt around the school grounds and down in the village.

## **Five A Side**

Boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class took part in the FAI 5 a Side competition. The girls team progressed to the Connacht Final and were narrowly defeated by the team which went on to win the All Ireland Final the following month.

## **Cumann na mBunscol**

Both boys' and girls' teams progressed to the County Finals of Cumann na mBunscol. There was an excellent display from both teams on the day.

## **Amber Flag**

The school was recently awarded an Amber Flag for demonstrating excellence in promoting positive mental health during 2022-2023. The flag was recently raised by the youngest and eldest pupil in the school. As part of the programme the school took part in an "Amber Flag Action Week". During that week the children enjoyed lots of activities to promote positive mental health e.g. Teddy Bear's Picnic, "Inside Out" movie, Leisurely Walks, No Homework

Night and Comfy Clothes Day. On the final day a cake sale was held with all proceeds donated to Pieta House. A total of €653.00 was raised on the day.

### **Bike Week 2023**

In conjunction with Bike Week 2023, children went on a cycle and were assisted by An Garda Síochána

### **Lough Cara Life Project**

The school has become involved with the Lough Cara Life Project recently. A tree was planted on the school grounds by a member from the group and each child was given a native tree to plant at home. A presentation was given to the children in the junior classes about "Otters" and sixth class students engaged in a "Pond Dipping" session at Lough Cara.

### **First Holy Communion**

2<sup>nd</sup> Class students celebrated their First Holy Communion in St Ann's Church Belcarra on May 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Vegetable Planting**

Children from Junior and Senior Infants planted vegetables in the new raised beds at Belcarra Playground. Pdraig Horkan kindly donated a plant for each child to take home.

### **School Tour**

All the children in the school enjoyed a fun filled school tour to the Connacht Centre of Excellence on June 14<sup>th</sup>. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

### **Poly tunnel**

The children have been busy harvesting the wide range of vegetables planted in the school poly tunnel. It is hoped that the pumpkins will be ready for Halloween. Children enjoyed learning all about how to plant and harvest over 20 different crops such as broccoli, onions, cauliflower, garlic, beetroot etc.

### **National Parents Council**

An Information Session was given by Helen Butler from NPC in March.

### **Sports Day**

Annual Sports Day was held on June 15<sup>th</sup> Children had a surprise visit from the Ice Cream Van.

### **Food Dudes**

Children took part in "Food Dudes" to promote healthy eating and each day they received a serving of fruit and vegetables.

### **School Mass**

End of Year school Mass was held in St Ann's Church Belcarra on June 21<sup>st</sup>

**Parents' Association**

A Parents Association has recently been re – established, Chairperson Lorraine Ryan Jennings, Secretary Linda Cuffe and Treasurer James Cunningham

School will reopen on September 1<sup>st</sup> for the new school year

*Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer holiday*