



St. Michael's Times

December 2022



Pantomime

We could not go to the theatre, so the theatre came to us! This year once again, we streamed the Helix Panto "Hansel and Gretel" at the school on Wednesday, 14th December and Thursday, 15th December.

The children had the opportunity to join Hansel and Gretel as they journeyed through the magical pantosphere of intrigue and adventure. The children enjoyed the fun of a live show in the comfort of their classrooms and in the company of friends.



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to sixth class pupil Wiktor Burek who has been crowned St Michael's Spelling bee. Wiktor will represent our school at the county finals.



A huge thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Shoebox Appeal. This annual campaign delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. The kindness and generosity of the pupils and staff of St. Michael's will ensure that many of these children will receive a gift this Christmas and the joy that this brings is incredible. Thank you Ms. Feeney for organising this appeal.

Fundraising

Sincere thanks to all who supported our fundraising activities this term:

- Our annual Scholastic Book Fair took place from November 8th—11th and raised a total of €2,200 of which €1,650 was retained as commission for St. Michael's. This money will be used to further expand our library resources. Thanks to Ms. Jackie Cullen who manages our library and organised this very successful event. 
- This year we participated in the Christmas cards for schools project. It gave students the opportunity to design their own personalised Christmas cards. We retained €1040 as commission for St. Michael's. Thanks to Ms. Burke who co-ordinated this event. 
Merry Christmas

Cross Country

On Friday, November 25th 2022, 16 boys represented St. Michael's N.S. at the Cumann na mBunscol, An Mhí Cross Country Races. The teams ran in the U11 and U13 categories at Fairyhouse Racecourse. The U11 team consisted of 8 boys running the 800m distance. The U13 race distance was 1200m. Each race was very competitive with approximately 200 pupils in each race. Each pupil received a certificate of participation and enjoyed the day.

U-11: Joseph Hudson, Dzuigas Daugintis, Eoghan Murray, Evan Mc Guinness, Samuel Persson, Johnny Stokes, Ethan Cromwell Cullen and Niall Brogan.



U-13: Jamie Massey, Seb Flood, Oisín Leonard, Jamie Mc Loughlin, Charlie Morgan, Caleb Harnett, Wiktor Burek and Charlie Battersby.

Mini 7's : Pupils from 5th and 6th class represented the school on the hurling 7s team. The boys qualified for the final but were narrowly beaten on the day. The team had some great performances and are looking forward to the Cumann na mBunscoil later in the year.

Thanks to Mr. Dwane , Mr. Joyce and Ms. Gibbons for managing/training our school teams and organising our sporting events.

School choir

Well done to all involved in our Christmas Carol Service which took place in St. Patrick's Church on Monday, December 19th. Our very talented school choir and musicians performed a wide repertoire of Christmas carols, many in two part harmony. Readings and prayers were delivered with great precision and fluency. Thanks to:

- Ms. Gorry, Mr. Kilbride and Ms. Lynch for their hard work and continued commitment to our school choir.
- Past pupils Dean Lynch and Niall Martin who joined our group of musicians on the night.
- Ms. Elaine McLoughlin and Ms Burke for preparing and co-ordinating the readers.
- Fr. Paul for addressing the congregation and giving his blessing.
- Mr Mac Suibhne and Ms Fitzpatrick who organised the collection for Meals on Wheels .

It was a very memorable and proud occasion for St. Michael's and certainly spread a lot of festive cheer! Thanks to all who supported our collection for Meals on Wheels on the night. Our choir also performed for the staff and residents of St. Joseph's Community Nursing Unit on Tuesday, December 20th.

Parents' Association

On behalf of the Parents' Association we would like to wish all of the students, your families and school staff a very Happy Christmas! This year got off to a busy start. We welcomed a new committee at our last AGM and we thank the outgoing committee for all their hard work and dedication. In October we ran a successful bun sale. We thank you for all your contributions. The movie night was a great success. We had lots of excited children full of laughter and joy. We look forward to meeting again in the new year and welcoming new members.

Trip to Croke Park

On Thursday, November 10th, sixth class pupils visited the home of Gaelic games, Croke Park. The boys participated in the Ericsson Skyline Tour which brought them up 17 storeys high onto the roof. The weather was perfect and allowed the boys to get a clear view of the goings-on below them in the city. They also took in the view from the platform that is suspended over the Croke Park pitch itself!!

After the rooftop tour, the boys visited the interactive games zone and we concluded the day with a trip to the Food Court in Liffey Valley. It was a wonderful day, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Santa's Visit

Santa Claus, once again, visited the children in the special classes at St. Michael's on the 20th of December 2022. He arrived in a car as his reindeers were resting up before their long journey on Christmas Eve. He rang his bell loudly and was in fine spirits. It was heartening to know that the children were all on the 'GOOD' list! They received their presents happily and a magical time was had by all!



'Here to There'

A special thank you must go to the 'Here to There' motorcyclists for their continued support and kind donation to the special classes at St. Michael's N.S. The 'Here to There' motorcyclists are like-minded bikers who get together and share fun days and adventures out on their bikes as well as organising events to raise funds for children with additional needs. They have been supporting our autistic children since 2008. Through their generosity we have managed to buy Occupational Therapy equipment, Sensory toys, plant boxes for our sensory area at the front of the school, The ABLLS kit and update and increase our educational tasks to name but a few. We have forged a wonderful friendship with this group and have, prior to the pandemic, enjoyed their coffee visits and conversation. 'Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is the progress. Working together is success!' Go raibh míle maith agat!



The Active School Flag (ASF) is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. The process aims to get more schools, more active, more often. The pupils, staff and parents of St. Michael's National School are committed to making activity and exercise a fun and everyday way of life in our school.

In order to achieve an Active Flag, we must fulfil criteria in four sections: Physical Education, Physical Activity, Partnerships and Active School Week. We are looking forward to organising and participating in lots of different activities during the year such as 'Feel Good Friday', 'Run Around Ireland Challenge' and our annual Active Schools Week. Our Active School slogan is 'St. Michael's school is active and cool!'

Our Active School Committee will be chosen in January. The committee will help us to achieve our Active Flag. They will lead the different initiatives that we will take part in as well as come up with some new and exciting ways for us to stay active in our school.

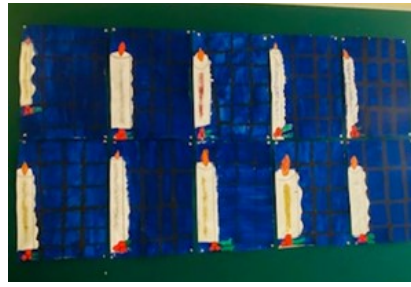
Science Week

St, Michael's celebrated Science Week at the beginning of November. The pupils enjoyed a week full of fun activities and learning. Each class learned about famous scientists and inventors who have changed the world, and explored what each scientist studied, and they completed research projects. Pupils watched online and interactive workshops. Different experiments were carried out in each class. Lots of fun was had by all! At the end of the week, each class participated in a science quiz. Thank you to Ms Feeney for organising this very enjoyable week!

Well done to all pupils who have received Student of the Week awards or have had their work chosen for display on our Good Work Wall this term!



Christmas Art Displays



Santa Dash

As part of our active schools programme, all pupils participated in the Santa Dash on Tuesday, December 20th. Pupils donned their festive clothing. It was an enjoyable experience for all and put us all in the Christmas spirit!

Thanks to Ms. Gibbons for organising this event.



Dates for your Diary



- Catholic Schools Week: January 29th - February 4th , 2023
- Confirmation: Friday, January 27th, 2023 at 11:00am.
- First Penance: Tuesday, February 14th, 2023
- Communion: Saturday, May 20th, 2023 at 12:00pm.
- February Bank Holiday: Monday, February 6th, 2023
- February Mid Term: Thursday, February 16th and Friday, February 17th, 2023

A reminder that St. Michael's closes for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, December 21st at 12:00pm and will re-open on Thursday, January 5th, 2023. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

