



The Shountrade Scéal

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025

Welcome to the March edition of 'The Shountrade Scéal'. What an incredible month it has been in Shountrade N.S! We had some important occasions this month such as Confirmation, our STEAM fair, Peace Proms, the school Open Night and Saint Patrick's Day. We also celebrated World Book Day at the beginning of March. It was amazing to see everyone dressed up and bringing the characters they love reading about to life.

As mentioned, a highlight this month was undoubtedly the STEAM Fair in which all classes got a chance to see the work that was completed by their fellow pupils. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day in the hall. Seachtain na Gaeilge also took place during March this year. It was fantastic to hear the boys and girls using Gaeilge throughout the week! With our GAA/soccer competitions a particular highlight. Finally, early March saw one of the highlights of the school year as Shountrade NS participated in the Peace Proms concert. The boys and girls from third to sixth class represented the school with incredible pride as they were part of an incredible performance in the University of Limerick. A special thank you to Mrs. Spillane for all her work in preparing the boys and girls for the big day!

Junior & Senior Infants

What a busy and active month March has been in junior and senior infants. The children have been learning all about fairy tales and have been putting on puppet shows in the puppet theatre daily. They have also been building their own puppet sets in construction and recreating their favourite fairy tales in our small world area. Each child even constructed their own puppet theatre using paper plates and lollipop sticks. Our writing focus has been on narrative writing and the children are learning how to use their five senses to develop a setting, and to use descriptive language to develop interesting characters.

The children thoroughly enjoyed 'Seachtain na Gaeilge'. They made a great effort to speak 'cúpla focail' throughout the day. We also learned some new Irish words and phrases when playing our junior soccer tournament for Seachtain na Gaeilge. Our 'Lá Glas' was a wonderful end to Seachtain na Gaeilge. The children learned all about the story of Saint Patrick and made wonderful leprechaun masks for Saint Patrick's Day.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the Science Fair. Junior Infants investigated and learned about what plants need to grow by growing and observing cress. They also learned to name the parts of a plant by investigating and labelling daffodils. They each took turns at the fair presenting their investigations, and explaining all that they had learned, to their peers. It was a wonderful confidence-building experience for all of the children.



Reminder

Fun Puc 3rd to 6th Class every Wednesday 8.45. School hurling/camogie training Wednesday after school.



First Class

What an action packed month March has been in First Class. Bhí sport agus spraoi againn le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge. The children did amazing work on learning the lyrics of Amhrán na bhFiann and will be able to sing along when watching matches. There was great excitement for our soccer league and the fifth and sixth class children were wonderful at coaching, managing teams and refereeing the games. Go raibh maith agat Mr. O'Connell.

Having explored the narrative genre, we have been writing our own narrative stories and children are working on developing typing skills in order to publish our work. We have been learning about spring and we sang the song 'Here Comes the Sun' by the Beatles. World Book Day was great fun and we enjoyed hearing about characters from books and seeing all the amazing costumes. In maths we have been exploring weight and money. The STEAM fair was a great success and first class presented their boats really well. It was a very educational process from researching, designing and building our boats. Well done first class on a great month.

2nd Class

In second class, March has proven to be an action-packed month brimming with exciting events. From celebrating World Book Day to embracing Seachtain na Gaeilge and showcasing our STEAM talents, time seemed to zoom by! The children did an incredible job throughout Seachtain na Gaeilge, speaking Irish to each other, to the teachers and on yard.

We had plenty of laughs acting out the poem of 'Na Leipreacháin agus An Haka'. Our STEAM challenge was a highlight, as we delved into the realm of innovation by designing balloon powered cars. The creative spirit was alive as we witnessed our creations zooming across the school hall.

In Art, we explored fabric and fibre, learning the skill of weaving and creating beautiful pieces. As the month draws to a close, we are eagerly preparing for a very special milestone—receiving our Sacrament of Reconciliation next Thursday.



3rd Class

March has been an incredibly busy and exciting month for Third Class, and we are delighted to share all that we've accomplished! We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in a fun and engaging way. The class made *pancóga* to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. We used Irish vocabulary throughout the cooking process such as siúcra, plúr, ubh, bainne agus go leor eile! It was a great hands-on way to learn the language and enjoy some delicious food together! Our football series to celebrate our national sport was another exciting event. The students had a fantastic time playing, and Cill Na Fionáí emerged as the champions. The games were full of energy, teamwork, and school spirit!

Additionally, our STEAM fair was a huge success. The students took on the challenge of bridge-making in engineering, and despite the trials and tribulations, they worked hard and showed incredible creativity. Their efforts were recognized during our Open Night, where they proudly displayed their projects.

We also celebrated World Book Day, where students dressed up as their favourite book characters, showing their love for literature. Speaking of books, we finished reading *Holes*, which was arguably one of the best books we've ever read! While we're sad to finish it, we can't wait to start a new adventure with our next novel.

4th Class

Fourth class were lucky to have past pupil of Shountrade National School, Ms. Mulcaire, teaching us during the month of March. We had great fun as Ms. Mulcaire planned many engaging and fun lessons. We spent time learning all about Japan, procedural writing and identifying 3D shapes. Our highlights with Ms. Mulcaire include completing a maths trail around the school grounds and we especially loved painting incredible cherry blossoms. Using beautiful shades of pink and delicate brush strokes, we created stunning artwork inspired by the famous trees of Japan. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Mulcaire for her time in our classroom!

Fourth Class loved the responsibility of representing our school during the Open Night! We were so proud to showcase the amazing ways we use technology to support our learning. We showcased Accelerated Reader, Spelling for me, 99 maths and many other websites that we love using. It was exciting to share our experiences with visitors and show how we can use the Chromebooks to further support our learning.



5th & 6th Class

March has been an extremely busy month in fifth and sixth class. The highlight of which there were many, has to be how wonderful it was for our pupils to receive their Confirmation. A very proud moment for pupils, parents, grandparents and sponsors. Thanks to all who contributed to a wonderful ceremony. Thanks also to Mrs. Spillane, Mr. Anglim and the choir for the beautiful singing.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge iontach again freisin. Ba fhada uainn an lá gur thosaigh an Comórtas Peile sa pháirc.

Bhaineamar lán sult as na cluichí trí Ghailge agus chanamar Amhrán na bhFiann fad a bhí an dhá fhoireann ag máirseáil timpeall na páirce roimh an cluiche ceanais. Chomh maith le seo bhaineamar lán taitneamh as an céili sa halla. Míle buíochas le Aidín a thug cabhair iontach dúinn an lá sin.

Another highlight was the STEAM fair in the halla. Fifth and sixth class completed extensive study on wind turbines: their history, how they work, their advantages and disadvantages, green energy, their cost, their lifespan etc.. We even constructed our own models. Our pupils presented their models and findings to all other pupils throughout the day. Fifth and sixth class then presented these findings to all of our new parents on the Open Night. Thanks to Ms. Walsh for organising the process.

We had three teams representing the school at the FAI 5-a-side soccer tournaments this month. The boys and girls in 6th class put in several terrific performances and represented the school magnificently. Meanwhile hurling coaching continues every Friday along with the dance strand.