

GOVERNORS ' REPORT



St. Eithne's Primary School

2009/2010



“Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future”.

This Annual General Report is a summary of provision and events of the previous year at St. Eithne's. More detailed information regarding monthly events can be found in our monthly newsheets and on the website.

<http://www.steithnes.net>

Dear Parents,

This is the twelfth Annual Parents' Report of St. Eithne's Primary School.

The purpose of the report is to give parents the chance to find out what the Governors, the Principal and the other external agencies have been doing during the past year to ensure that the pupils attending St. Eithne's Primary School receive a good education.

The Board of Governors invite comments or any questions parents/guardians of attending pupils might wish to raise on areas of the report.

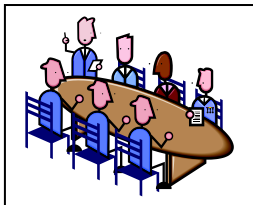
We welcome suggestions in writing that may help us in our continuous development planning to ultimately deliver the best of educations for our children. If you wish to raise individual matters relating to either pupils or members of staff, the usual opportunities to contact the teacher or principal remain.

We would like to congratulate the staff of St. Eithne's after one of the most successful years of the school academically and in sporting spheres. It is fitting as the school completes its tenth year that the school community should be thriving and setting standards which indicate the excellent work that goes on in the school in partnership with parents and the rest of the community.

I hope that you find this report informative and we take this opportunity to thank all our parents, staff and pupils for commitment and dedication which has made 2007/2008 such a successful year for St. Eithne's.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr S. Sands (Chairman, Board of Governors).



The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. It is composed of nominees of trustees, the Western Education and Library Board and the Department of Education, a parent elected by the parents and a teacher elected by the teachers. The members hold office for four years.

The following members held office last year (2009/2010).

Nominated By The Trustees

Rev. Fr. P. O Kane (Vice Chairman)
Mr P. Mc Daid
Mrs A. Coyle
Mrs P. Ferris

Nominated By The Western Education & Library Board

Mr C. Mc Menamin
Mr D. Taylor

Nominated By The Department Of Education

Mr. S. Sands (Chairman)

Parents' Representative

Mrs M. Ogilvie

Teachers' Representative

Mr V. Feeney

Secretary

Mr G. Cosgrove (Principal)

The Governors as a group work together in partnership with the Principal and the staff to ensure the provision of good education for our children. They have particular responsibilities in relation to the curriculum, the financial management of the school, the appointment of staff, admissions to the school, discipline, building and maintenance, the parents' AGM report and community links.

Governors attend regular meetings of the Governing Body at least once per term and any extra meetings or committee meetings that might be called.

The Chairman may be contacted at St. Eithne's Primary School and Mr G. Cosgrove (Secretary to Board of Governors) may also be contacted at the school address.

The School

About Us

Today's Children Tomorrow's Future

We love our music and we provide an amazing number of clubs. We are determined that all our children are given the opportunity to achieve their potential whilst in our care. The atmosphere in and around St. Eithne's is one of sport, music, educational achievement and extra-curricular clubs. Parents are welcome participants in the school. Many are volunteers, helpers and valued members of our community. We host a number of events which in the main enable our pupils to show their parents what they can do. These are Christmas Nativities, Rickety Wheel Bazaar, the Primary 7 Annual School Show and parents are welcome to our special sports days. Our 40 strong school orchestra puts on an amazing Summer Concert in June and we take our Primary 6 and 7 children to Gartan Outdoor Activity Centre in July for surfing, sailing and kayaking. As well as all this and much more, we provide excellent teaching and learning experiences and activities throughout the school for all our children.

The teachers of St. Eithne's Primary School have been employed by the CCMS. The number of staff will depend upon the number of pupils attending. In 2009/10 our staff and pupil population consisted of the following:-

Staffing	
Teaching Staff	22
School Secretary	1
Classroom Assistants	11
School Caretaker	1
Supervisory Assistants	7
<i>Further professional educational provision is detailed on page14 (Visitors).</i>	

Pupils.		
Year	Girls	Boys
1	22	31
2	37	36
3	29	24
4	34	34
5	22	33
6	40	42
7	28	40
	212	240

Attendance:- The average attendance figure for 2009/10 was **93.4%**

School Meals: **37.56%** of children received free meals.

School Year 2009/2010

The term began for pupils on Tuesday 1st September. Our new Primary 1 pupils were began on a phased basis to acclimatize them to their new environment. They came to school for the first half of the day during the month of September and began their full day in October.

We took the usual school vacations and church holidays.

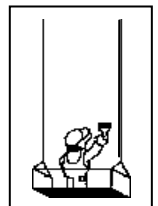
The Christmas holidays were from Wednesday 23rd December until Wednesday 6th January (Incl.).

Our Easter Holidays were from Thursday 1st April until Friday 9th April (incl.)

The last term day of the year was the Wednesday 30th June.

Premises.

Our annual painting program continues each year. This year we painted the back wall of the hall, the gents toilets and the corridor from the admin block to the canteen. A section of plaster in Resource Area 5 was repaired and painted. A new urinal was installed in the Primary 1 area. Finally the Foundation Stage Outdoor Play Area was completed.



SCHOOL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As a result of the N. Ireland Education Reform Order the Western Education & Library Board has to delegate a significant proportion of its budget to the Governing Bodies of schools in its area. This involves applying a formula based mainly on the number and age of the pupils.

In the financial year 2009/10 we were allocated a budget share of **£1,329,602**. This budget was managed in accordance with the directions of the Board of Governors as set out below.



THE BUDGET



INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance b/f from 2008-2009	£83229	Teaching Staff	£1,024,923
		Auxiliary & Ancillary Staff	£159624
Formula Allocation 2009-2010	£1,329,602	Fuel Oil	£16,718
		Electricity	£12,484
SEN Code of Practice	£2,850	Water	£8800
		Toilet Requisites	£2,807
		Window Cleaning	£770
Other Funding Corrections	-£18	Wheelie Bin Charge	£1218
		Maintenance of Buildings	£4629
Extended Schools Total	£30,130	Maintenance of Grounds	£6053
Revised Curriculum	£2,880	Furniture & Fittings	£575
		Maintenance of Furniture & Fittings	0
		Equip Books & Materials	£39123
		Equipment	£1917
		Protective Clothing	£645
		Food	£5,553
		Hire of Equipment	£1979
Other Funding (Primary Schools)		Licence Fees	£312
Youth Service Transfer	£2,361	Hire of Facilities	£1391
Letting of Facilities & Sales		Hire of Security Services	286
Music Fees	£1,120	Professional Fees	£1316
Other Income	£300	Maintenance of Equipment	374
Deficit C/F to 2007-2008	0	Contractual Cleaning	£38,497
		Instrumental Tuition (Music)	0
		Class Swimming Program	£160
		Hire of Transport	£8560
		Advertising	£406
		Printing & Stationery	£1030
		Photocopying	£2,850
		Postage	£425
		Telephones	£1,170
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,344,189
TOTAL	£1,451,239	Savings C/F to 2007-2008	£107,050
		TOTAL	£1,451,239

SCHOOL FUND 01/09/09 – 31/08/10



Below is a summary of the school fund. Fund Raising is an important part of the school's activities. It has helped to subsidise trips and to equip our clubs. Raising money for charities is a worthwhile activity not only because we are helping the needy but it does give our children a better understanding of the world today and the need for compassion.

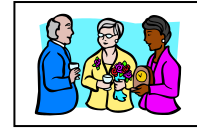
The Chairman, Board of Governors, the Principal and the Staff would like to thank the Parents for the wonderful support that they have given the school over this past year. The partnership, which is developing between the school and parents, is invaluable to us and can only bring success to our many endeavours.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance in Bank Statement	£1318.46		
Fruit	£3390.80	Fruit Part paid by Ext. Schools (£646.00)	£5955.64
Ties	£174.00	Ties paid	£334.20
Instruments	£270.00	Instruments	£529.00
Recorders	£256.00	Recorders	£282.35
Sports day	£392.50	Sports day purchased	£573.37
Music Fee & music exams	£1716.50	Music Fee & exams	£2448.50
DVDs of shows etc	£677.00	Repairs furnish & fittings	£105.94
Halloween Fancy Dress	£293.00	Halloween Prizes purchased	£264.32
Received from County Photo's	£858.00	IT items purchased + photographs copyright	£420.40
Gartan Residential Trip	£3490.00	Gartan Residential Trip Ext. Schools (£4000)	£3776.09
Book Fair	£1601.23	Book fair	£1601.23
Milk	£4767.65	Milk paid to welb	£4767.85
Haiti Appeal	£1600.00	Paid to Haiti Appeal	£1600.00
		Blind assoc	£40.00
Swimming / Goggles/caps Galas & clubs	£466.50	Paid to Swimming gala	£82.50
		Stationary	£48.53
Book bags	£116.00	laundry	£104.00
Test Papers	£180.00	Prizes attendance & gifts flowers	£1053.29
Rickety Wheel	£4737.07	Prizes purchased	£1632.92
Football Athletics clubs etc	£293.50	Hire of pitch netball football items purchased athletics	£214.00
			£217.90
School Trips Educational	£758.00	School Trips Educational	£1149.00
School Trips Summer	£2100.00	School Trips Summer	£1918.08
Christmas and Easter fun trips	£1900.00	Fun trips	£1066.00
Show, shop, programmes tickets etc	£2449.53	School Show items purchased costumes etc	£828.54
Concern	£108.00	Underwear	£11.50
Donations non uniform day	£217.00	Tom Sweeney & Parky	£400.00
Holy books y4	£67.00	Bins +cleaning items for toys first aid	£114.30
Photographs	£2167.00	County photos	£2100.00
Use of premises	£240.00	Transport Public to library	£56.31
		Games for clubs	£59.53
		Various Meeting refreshments Confirmaton etc.	£490.89
		Bank fees	£111.73
Totals	£36604.74	Total Expenditure	£34357.91
		Balance	£2246.83



COMMUNITY LINKS



At St. Eithne's we encourage our children to respect all the people with whom they come in contact. We teach them how to play, work and co-operate with others so that they can develop appropriate social and emotional skills needed for today's society.

Parents' Support Organisation.(09/10)

Our Parents' Support Organisation does so much to support us. This group of parents and teachers has worked diligently to raise funds for the children. Thanks to Annette, Michelle, Orla, Bronagh, Katrina, Michelle, Mandy, Jennifer, Margaret, Donna, Eilish, Catherine & Deirdre. Thanks also to teachers Leona, Janet & Diane.

The organisation meets on a regular basis to organise fund-raising events and in most cases help to organise for these events. They have helped with the Ricketty Wheel, the School Show and Sports Day, which have become major events in the school community calendar.

If you wish to be a member of this organisation please contact Mrs Mc Gonagle, Cathy Brady or our Parent Governor (Mrs Margaret Ogilvie).

Volunteers

We very much appreciate the voluntary work carried out by some of our friends and colleagues. A special mention must go to:

Mr S. Breslin & Mrs J. Foy who help Tracey with the Athletics. Mr P. Mc Laughlin who enriches our children's experiences by reading stories to them.;

To Mrs M. Mc Callion & Mrs Ann Doherty who coached our children in the swimming club and those parents who helped in the dressing rooms;

To Thomas Hale helping to coach the Primary 6/7 boys in the soccer club and for helping Miss Morrison coach the Girls' Only Football Club.

Coaching Programmes

The Sports Council provided 6 week sessions of Gaelic football coaching for all of our Primary 2 and 5 classes. Thanks to Shauna for the P.5 Gaelic sessions and Colm for the fundamental movement in P.1.

For term 1 Ryan Deehan gave Primary 2 pupils coaching in street games.

Thanks to Patricia for providing soccer skills to our Primary 4's.

Mr Sean Davis provides a coaching programme in soccer for our Primary 4 & 5 children after school on a Thursday. Mrs Kelly coaches a huge number of children for athletics. These have been funded by the "Extended Schools' Project".

Time To Read Project (Link with the Business Community)

Some of our P.5 pupils were involved in the "Time to Read Project". We twinned with Airporter (Jennifer & Maria), HML (Mary & Una) "First Trust Bank (Helena)". The children visited some of the companies for a very enjoyable tour.

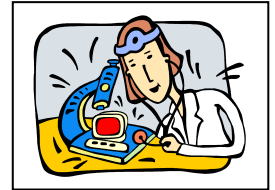
Airporter Sponsorship

A special thanks is due to Airporter for helping us out with a variety of different projects. The company staff and managers Jennifer & Niall Mc Keever were deeply involved in adding to our nature area providing vegetable planting areas for the children with the help of Conservation Volunteers. The company also provided our new Athletics kit for around 50 children.

Links with Other Schools & Colleges.

The school assisted local secondary schools with work experience placements. We also provided training opportunities for students from the North West Institute. These were students from NVQ, BTEC, HND and Diploma in Childcare courses helping them to gain a suitable qualification as Classroom Assistants.

Students from St. Cecilia's and St. Mary's, St. Columb's, Lumen Christi, Thornhill Colleges and St. Joseph's Boys School came to the school for work experience in our first term.



All of our year seven children were given the opportunity to visit their secondary school in June to get a flavour of the coming year in their new school.

This year some of our Year 7 pupils who were transferring to Thornhill, St. Mary's and St. Cecilia's Colleges attending special open day competitions and received prizes. A group of children went to St. Cecilia's to participate in an athletic Games day organised by the girls of St. Cecilia's.

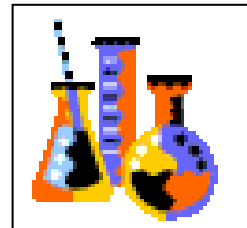


We assisted the Universities and Colleges of Education with the training of students wishing to become teachers. Three students from St. Mary's Training College were on teaching practice in Primary 1, 5 and 7. For shorter periods we had students who were given experience towards a PGCE qualification. Our pupils, teachers and students benefit immensely from this experience and we have a duty to share our expertise with younger people with a vocation for education.

Specialist Schools' Partnerships.

Once again St. Eithne's were involved with St. Cecilia's, St. Mary's College's and Lumen Christi for different projects for the specialists schools. Our Primary 5 and 7 children were involved in a science programmes. They went to a science resource centre and pursued a number of scientific investigations.

A group of our year 6 and 7 children were able to attend an athletics day in St. Cecilia's. They joined with others in a fun athletics competition day.



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS.

During the school year a number of trips and projects were organised in order to enhance an already strong curriculum delivery. Teachers are encouraged to take their classes on educational visits to places of interest. Every class in the school had at least one educational visit.

Paired Reading and Paired Numeracy Projects.

As usual we conducted these two projects, which take place every year. They help to reinforce reading with interest at home and a fun interest in Maths. Mrs Doherty, Ms Mc Laughlin and all the P.3 teachers set up a paired reading project with our Primary 3 children and Mrs Mc Cusker and the P.4 teachers ran a Paired Numeracy Project with the P.4 pupils. Thanks to all the parents who volunteer their help for both the Reading and Numeracy project Accelerated Reading Programme.



Our Primary

Puffin Book Sale. This year Mrs Doherty conducted a Puffin book club which not only gave the children a chance to choose books and improve their interest in reading but also increased our stock of books for the school library.





Term Educational Trips.

Every year we send our children on educational trips. All children went on such trips. These experiences are great ways of motivating the children and the educational value is always immense.

Term1:

P.6 The Cairn (Greencastle)

P.4 pupils visited to Ulster American Folk Park

Mr Kerr's Y5 class participated in a special Gaelic tournament in Brooke Park

Y2 children went to The Playtrial in Belmont.

P4 Year Group- Halloween Traditions Customs/ Halloween long ago (Ulster American Folk Park)

P7 St. Mary'e College for Robotics Programme

All P. 5 & 6 classes "Special EMU project with Limavady Central"

Miss Murphy's P.1 Class went to The Rotary club party

Term 2:

All P. 5, 6 & 7 classes continued to follow the "Special EMU project with Limavady Central"

P. 1, 2 & 3 children visit to the Creggan Country Park

P3- visit around local area- shops etc.

P7- Bee Safe Programme

Mrs Mc Clean's P.6 Class went to release baby trout into a Foyle tributary

Term 3

P.6 "Roe Valley Country Park".

All Year groups enjoyed an end of year fun trip in June.

Education for Mutual Understanding.

This year we were able to re-invigorate our EMU project. All our P.5 & 6 class groups twinned with classes in Limavady Central P.S. to work on a major EMU project. The children went to the Nerve Centre and visited Limavady Central. The pupils from Limavady Central also came to us. It was a great experience for all pupils involved. Throughout the school, teachers deliver lessons on the new area of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding which incorporates the building of self-esteem and respect for others. Primary 6 pupils attend a special course run by the organisation "YES" to advise them on how to respect the community, their neighbourhood and how stay safe as the grow up in society today. The YES group run this in the Shantallow Youth Centre and children are given advice by the emergency services which include the ambulance, Fire and Police Services.

Pastoral Care & Pupil Promotion.

Each year as part of our pastoral policy we conduct a "Pupil Promotion Scheme", which gives all our children a chance to excel in academic and other curriculum areas including sporting activities, sports day, swimming competitions and football matches. Excellent attendance is recognised when pupils from P.1 to 7 receive a certificate at the end of each term thus promoting and encouraging good attendance. At the end of each month and each term pupils are chosen from each year group as P.4 to 7 to receive awards for academic achievements rewarding artistic, poetic and writing skills. One pupil per year group receives an award for general behaviour and helpfulness. At the end of the year prizes are also given to those children who have surpassed all expectations.

Extra Curricular Activities (2009/2010)

Our clubs are always a very strong feature of our ethos and this year was extra special. The Extended schools' Project helped us to set up a number of new clubs and strengthen already existing activities.



We try to include, as many Primary 4 to 7 children in our extra-curricular clubs as possible. All the teachers organise and manage a club because they realise how beneficial this is to the growth, development and behaviour of our children. The following list demonstrates the great dedication of teachers, parents and volunteers to our school community.

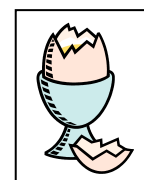
Netball Club (Miss Coyle)	Breakfast Club (Mrs C. Kelly)
Swimming Club (Mr G. Cosgrove, Mrs Mc Gonagle, Mrs M. Mc Callion & Mr M. Cosgrove). Parent Volunteers: Mrs A. Coyle & Mrs L. Kelly	Computer Club (Mr Meehan) Computer Club (Miss Murphy) Sewing / Knitting Club (Mrs McGuigan)
P.4/5 Football (Sean Davis & Mr Kerr)	Homework Club (Tracey, Linda, Catherine & Laura)
P.6/7 Football (Mr Feeney & Thomas)	Homework Club (P4 to 7)
Reading Games Club (Mrs Miller)	Athletics Club (Mrs Kelly) Volunteers: Mr Breslin & Mrs Foy)
ECO Club (Mrs Mc Clean)	Youth Club Games (Mrs Logue & Miss Green)
Maths Club (Mrs Mc Guigan / Mrs Flanagan)	Credit Union Savings Club (Mr Cosgrove)
French Club (Muriel D'Oria)	Choir: Ms Mc Laughlin/Mr Gormley
Orchestra, Trumpets & Violins: Mr Gormley	Flutes: Ms Coyle & Violins: Mrs Devlin
Cycling Club (Mrs Coyle)	School Council (Mr Gormley)

The Board of Governors wish to thank all the teachers for their work with the children in school clubs. The benefit to children cannot be accurately assessed but we are sure that the benefits are immense. It should also be mentioned that some parents have very graciously given up free time to help with some of our clubs. A special thanks to them also.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES.

The Breakfast Club.

The Breakfast Club starts every day at 8 a.m. and the children play games like draughts, chess and snakes & ladders. They can also get part of their breakfast free. Mrs. C. Kelly gives each child a ticket worth 30 pence. On the menu are pancakes and scones. Most of the children pop in for a cup of tea, a slice of toast and a game of Hangman.



Thanks also to Linda, Rosaleen & Jackie in the kitchen for such an early start to the day. This club is much appreciated by the children and parents who find it difficult

Homework Clubs

The homework clubs were quite successful last year giving children a chance to homework in a more structured environment. The homework club took place everyday except Friday.

Summer School

As well as the St. Eithne's residential summer trip to Gartan there was a great series of Summer Schools organised by the Cluster Schools (St. Eithne's, Rosemount, Model & Holy Family Primary Schools). Children were invited to different location for these summer school activities in August and buses were laid on. The idea was to give the neediest children something practical, educational and physical to do in the month of August a time when nothing much was on. This was set up by the Extended Schools' Cluster but a lot of the funding and organisation was down to the Sports Council and Derry City Council. This was a great success and will be extended next year.



Athletics Club

Our Athletics club has become extremely successful even though it started up last year. More and more children are taking it up and the fitness level of these children is great. The children in the club are coached in a number of exercise techniques and run for a mile at least each week. Mrs Kelly then offers extra day-time training (Lunchtime) so that the children can raise their fitness levels for competition. The Athletics Team were astonishing last year winning competitions and winning the BEST PRIMARY SCHOOL TEAM in the Sports Council Awards Presentation. (SEE ACHIEVEMENTS PAGE)



Swimming Clubs

The Swimming Clubs which already caters for P.4, 5, 6 & 7 children in numbers over 110. A session takes place now in the “Large Pool “William Street on a Monday. These children now learn to swim in a 25 metre pool. The success of the team was reflected in the winning of the Under 11 Boys Trophy at the NWSSA Inter Schools’ Swimming Gala.

Healthy Eating.

At St. Eithne’s we promote of healthy eating and leading a healthy lifestyle. Pupils do not eat chocolate biscuits or crisps at break time. Fruit has been available at break times for a reduced price and subsidised by our “Extended Schools Fund”. Pupils only have to pay a small amount per term for a piece of fruit every day.

Super Clubs (Online Safe Social Network)

Forget Facebook and Utube; they are not for children under the age of 14. Our Primary 5, 6 & 7 children are able to access a safe educational website which is absolutely crammed with great educational games, information and fun ways of learning. This is a government-sponsored link and can be accessed at home. It is moderated by teachers so that no untoward material is seen or passed from one pupil to another.

Summer Scheme

Outdoor Activities for P.6 and 7 Children.

This year the Extended Schools fund was used to subsidise the trip to Gartan for the Primary 6 and 7 children. Pupils only have to pay half the costs of the trip.

The residential stay was great as usual. Pupils went orienteering, kayaking, abseiling and Sailing. Expert qualified leaders conducted each individual course and 4 teachers; Mr Cosgrove, Mrs Mc Gonagle, Mr Meehan & Ms Coyle were on hand to look out for our pupils.



Sailing

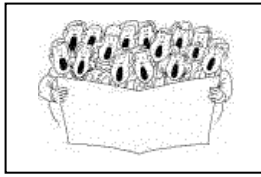
Events

Christmas Presentations.

There were Nativity plays in all Primary 1 classrooms and little Christmas presentations in the hall by P.2 and 3 classes. This Year 4, 5 & even 6 teachers held special nativities in the hall for the first time. Looking back this may have been overkill so new plans are afoot for the 2010/2011. All children in Primary 5 to 7 have their own little carol service in the hall on the last week before the Christmas Holidays.



P1 Nativity



Choir

As usual the children of the School Choir had a busy year. They sang at the Holy Family Church at least once every other month at 11:15 mass and then at Christmas in the Church Carol Service and in the Cosy Club in Hazelbank.

The Choir also performed at the P.7 Mass of Commitment, the First Communion and Confirmation Masses. We would like to thank all those pupils, their parents, Mr. Gormley and Mrs. Porter for their commitment.

Swimming Lessons

As has become traditional and what we feel is an invaluable learning experience our Primary 7 children attended swimming lessons mid-year. For a second year the set of sessions was at cost to the school. The Council in partnership with City of Derry Swimming Club provide an excellent service and the lessons continue. We may in years to come need to ask for some subscription from parents. It is a great skill, which I'm sure all parents would like their children to have.



Aladdin, Jasmine & The Genie on the makeshift Flying Carpet.

The Annual School Show:

The Primary 7 children presented "Aladdin" in February. This event was such great fun for our Primary 7 children, hard work of course but an amazing experience for them. The children gained a wealth of experience on stage and off in preparing for this production. Staff and parents worked brilliantly as a team to produce a wonderful show for the community at large. We had great fun throughout and always find the experience exhilarating and worthwhile.

Year after year the professionalism and slickness of this production gets better and better and is down to the sheer

commitment and dedication of all those involved in its production. Well Done.

The Board of Governors would like to express its thanks and pay tribute to all the staff for the great effort and extra work put in to produce such a brilliant production. Special thanks are due once again to the ladies of the PSO and all the staff who helped on the night.

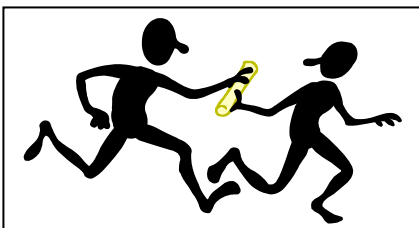
Rickety Wheel.



Once again we held our annual Rickety Wheel Event on the first week in December. This was a very enjoyable evening for the school community and a good fund raising event. We managed to raise £3104.15 altogether, an astonishing amount. Thanks to all those who contributed and helped out in any way.



Niesha wins the Big Teddy.



School Sports Days

A great time was had by all, during the school sports this year.

Once again we had some lovely sunny days for our P.1, 2 & 3 sports.

However, we had one huge shower of rain in the morning at the P.4 to 7 event. Nevertheless, our children and teachers are made of tough stuff and we lasted the day with ice creams provided for all. These were great days

out for our parents, grandparents and other members of the school community.

Inter-Class Swimming Gala

Well done to all those boys and girls in Primary 5, 6 and 7 who took part in the Inter-class Swimming Gala. The races were very exciting and all the competitors had to swim at least 1 length (25m) of the large pool in William Street. The class, which won the overall trophy, was Mrs Mc Cusker's P.7 class.



Book Fair

Stephen Ball's Book Fair came to the school in February. We sold £1606.98 worth of books and we received 70% of this amount in new books.

First Communion Day

Our primary four pupils made their First Communion at noon on the 31st May in Holy Family Church. The children making their first communion were able to save in the Credit Union Club to help meet the cost of First communion day.



Confirmation

Bishop Hegarty performed the confirmation ceremony on Sat. 26th April at 11 a.m. at the Holy Family Church. Once again we are indebted to Fr P. O Kane and also to Bishop Hegarty who performed a separate ceremony for the school. This made it all the more special for the children and their families on this very important occasion in their religious calendar.



School Photographer

The School Photographer (County Photographs) visited the school to take individual photos, class photos, family groups and a staff group in February. They also took photos of the First Communion & Confirmation classes being present at the Confirmations to take individual photos. On offer for all these children was a dual photo mount with individual and class photograph.

Parky, Tom Sweeney & Karen Torley

This year Tom Sweeney got the children singing and swinging in the hall at Halloween, Parky the Magician came to the school to give all our pupils a Christmas treat. Karen Torley gave a special puppet show to a couple of P1 and 2 classes.



Sports Council Awards' Ceremony

This year Mr Cosgrove, Mrs Tracey Kelly and members of the school athletics team were invited to attend the "Sports Council Awards' Ceremony" in the Guildhall. The team had been doing extremely well at both local and national level. Imagine our surprise when we were called to the stage to be awarded the "BEST PRIMARY SCHOOL TEAM AWARD". (See achievements page)



Visitors to the School:



It is part of the school policy to invite people of interest to the school and many people have come to St. Eithne's to help us with those extra little areas of education that our pupils need.

Community Safety

Every year we have a series of informative visits by the Firemen, the PSNIU, the Hazelbank community wardens and other members of the community to teach our P.3 & P.5 pupils some awareness of the dangers in the neighbourhood and also to educate them to understand how to be a caring member of our community. This project is organised by Paddy Duddy of the Housing Executive.



The District Inspector.

Mr Jackie Wallace (District Inspector) paid a one day visit to the school. He discussed school planning with the Principal and went to observe two teaching lessons. He left the school and unsurprisingly content with the teaching and learning that goes on in the school.

French.

This year our two French Tutors, Mademoiselle Muriel Doria and Martine Mc Conway took the Primary 5 to 7 children for French once a week throughout the year. Muriel also ran a French Club every Wednesday after school.



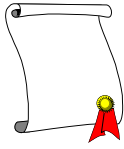
School Nurse

Ms Bernie Mc Crory visited the school to conduct hearing tests and the school nurse gave talks to our P.7 and boys and P.6 girls about puberty which ties in with our RSE policy. This is a very worthwhile video and talk for the boys and girls and it prepares them for adult life. At 11 parents want to be sure that our children are getting a proper understanding of the changes they are going through and this is best done at this young age by a professional. So thanks again to Jackie for helping us out in this way.

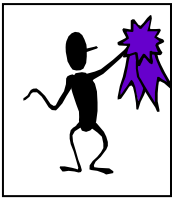
The Professionals.

The School Doctor	Dr. A. Knowles	The School Dentist	Mrs. G. Quinn
The School Nurse	Ms Jackie Wade	The EWO	Mrs G. Moran
Our Peripatetic Music Teachers	Mr G. Moran & Mr. R Goodman	The School Chaplain -	Fr. P. O Kane
The Psychologist.	Mrs J. Finn & Miss U Brolly	Outreach Teachers:	Ms M. Forbes, Ms M. Farrell & Ms C. Jackson
Sensory Support:	Ms A. M. Kerrigan	Speech & Language:	Mrs B. Stevenson
Occupational Therapist:	M. Kearney	Physiotherapists:	Ms M. Mc Ternan & Ms P. Hillick
School Counsellor	Mrs B. Mc Cann		

We are indebted to those people who visited us or were of assistance to us over the last year: Many other people come to the school to provide one essential service or another. The WELB Grounds maintenance men and women cut the grass and maintain the grounds. Contractors are called in regularly to upgrade or mend electrical appliances, to complete the annual painting programme and in emergencies sort out problems that may arise with the building.



Achievements



We encourage all our pupils to realise their own potential academically and physically. They are given the opportunity to compete in competitions within the school and when their talent shines through they may even be chosen to compete in inter-school or even national competitions. Below is a list of some of the successes for the year.

Credit Union Art Competition Winners .



CONGRATULATIONS ALL ARTISTS TOP SCHOOL AGAIN!!!

TOP PRIMARY SCHOOL. (Credit Union Competition)

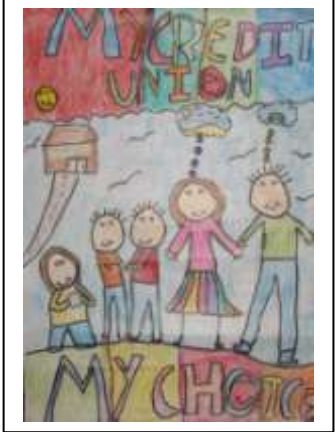
Well done to all the artists who took part in the Credit Union Poster Competition. St. Eithne's was the TOP SCHOOL.

Winners were:
Winners were:

1st in Age Group: Eve Devlin (8-10), 2nd in Age Group: Amy Doherty & Niamh Mc Court (8-10) 2nd

- Callum Barr (7 & Under)

4th (8-10): Toni Bradley & Ryan Doherty



The children were presented with their prizes on Saturday 5th Dec. at 3:00 in the Credit Union in Abbey Street. Eve's picture went all the way to the All Ireland Finals and received a special merit.

The school also received a first prize of £150. This went straight into the school fund where it can be used once again to purchase practical equipment for clubs etc. and anything from which our pupils can benefit.

Boys & Girls Football Team Winners of The Derry Soccer Championships.



Back: Ciaranie, Eoin, Diolain, Ciaran, David, Daniel, Alex, Rhys & Carter.
Front: Ryan, Steven, Rachel, Scott, Caolan, Ryan D. & Emmett.

Well done to both our soccer teams. The Tchool Team reached the semi-final of the Northern Ireland Schools' Cup. The Boys won the IFA's 7-A-Side Derry Competition enabling them to go through to the IFA Finals in Cookstown. The girls' Team was runners up and they aslo went to the Finals in Cookstown



Back: Lauren, Aoife, Sabrina, Demi, Mollie, & Mairead.
Front: Aoife, Shauna, Kayleigh, Rachel & Caoimhe

The semi-final of the Northern Ireland cup took place in The Cookstown arena against Hardy Memorial Primary School. It was a hard fought match and only a last minute goal by hardy forced extra time. Maybe next Year St. Eithne's.

Athletics Team Win Top Places.

Well done to The Boys and Girls of the Athletics and Cross Country Teams.



Ciaranie, David, Conaire, Ryan, Eoin, Steven, Paul, Daniel & Caoimhin.

Well done to the Athletics/Cross country Team. The St. Eithne's team made a huge impact on the Cross Country scene this year with the boys winning the Foyle Cup and coming 2nd in Northern Ireland.



Ryan Doran, Shauna Harkin & Eoin Mc Clafferty who were chosen to represent Northern Ireland as part of the NI Cross Country Squad.



Sports' Council Best Team in Derry Award.

The whole school team were awarded The Best Primary School Team by the Derry & District Sports Council, receiving the award in the Guildhall during a sparkling award Ceremony on Wednesday 20th January. Pictured are a representative group of the whole team with Mrs Tracey Kelly, their coach.

Success in the North West Schools' Swimming Gala.

Congratulations to all those boys and girls who took part in the North West Schools Swimming Gala. There was a massive haul of medals at the event with all the Teams winning places.

Well done to the Boys Under 11 Team won their section and brought home the first swimming Trophy in a number of years.



Winning Swim Team.

Back: Caolan, Ciaranie, Harry, Nathan & Dean.
Front: Paul & Keith



Mrs Mc Cusker's P.7 Swim Team.

The school runs its own Inter-class gala every June. This is a great fun event. All primary 5, 6 & 7 pupils come to watch the chosen swimmers from their classes competed to win medals and ultimately see who wins the coveted Class Swimming Trophy. This year Mrs McCusker's class were just too strong for all other competitors and they took home the trophy.

Music Grades.

The school provides a number of musical instrument tuition lessons for children from P.4 to 7. This is separate from the WELB music provision. At the end of each year some of the children agree to put themselves forward for a specialised qualification examination resulting in a Grade 1, 2 or 3. Well done to all the children who achieved grades for their instrument playing this year. A special thanks to Mr. Gormley & Mrs Devlin for helping them to achieve this success.

Congratulations to all the initial Violin Grade Pupils: Primary 4 children: --Orlaith Mc Gough, Annabel Brown, Una Grieve, Aine Doherty, Oisin Mc Keever & Chloe Mc Intyre.

Grade 1 - Trumpets: Eoin Tuffy (P.5) & Mark Mc Cusker (P.5).

Grade 1 - Violin: Dearbhla Brady (P.5).

Aoife Mc Daid – Grade 2 Violin (November)

Primary Seven Pupils ICT Certificates

Well done to all our Primary Seven boys and girls. They have all been awarded ICT Accreditation Certificates by the CCEA after a course on Computers over this last year.



Primary Seven Swimming Badges

Well done also our Primary Sevens. They completed a 15 week swimming course and received badges from Level 1 to 3 proving their proficiency.



CYCLING PROFICIENCY

Last year Mrs Coyle & Mrs Flanagan set up a special cycling club. A group of children in the club were tested and passed their Cycling Proficiency Tests.

Well done to Dearbhla Brady, Eimear Maguire, Rignach Pemberton & Charlie Browne.
Well Done Girls!



Back: Lauren, Harry, Amy, Keynan, Zara, Caitlin.
Front: Rachel, Eve, Faye, Kayleigh & Brian

Airporter Art Competition

The Airporter Company conducted a Calendar art competition throughout the school last year. 12 lucky winners had their pictures represented on the Airporter Calendar. They all received wonderful prizes and were given a special bus trip treat to the airport for a day out. The children who participated in the “Time to Read” project also went on the trip.



The Curriculum

“Today’s Children, Tomorrow’s



Aims for pupils

At St. Eithne’s we encourage our pupils to achieve their full potential by enabling them to:

Personal Attributes

- develop into confident children with high self esteem respecting others and their environment;
- become socially adept working collaboratively and respecting others;
- personally develop high standards of self discipline and commitment to their Catholic tradition;

Standards Progress

- achieve their own highest standards possible in all areas of the curriculum and develop skills of information communication preparing them for an advanced technological adult life

Qualities as Learners

- become highly motivated, independent learners properly equipped for the modern world
- develop lively, inquiring minds, acquiring skills of life-long learners.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide an ideal environment for our pupils’ learning by:

Ethos, Welfare Opportunities

- creating a safe, caring, sympathetic and understanding atmosphere and stimulating learning environment;
- encouraging them to value the school community in an atmosphere of openness, honesty and trust;
- bringing each child closer to God in a supportive Catholic community
- promoting confidence and self esteem through a rich programme of extra-curricular activities and educational visits;

Leadership Management Efficiency

- creating an open supportive, collaborative school environment in which all members of the community can contribute and progress.
- using rich, varied and up-to-date strategies designed to ensure that all pupils experience challenge and success
- providing appropriate resources that are managed effectively to facilitate learning;
- establishing close partnerships between school, home and the community for the development of our children

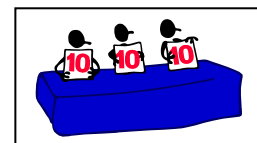
Teaching Curriculum

- offering a broad balanced challenging curriculum to enable children to realise their maximum potential;
- providing wide ranging opportunities for pupils to investigate, research and make their own connections as self-learners.

- working to provide the greatest possible academic, social, spiritual and physical benefits for our pupils;

Assessment Results.

Last year teachers conducted an assessment of pupils who were in their final year of Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2. Once again this was a good year for us we continue to perform above the NI levels.



Levels achieved in Year 4 at St. Eithne's			
English			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
5.97%	41.79 %	52.24 %	
Mathematics			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
2.99 %	41.79 %	55.22 %	
Levels achieved throughout Northern Ireland			
English			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
5.77 %	52.62 %	41.22 %	
Mathematics			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
5.06 %	47.28 %	47.24 %	



Levels achieved in Year 7 at St. Eithne's				
English				
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
5.88 %	22.06 %	30.88 %	41.18 %	
Mathematics				
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
2.94 %	17.65 %	36.76 %	42.65 %	

Levels achieved throughout Northern Ireland				
English				
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
2.80 %	16.24 %	49.95 %	30.55 %	
Mathematics				
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
2.48 %	15.60 %	40.17 %	41.29 %	

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION

At St. Eithne's we have a very complete and successful Special Educational Needs Programme in place. Catering for special needs is the responsibility of class teachers aided and advised by the Special Needs Co-ordinator and assisted by special needs classroom assistants.

During the year 2009 / 2010 Mrs Mc Gonagle was the full time SENCO responsible for special needs support. Mrs Mc Gonagle has received an extensive and intensive training programme to help her fulfil this very demanding role and is still from time to time attending refresher courses which cover many of the different aspects old and new which are needed to help the school complete its support for children with any kind of special need.

She is an experienced teacher is now fully trained a SENCO. She is also a senior member of staff and she provides training for staff. The class teachers themselves played a major role in advising and aiding the SENCO for special needs provision.

Children with special needs are identified as early as possible and individual programmes are set in place as soon as the need arises.

Mrs Mc Gonagle provided in-class support for specific children and on a regular basis withdrew individuals and groups in accordance with the children's needs. She also liaises with external groups like the Educational Psychologist, Outreach and WELB special needs officers to gain the best possible provision for those children with special educational needs.

This year we increased the provision of Special Needs teaching. This year Miss Morrison worked alongside Mrs Mc Gonagle offering special needs support.

2009/2010 Priorities.

As with every year, we set targets to develop the teaching and learning in the school. Last year our main priorities were:

- Adjust Planning with according to the Revised Curriculum (*PDMU, WAU, TS&PC, Play & AFL*).
- Numeracy: Develop the teaching & Learning of Measures in class.
- Literacy: Continue to develop Reading & Phonics in line with the Revised Curriculum.
- Literacy: Pilot the Accelerated Reading programme in Primary 5 classes
- Develop ICT more fully creating a comprehensive Term Framework.
- Review the Teaching & learning Policy in line with the revised curriculum. T & L Policy)

Teachers also developed further their skills in the use of the Interactive Whiteboard which have become a major tool for teachers and pupils in all classes at St. Eithne's
The children all benefitted from a strong focus on these particular areas and other areas.

In 2010/11 we are completing a three year development plan which has seen a massive improvement in the teaching and learning strategies of writing & reading. Reading lessons have become much more pupil friendly. New methods such as shared Reading, guided reading and accelerated reading have placed an emphasis on encouraging children to read and enjoy it.

We hope to continue these great strategies and move now to review our mathematics teaching & learning strategies.

A new three year plan is to be put in place so we shall be sending out further surveys and questionnaires.

Parents' views are important and your contribution will help us shape the teaching & learning environment at St. Eithne's for the future.

Visit our website for up-to-date information policies and a real insight to what goes on here at our school.
www.steithnes.net