

Welcome to the eighth edition of our newsletter for this school year. Summer has officially landed and the weather seems to have arrived on cue also. I hope you all had an enjoyable long weekend, and we are looking forward to all the fun that the summer time brings; school tours, athletics days, rounders leagues, outdoor learning, sports days, and much more. And while we only had two weeks of April in school post Easter, we managed as always to fit a lot in. Hopefully, you can enjoy the sunshine and read along to catch up on what we got up to.



The most coveted silverware in town – Rugby Mania!

The question on a lot of people's lips the first week back was, 'How did you get the rugby cups to school?' Well as the saying goes, 'it is all about who you know, or in our case one of our 6th class pupils, Fionn!' His uncle, Rory Wilson, works in the IRFU and kindly offered to bring the most coveted silverware in Ireland into our school. Not only did Rory bring it into school, but he afforded us the whole day which allowed each class their very own session with Rory and the trophies. As Rory told us all about his role in logistics in the IRFU, Ms. Walsh decided this is the next job she would like to apply for!! The children got the golden opportunity to be photographed individually with each trophy and hopefully you have all received the photos from your teachers at this stage. What a historic opportunity for the children and a lovely memento to have. Often it is these days in school that are remembered in times gone by. We hope all of the children enjoyed it as much as we did! Many thanks to Rory Wilson and the IRFU for giving us this wonderful opportunity!

Eason's Spelling Bee

On April 19th, John Kenny headed off to represent Piercestown N.S. in the Eason's Spelling Bee county final. This year saw Scoil Mhuire in Coolcotts hosting the county final. Accompanied by a small number of friends, John headed off and represented us proudly, making it to the fourth round! Well done John and well done to all the children in 5th and 6th class who participated in our in-school Spelling Bee to make this competition possible!

Green Team update!

Congratulations are in order to Mrs Ryan and the Green Committee and justifiably so!!! After all their Trojan efforts in recent months, they were deservedly awarded the next Green Flag. On May 10th, Mrs Ryan and two pupils are invited to attend a ceremony where they will be presented with the flag to take home to our school. As the numbers are limited, a decision has been made for 6th class children to attend. So Cora and Teegan will not only fly the flag but collect the flag along with Mrs Ryan on this day. We look forward to welcoming them back and raising our next Green Flag before the end of the day.

Big Birthday Shout Outs - May!

We would like to wish the following children a big happy birthday: Ben, Savannah and Richard from Senior infants; Archie and Zoe from 1st class; Jack and Niamh from 2nd class; Fionn from 3rd class; Jack and Jane from 5th class; Tommy from 6th class; Toddy and Lauryn from Ms. Sinnott's class. We hope you all enjoy your special day!!!



*"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday dear Ben, Savannah, Richard, Archie, Zoe,
Jack, Niamh, Fionn, Jack, Jane, Tommy, Toddy and Lauryn.
Happy birthday to you."*

Student Council input by Olivia Ponzi and Estelle Gooden

Hello everyone, we are your student council 6th class members, Estelle and Olivia. The past month was packed with fun. Our amazing Green Committee got us a new green flag, our rounders team (boys and girls) started their matches off with a home run! Their next match day is next Monday, 8th May. Our coin collection challenge is flying it! Massive

shout out to Lorraine from Sunny Days for donating a box of coins!! We are almost there – keep going everyone. This Friday, 6th class will be glammed up for their Confirmation. Thanks for taking the time to read this! Bye for now!

Coin collection

Our coin collection over halfway there in time and capacity, with the bottle well over the halfway mark now. As the old saying goes, 'Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.' Our Student Council has been proactive in updating the children last Friday and motivating them as we make our way through the last four days of our coin collection. Special thanks to Lorraine from Sunny Days Afterschool who gave a massive donation of coins bringing us up over the halfway mark. It took the entire Students Council at least 15 minutes to insert all of the coins, such was the sizeable collection. This collection will go towards kitting our school out with our very own set of jerseys that can be used for rounders, Mini 7's, athletics, Credit Union Table quiz, Chess tournaments and so much more. Many thanks to all who have contributed to our 'Coin Collection' challenge. Let's try to fill that bottle over the last few days. The collection ends this Friday. Many thanks to the Parents' Association for working in collaboration with our Students' Council on this fundraiser!!

Art Exhibition

With just 1 week to go for the art exhibition, the countdown is truly on!! After a long wait, the children are so excited to show off their art work again. For boys and girls in Junior infants to 2nd class, this will be their first ever art exhibition. This year we have the added bonus of displaying the success of our 'BLAST' programme completed by 4th, 5th and 6th classes and the official launch of our 'We are Writers' book. Many of the entries for the book cover competition will also be on display. Many thanks to Mrs Corrigan who co-ordinates this much loved event and to the Parents' Association who spoil us with refreshments. A special shout out to the staff for all the work they do in facilitating the children to complete such works of art throughout the school year. And a final shout out goes to the boys and girls, without whom this event would not take place! So come along, Thursday 11th May at 7pm to our Annual Art Exhibition. Special guest, local artist Helen Gaynor will be on site to officially open our event. We also look forward to the return of our BLAST facilitator, Colum Kavanagh. Check out Ms. Sinnott's creative video making on the blog as she works to promote this event!

Family Fun Day – date for your diary: Sunday 18th June

Following on from the success of last year's 'Family Fun Day' Fundraiser, the Piercestown Parents' Association are working hard behind the scenes to recreate this event and add some more fun factors to it. The Students' Council are adding the children's voice to the preparations also and the parents' association appreciate this work behind the scenes. So pop the date in your diary, Sunday 18th June, a day not to be missed. It will take place in St. Martin's pitch and we will have more information to follow soon!!

Athletics Heats

As per Ms Hearne's previous correspondence, we are delighted that after a hiatus of three years due to covid, the traditional and much loved Co. Wexford Primary School Athletics Day is back in 2023. The return of this event, which will take place day in Enniscorthy hub on June 17th, has the children all excited! On this day competitors from schools all over the county come together to compete in sprint races, long distance running, relays and long jump competitions. Due to the large number of schools attending, only a very limited number of people from different age groups are allowed to represent our school on the day. In order to give every child an opportunity we hold in-school races and long jump competitions in school to pick those who will go on to represent our school at this event. Having been rained off once, we held our 'heats/qualifiers' on Tuesday in glorious summer sunshine. Watch this space on the blog and in the May newsletter for the list of qualifiers who will head off to compete on behalf of our school on June 17th.

Cricket Crack!!

Each term brings with it something new and the summer term in the last few years has seen the arrival of cricket at Piercestown NS. Herbie and his team put classes from 3rd to 6th class through their paces in the world of cricket for a block of four weeks. We will then hold a local derby, with Murrintown to add to the fun factor. Cricket has now become

a firm favourite among our pupils, and we will be delighted to welcome Herbie and the team back during our Active Week 2023!

Swimming Success

Congratulations once again to Daniel Jordan, who continues to put us on the swimming map. Daniel returned after Easter having come second in his community games competition over Easter for backstroke and received a lovely big silver medal. He also won 3 gold medals last month at a local gala in Enniscorthy. Well done Daniel! We are delighted to see Piercestown N.S. being represented in many fields across the sporting world, all due to the hard work and commitment of our pupils!

Rackard League - Update

The Rackard league began to intensify over the month of April for our boys. During the Easter break they practised throughout and even gave up one of their mornings to come to the pitch to train to make sure that we were ready for the run in of the competition. Firstly, we travelled to Blackwater to play Blackwater in a practice game. Both teams had made the Rackard league final eight so it was a way for us to see and try out a couple of new things and players before the heat of knockouts. On a beautiful sunny day in Blackwater, we ran out the victors 3-12 to 2-4 with all the boys getting time to show their hard work and skills. Our next step on our Rackard league journey was against Barntown in the quarter final in the Martin's pitch. In our best performance to date, the boys raced into an insurmountable lead at half time. This lead allowed us to switch up the team and again give valuable minutes to all the players on our panel. In the end we ran out 9-10 to 3-5 winners. The hard work the boys had put in off the field had really started to show. A Semi-Final date versus old rivals Gorey in the semi-final took place yesterday in Blackwater. In a nail-biting game, that went to extra time, Piercestown emerged on the winning side, securing a coveted place in the Rackard league final. We will confirm the time and date in the coming days, but at the minute, Wexford Park is the venue with a provisional date of Friday 12th May. Well done to Mr Murphy, Pat and the boys who are still flying the flag for Piercestown!

The Rising stars also made it to the semi-final of their competition after a tremendous and high scoring game versus Mayglass. In a tough game against Mayglass' first team our boys played tremendously only to lose by 2 points meaning on score difference from other games we made the semi finals. This Friday we take on Gorey Gaelscoil in Blackwater with a chance to make the rising stars final against a team who defeated us in the same competition a couple of years ago. Having emerged from their group undefeated and as group winners, the girls got together over the Easter break to train in the hope of continuing their Rackard league journey. The dream was to go one better than in the football and bring back the coveted trophy. They were drawn against Cushinstown in their quarter final. The girls from Piercestown got off to a flying start and had all the pressure but failed to make this count on the scoreboard. At halftime, despite dominating in possession, they found themselves trailing by the minimum 1 goal to 2 points. The girls fought back in the second half and were leading by a point with 5 mins remaining. Cushinstown then had a goalmouth scramble and they somehow managed to force the ball over a crowded goal-line and with minutes remaining, were leading 2-3 to 1-4. The girls from Piercestown and Murrinstown showed so much heart and continued to create chances but luck was not to be on their side on this day, with more close wides and the ball hitting the butt of the post right at the end of the match with all the defenders and the goalie beaten. Even though the final whistle was met with huge disappointment as it drew their Rackard league adventure to a close for this year for the girls, we have to commend every single one of them for their commitment and effort out on the pitch. They showed on the day that they are a team of great skill and also such determination, even when things weren't going their way they kept fighting and believing all the way to the final whistle. Hard luck to the girls on exiting the competition by such a close margin. To the 6th class girls, we have really enjoyed the Rackard league journey that you have brought us on over the last two years and we look forward to following your sporting exploits as you exit our doors in June.

Hurling/Camogie Lunchtime League

4th, 5th and 6th class are looking forward to commencing their hurling lunchtime league this month under the watchful eye of club GPO, Seamus Casey. In this competition we encourage all to participate, from beginners to the seasoned hurlers. This year, for the very first time, this competition will see us present the George O' Connor trophy

to the winners. Many thanks to the St. Martins Club for sponsoring this trophy. We are looking forward to finding the new 'George or Sarah O'Connor' out there on the school playing fields over the next few weeks!!

School calendar 2023 2024

You will receive a copy of the school calendar for the next school year by email shortly. We are currently awaiting the dates for the Sacraments for the next school year. We will text with these dates as soon as they become available and update our school calendar at our earliest convenience.

Primary Curriculum Framework

Training began last Friday for the whole staff of Piercestown N.S. on the reconfiguration of the primary school curriculum. It has been 24 years since the last curriculum was launched and changes in society and the workplace will be reflected in the new Primary Curriculum framework as we make the transition in the coming years. Staff were very positive about the proposed changes moving forward and agreed that many of the changes/configurations are grounded in reality while also reflecting a lot of the good work that we as staff continue to do over the years.

Rounders Returns

We were delighted to bring rounders back to Piercestown National School this year after a two-year break due to Covid. Both the girls' and the boys' teams are now in full swing in the league and have a number of wins under their belts. The debut matches of 2023 saw Piercestown take home two wins against Kennedy Park N.S. The Piercestown boys were nervous but excited to get their rounders venture underway. With a flip of a coin, the boys were first up to field. Showing a great display of accuracy, it didn't take them long to settle into their roles. Next up to bat, the boys had gained confidence and composure and came away with the win. The girls were equal in their confidence and composure securing a win also. Last week both teams took on strong Murrinctown teams. The boys were successful in adding another win to the scoresheet, while the girls, despite a close score, were narrowly defeated. Both teams look forward to matches against the Mercy National School next week, scheduled for Monday 8th May. Best of luck to both teams as they continue on their journey!

Educational Tours – 1st class rescheduled and ready to go!

Having hit the ground with educational excursions before Easter, 1st class had their trip to the Raven postponed due to bad weather. The very wet March and early April did not help circumstances on this front. To avoid disappointment, a change of venue has been made and 1st class will follow in the footsteps of Senior infants and 2nd class, and head to Forth Mountain this Friday for their trip! Wellies at the ready and let the fun begin. The remainder of the year, will see the traditional 'fun school tours' being unveiled in the next week or so. Many thanks to Siobhán who has had the very difficult task of securing transport for these trips!

Class of the Month winner for Feb/March ...and the winners were....

With two short months, February and March were amalgamated together for 'Class of the Month'. There was great excitement at the first assembly back post Easter that declared Junior infants the worthy winners of the 'Class of the Month' title! They were the joyful recipients of a pizza party, homework pass and certificates. We will also combine April and May for the next award. At present, many classes are tied neck and neck so watch this space! An update will be given at assembly to all classes on their progress to date!

65 Rose Day - 17th April

17th April might have been the first day back, but Junior infants and Mrs Larkin's class hit the ground running (walking) with their 65000 steps challenge to raise awareness for '65 Roses and Cystic Fibrosis' day. With special guests, leading the way, Mrs Larkin's class were ably supported by the whole school and accumulated well over the 65000 steps on the first day back. Many thanks to all classes who took part and to Mrs Larkin, Trish and Junior infants who taught us all about 'Cystic Fibrosis'. Check out the school website for photos of this special event. <https://piercestownns.com/>

Confirmation Class 2023

With just one more sleep to go, final preparations are underway for the upcoming Confirmation ceremony due to take place this Friday 5th May. The ceremony will take place at 11am and school remains open on this day. Many thanks to Ms Hearne for her Trojan efforts in preparing the class. And after 'once upon a time,' not being allowed to sing, Ms

Sinnott and the choir from 3rd - 6th class are raising the roof in rehearsals, and we are revelling in their talents! The families are asked to be in the church by 10.45am on the day. Our amazing Piercestown Parents' Association will be in the PE hall afterwards to host the much-loved reception. Best of luck to 6th class and Ms Hearne, Lena and Trish and we hope they enjoy this very special day in their primary school experience. Many thanks to Fr Aodhan for all he does in liaising with the school to ensure this day is a wonderful occasion.

Primary School Books Grant

Following on from last month's announcement on the primary books grant, all parents will receive an email shortly with further information.

Departures and arrivals

It was with great sadness that fifth class bid a fond farewell to their classmate Alise before the Easter break. We wished her and her family all the best as they returned home. Although her time with us was relatively short, she made some dear friends during her stay and we hope that she will look back on her time in Piercestown N.S. with fondness.

A Word from the Principal

Summer has arrived and with it comes an energy and excitement from the children like no other. The summer term is always one filled with great fun, celebration and of course continued teaching and learning. It is also a hectic term for staff as they try to complete curriculum, incorporate the summer fun and engage in communication with all parents in the completion of their reflective end of year school reports. Our Parents' Association come to the fore in this term each year as they work hard to celebrate the sacraments, graduation and continued work on fundraising for the school. I would like to thank them for all their work, that is completed in a voluntary capacity. We would not be the school that we are without your efforts and the efforts and hard work of past Piercestown Parents' Associations over the years.

'Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly'

Dates for your diaries so far this year:

- GAA continues on Mondays for 4 weeks until Mon 8th May, then reverts to Tuesdays
- Cricket for 3rd - 6th classes for 4 weeks – finishes on Tues 9th May
- Swimming continues on Fridays for 3rd class (no swimming May 5th, 12th)
- Confirmation Fri May 5th at 11am – school is open on this day
- Annual Art Exhibition May 11th 7pm
- **School closed for Primary Language training** Fri 12th May
- Holy Communion Sat 27th May 2023 at 11am
- Prader Willi Syndrome awareness day May 26th
- School will close for midterm June 5th - 9th inclusive