



# Holy Rosary's



# News

Issue 2 June 2015

Dear Readers,

I hope you enjoy reading our 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue of our new look newsletter.

June is both a happy and very sad time of the year when we lose our P7 pupils to their next big adventure and we wish each of them well with their time in post primary school. At the same time we are very busy already preparing for a new intake in September.

I'm sure readers are aware that we are endeavouring to get an increasing amount of information out to our school community and part of this is our new website.... [www.holyrosarypsbelfast.com](http://www.holyrosarypsbelfast.com) along with our twitter feed @holyrosaryps.

Take care and enjoy the holidays!

*Mr McAllister*

PS Many thanks to Miss Ward for her super work preparing this issue.



## WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

This year *Walk to School Week* fell in May, from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. *Walk to School Week* is an initiative endorsed by Travelwise at the Department for Regional Development to encourage pupils to opt for the healthy option of walking to school; and leave the car behind! On most of the mornings pupils were met by community representatives including Alasdair McDonnell, Fearghal McKinney & Nicola Turtle from SDLP, Emmet McDonough-Brown from the Alliance Party and Sinn Féin's Máirtín Ó Muilleoir who handed out Travelwise products including wristbands and stationery to reward those involved for their efforts. It was great to see so many pupils getting active and we hope this continues. Well done to Miss Monahan who promoted the event in school and contacted all of the local political parties who were happy to show their support.





# Celebration Time!



In May pupils from the P4 classes celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. The mass was took place in Good Shepherd church and the day was very special for the children and their families.

Photos: pupils from classes:

1) Miss Campbell, 2) Miss Mc Grath and 3) Mrs Tweedy

## FUND RAISING



A few of our pupils presenting a £1300 cheque to Gemma McCourt from Trocaire. Money was raised through lots of different fundraising initiatives at whole school and class level.



May 9th was International Fairtrade Day. To mark this the Fairtrade Council organised several activities. Clyde from Sainsburys visited the school and delivered an information session on Fairtrade. Following this the Fairtrade Council conducted a public survey at Sainsburys, Forestside to canvass customer attitude to Fairtrade products.





# Celebrating Cultural Diversity



## DIVERSITY DAYS IN HOLY ROSARY PS

In 2015 The World Day for Cultural Diversity fell on Thursday 21st May. Holy Rosary PS marked this on Friday 15th & Monday 18th May with a host of activities.

Most of the people who volunteered to provide cultural sessions for the pupils were parents and grandparents. Though we also had contributions from a P7 pupil and The Indonesian Society of N Ireland. At the event there were representations from Hungary, the Ivory Coast, Uganda, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, China, France, America, India, Portugal, and of course we couldn't forget about our own Irish heritage. The activities on offer over the two days included language lessons, traditional dishes, art, presentations and music. Pupils also designed posters reflecting what Cultural Diversity means to them and the submitted artwork included illustrations based on language, faith, music, food, dress and flags & symbols. These days were a lot of fun for the pupils and in a school that is so culturally diverse it was easy to celebrate!



## LANGUAGE & INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Holy Rosary PS is passionate about developing languages & international links. This year P1-4 had either Polish or French language lessons (or both!) & P5-7 received Spanish tuition from Ana. Katia, our French student, is now returning to Nice & we wish to thank her for her hard work with our pupils. Similarly we hosted 2 American students in P4 who were here to gain classroom experience in term 2. As a partner school for 'The Institute for Study Abroad' we anticipate this link continuing in the future. We have lots in store to develop languages & partnerships next year including a project with a Chinese school & we look forward to bringing you further information when plans are in place.



Happy, Respectful, Progressive, Successful



# GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK P7



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# *Congratulations* **CLASS OF 2015**



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### SPORTS DAY 2015

Sports Day took place at the start of June. Pupils participated in class races, Soccer, Gaelic Skills & Zumba sessions! It was great to see the sun shining (for most of the day) and so many parents there cheering the boys & girls on (and even participating in their own races!) From the photos, you can see, how fun and active it was for the pupils (& teachers!)

Following on from Sports Day the pupils received the results and awards at a special prize-giving ceremony in the hall. Medals were presented for class races and a tally was kept of wins for the coloured teams. Each pupil also received a 'Sports Day 2015' arm-band to award everyone for taking part and trying their best.



## FUN NIGHT



This year's HSA Fun Night was a great success! Thankfully the rain stayed away and lots of families came to support it. On offer were bouncy castles and slides, face-painting, balloon-modelling, barbecue, penalty shoot-out, space-hoppers, sponge throwing, tuck-shop & cafe, arts & crafts, spicy finger-foods & curry, magician, tattoo-transfer, popcorn, candyfloss, novelty photo booth and more! Thank you to all who were involved in organising it.

We're sure that everyone in the Holy Rosary community will agree it was a FUN night!

**SCHOOL WEBSITE** - Hopefully you have already had a look at our new school website: [www.holyrosarypsbelfast.com](http://www.holyrosarypsbelfast.com). In the first weekend that it was launched it had over a 1000 hits and this steady number has continued into June. As it is not currently possible to remove the old school website we need your help to get our new site to the top result on search engines. Please share the correct web address with family & friends or any prospective parents you know and encourage them to have a look at it.





# Pupil Voice



We were delighted to welcome NICCY (NI Commissioner for Children and Young People) Koulla Yiasouma in June. P4 class representatives from the School Council (aka Rights Ambassadors) took her on a tour of the school: they showed her the playground and canteen charters, the 'People who help us' board, large map and Rights Respecting Schools notice board (with Nepal Earthquake focus.) Then the whole school council met her in the staff room for a Q and A session. The children decided on the questions at a School Council meeting. The children loved meeting Koulla and she said the children 'were a credit to Holy Rosary.' We have already planned her visit for next year, she is considering coming for 'Take Over Day' or a similar event.



## THE ECO-COUNCIL – PLASTIC BOTTLES ONLY BINS

The Eco-Committee has been set up this year and the members have been working extremely hard. They have completed a short environmental review on our school and are currently completing a full environmental review. Once complete they will choose specific areas to focus on developing and improving within our school. Since their first meeting this year they have been active in raising awareness of 'green issues'. They have been looking at the topic of recycling and as a result of this they have introduced 'plastic bottle only' bins within certain areas to monitor the amount of plastic bottles that are disposed of within our school. They plan to regularly monitor and empty these bins.



## LAUNCH OF LANGUAGES COMMITTEE

A group, of P7 pupils, was invited to an event at Titanic Belfast. The event was to mark the launch of a committee that has been formed to promote the use of languages in the north of Ireland. At the event there was representation from the business sector, universities and primary & post-primary schools. Holy Rosary PS was selected to represent the primary age pupils.

John O'Dowd, the Stormont Minister for Education, was also present and spoke passionately about the importance of being able to speak another language. He congratulated our pupils on being excellent ambassadors for both their school and home language.



# The School: In Profile

Name: Damien Age: 11 Live: Belfast

Hobbies: playing football, cooking with my brother

Favourite music: pop

Favourite subject(s): Literacy and ICT Favourite author: Roald Dahl

Summer 2015 plans: visiting family in Dublin

Favourite thing about Holy Rosary PS: doing classwork & I like everyone who works here



Name: Mr Burns

Hobbies: Reading and football – more watching than playing these days!

Favourite subject(s) at school: English, History & Geography

Favourite music: 1970s disco

Favourite author: *childrens'* – JRR Tolkien, *adults'* – CJ Sansom (he writes historical novels)

Summer 2015 plans: Spend lots of time with my family and maybe enjoy a beer!

Favourite thing about Holy Rosary PS: The children - they are well-mannered & great fun



Interviews completed by Damien



Scan this QR code on any device and it will take you to our new school website. The address is [www.holyrosarypsbelfast.com](http://www.holyrosarypsbelfast.com) and should be accessible on all types of mobile technology.

There you will find regular updates on school news, details of class events and copies of our termly newsletters. Please encourage friends and family to have a look too!

If you want to find out more about school life don't forget to follow us on **twitter: @holyrosaryps** Plus we have regular information updates and reminders in the **Parish Bulletin**. You should also look out for us in the local media: we have an article in the July edition of **The Southside Advertiser**. We often contribute photos to **The South Belfast News** too. As well as this there's currently an article on the **CCMS** website about our **UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award**.

