

### **KINDNESS COUNTS!**

Today, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November is World Kindness Day. Why not plan to do something at home as well as at school to celebrate this wonderful day. Check out [www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org) [www.onepercentdifference.ie](http://www.onepercentdifference.ie)  
[www.poweringkindness.ie](http://www.poweringkindness.ie) [www.momentsofkindness.com](http://www.momentsofkindness.com) and  
[www.sproutonline.com/kindnesscounts](http://www.sproutonline.com/kindnesscounts)

As part of this movement which will continue throughout the year, we now have a Charity Chain. and Bóthar is our next charity which we plan to support. How? Just send in your 1cent, 2cent and 5 cent coins. They will be collected each week and sent to Mrs. Doyle who will co-ordinate the project. And remember... Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns.



If we can do nothing else, let's spare a thought for all the people in the Phillipines who have been so badly affected by Typhoon Haiyan. We hope and pray that the help that is so badly needed will soon reach everybody – particularly those who are in faraway parts of the Phillipines.

### **BAG DROP FUNDRAISER IN ST. ATTRACTA'S SCHOOLS**

When??? This Wednesday evening and tomorrow (Thursday) morning  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 7.00 – 9.00p.m.  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November from 8.15 – 9.15p.m.

#### **Acceptable items:**

- All clean clothes (Ladies, Gents & Children)
- Paired Shoes, boots or runners
- Curtains & net curtains
- Handbags and belts
- Towels
- Clean bed linen (except duvets and pillows)



All bags to be dropped into the Curriculum Room of the Senior School. For ease of delivery, school gates will be open on Wednesday night ONLY! Míle buíochas!

### **PARENT /TEACHER MEETINGS:**



This year's Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place next week from Monday to Thursday. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to meet about your child's progress and behaviour.

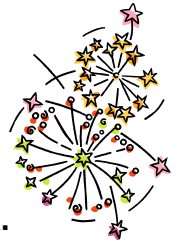
These meetings take place outside of school hours. As you will appreciate, we cannot arrange meetings during school hours as to meet parents at this time would compromise the teacher's contact time with your child and with the rest of the class. Please know that throughout the year, if you have concerns about any aspect of your child's time in school, you're always welcome to come and talk to us. We can only sort out what we know about and the teacher who works with your child is always the first port of call.

During Parent Teacher meeting week, we will distribute a Questionnaire to all parents seeking your views on some current issues. We'd welcome your feedback!



## COME AND SEE OUR BOOK WEEK DISPLAYS

Book Week was a great success and there was a wonderful show of talent during the week. All parents are invited to view some of the Book Week displays in the halla when they come in to the Parent Teacher meetings next week. Don't miss it as the display will be taken down the following week.



## STRANGER DANGER

As the evenings grow darker once again we ask parents to tell your children to be careful when going home. We ask the children to follow this advice:

- Leave promptly after school ends
- Don't walk home alone, if possible
- Follow a route approved by you
- When crossing the Broadford Road, cross with the lollipop lady

and at all times

- Avoid talking to strangers
- Avoid approaching cars or vans they don't recognize or speaking to people they don't know.



It is very important that in unforeseen circumstances, children should know exactly what procedures to follow. Make sure your child knows exactly where to go after school and where to meet you if being collected. In the event of extra-curricular activities etc. being cancelled, children are encouraged to use the school phone to contact parents. We ask all parents to equip their children with the necessary skills to deal with situations where they don't feel safe or where they feel uncomfortable. We also work on this in school on a regular basis.

## CAKE SALE

Our first Cake Sale of the school year took place in October and it brought in over €1,900. Thanks a million to all the parents who helped and the children who baked. Without their help and that of the crepe-making team of Great Attracta Bakers, the Raffle prizes, courtesy of Kieran Barry & Anne Kilcline and the Slush Puppy machine, courtesy of Cahills, Centra, it simply would not have been the success that it was! Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.



## LITERACY IS ALIVE IN ST. ATTRACTA'S



Our Literacy project was a great success and I'm sure your children are keeping you up to date with what's going on in the classroom. Our focus was the various genres – the different types of writing children do. We have seen great progress over the six weeks of the project and we hope to continue working on the different genres throughout the year. Please encourage your children to write freely at home too. Just make sure they have access to pen and paper and you'll be surprised how much they will do. Samples of best writing will be displayed on our Wonderwall and on our school website.



The greatest gift we can give our children is the gift of reading. The habit of reading bedtime stories to your children is a valued one and remember that even into sixth class, some children love that ten minutes quality time with mum or dad. Boys and girls - why not ask your aunts and uncles, grannies and grandads for a good book for Christmas and in this way a whole wonderland of ideas and stories will transport you to a different world – away from reality and into another world beyond our wildest expectations.

## THE THREE TENORS CONCERT



We have been invited to join with The Three Tenors in a concert in St. John's Church in Ballinteer at 8.00p.m. on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Over 70 pupils have volunteered and boys and girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class are involved. They will sing *Singing in the Rain* on their own and they will join in with the chorus of *Heal the World* with The Three Tenors. The concert will consist of popular as well as religious songs and apart from their own songs, the children will enjoy the performance by The Three Tenors. The concert will also be broadcast live via the web. We look forward to a fabulous evening of choral singing! All are welcome and tickets are available direct from the school (€22 each) or from Wise Owl (€25). (The children themselves get in free of course!)

## GREEN SCHOOL'S NOTICE!



We are currently working towards our 6th Green Flag and this time the theme is Biodiversity. The children will be busy looking at the seasonal changes in our local environment. We are so fortunate to be surrounded on all sides by mature trees, interesting hedgerows with lots of mini-beasts to study. The Green Schools Committee will also remind their classes to continue with our other flag themes, i.e. keep recycling, turn off taps and lights when not in use in order to conserve energy, walk or cycle to school when at all possible. 2014 will see us working on a habitat map of the school environment. We may be looking for some architectural and artistic skills from parents, so if you have the time and expertise to spare, please let us know! Thanks to Evelyn Doyle for leading the Green Schools' Campaign.

## SO WHAT ELSE IS ON?

- Before the mid-term our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils were invited to attend a fabulous show - **'The Little Shop of Horrors'** - in Ballinteer Community School and we were blown away by the talent and professionalism of all involved, especially some of our past pupils. Congratulations to all the BCS pupils and teachers!
- Ms. Carey's Ms. McKernan's, Mrs. Clifford's and Mr. Maguire's classes attended a performance of **Hallowe'en Thrills and Graveyard Chills** before the mid-term. It was a great day and an amazing musical performance!
- Ms. Rafter's class will visit **Notre Dame** today for a **Science Study** visit hosted by the teachers and pupils.
- Ms. McDonagh's, Ms. Ryan's and Ms. McGuinness' classes soon will visit the **Anne Frank Exhibition, the Dáil and the National History Museum.**
- Some of our 6<sup>th</sup> class children were invited to attend a performance of **Beauty and the Beast** in Wesley College last Monday and they loved it. Congratulations to all involved in the Wesley production! A fabulous evening full of talent!

## PART B of BOOK LIST



Thanks very much to those of you who have sent in part B of the Book List. We remind those of you who postponed payment that this is now due and can be paid in full in the office or in instalments if you prefer. This money goes directly towards paying for the day to day expenses for your own child (art and craft materials, sports equipment, book pool textbooks, curriculum resources and computer software and hardware). We also wish to thank those who have so far responded so positively to the Board of Management's recent appeal.

## **INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ALTAR SERVER?**

It is hoped to recruit some new altar servers for St. Attracta's Oratory. Applicants need to have received their First Holy Communion and should be in 3<sup>rd</sup> class or higher. All that is required is commitment and a willingness to serve at one weekend Mass. If your child is interested in becoming an altar server and if you are happy to support them in this endeavour, remind them to collect a form from the office.



## **THE OWLS PROGRAMME**



The children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class are very lucky to have started the "OWLS" nature programme.. Andrew from OWLS has already come in to each class to give the children a slide show about the animals and creatures to be seen in our local environment. He does wonderful work with the children and he will be working with us on our 6<sup>th</sup> Green Flag – the Biodiversity flag – as the year goes by.

This Friday he is bringing in a real live hedgehog to show the children, before the hedgehog hibernates for the Winter. Each of the three classes will start nature projects in the New Year, under the direction of Andrew and their class teachers.

## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Christmas Carol Service – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 8.00p.m.  
Celebrate Christmas and all that it means by being with us on the night.

## **A MESSAGE FROM ST. ATTRACTA'S ORATORY**

A talk by Fr. Brian Grogan, S.J. entitled THE LIFE TO COME will take place in St. Attracta's Oratory on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30p.m. All are welcome!



## **WELL DONE TO TWO OF OUR PAST PUPILS!**

Congratulations to one of our past pupils - **Kevin Fletcher** – who is now in 5<sup>th</sup> Year in Coláiste Eanna, who was invited to participate in the Junior Science Olympiad in DCU during the mid-term break. Kevin finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Olympiad and was awarded a Gold Medal. More importantly, Kevin will now represent Ireland in the International Olympiad which takes place next month in India. This is a fantastic achievement for him and his family and we wish him the best of luck in the coming weeks as he prepares for the final.

Well done also to another of our past pupils - **Kevin Harnett** of Beech Drive - on being selected from 480 nominees as 'Engineer of the Year' at the Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards last week. Kevin is a former pupil of St. Attracta's schools and the Ballinteer Community School. He holds a Master's Degree in engineering and works for Open Hydro, an Irish company developing Tidal Energy. Thanks to Sister Loretto for keeping us up to date with this news.



Kind regards and thanks for all your help!  
Le gach dea ghuí,

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Muireann Máirtín, Príomh Oide