



Danu CSS News

January 2024

Message From Principal

A New Year Message from the Principal,

Happy New Year 2024 to everyone in the Danu Community Special School Community. Welcome to our January 2024 edition of the Danu CSS newsletter. Wishing you all health, wealth and happiness in the New Year ahead. I am so proud of all our accomplishments last year- and cannot wait to see what we can do this year!

Please enjoy reading an update from each teacher on what was happening in the class during January. During January, there was quite a lot of illness and Covid 19 for both students and staff. We would like to remind parents that if your child is unwell, the best place for a sick child is at home and to contact the school to let the teacher know. Please do not ask the bus escort to inform us of your child's absence as this is not part of their role.

During the month of February, we will be rolling out the Aladdin Connect app. Aladdin Connect will help us enrich the partnership between home and school and the way we communicate with Parents. Aladdin Connect will allow the school to communicate with you in a timely and effective way, eliminating the need to send text messages or send home notes in the bag or through the post. This will also reduce administration costs for the school. It will help Parents to engage with their child's educational progress. You will have a convenient and secure access to your child's school reports. You can be kept up to date with all the activities going on in the class. Important documents such as school policies, school calendar etc can be shared. From a data protection perspective, Aladdin Connect aids the school's compliance with GDPR as it provides secure sharing of information. We will be sending out details of how you go about setting up your Aladdin Connect App next week.

Also to let you know that Eoghan from Music Generation will provide wonderful music sessions for our Primary classes on Thursdays starting 8th February. Enjoy the Newsletter.

Kindest Regards

Pat

"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do to succeed at." Stephen Hawking.



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Willow Class

Willow Class January Newsletter:

Our Learning outcomes for PLC this Month was Vocabulary, Engagement and Motivation and Choice.

We achieved many of these outcomes through engaging in lessons such as Spin the Wheel, 1:1 joint attention play, group core word and Lámh sign modelling and hands on use.

Spin the Wheel is a class favourite in Willow and the students become fully engaged in both the musical and practical element of the game. This month we incorporated the Stay Safe Programme topic of Touch, the Five senses into this wonderful game, as behind each door there was an item that the students had to smell, touch, look at or taste. It included light up spinning cars, a balloon rocket, texture boards and smell jars.

We introduced our core words of the month across a variety of activities such as songs, play, turn taking games and 1:1 work time. We use a core board and AAC devices to model the core words at any opportunity throughout the day.

This Month the Strand and Strand unit for SPHE was Myself and Others – My Friends and other People. This was a wonderful opportunity to present a friendship story that was all about the students in Willow class. The story showed pictures of the students of Willow sharing, helping and playing with each other. The students loved this story and loved looking at the pictures of themselves engaging in friendship. We then had plenty of opportunities for group play where the students sat around the same table and shared toys with each other.





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Juniper Class

In class Juniper this month, January marked the return to our classroom after all the excitement of the Christmas holidays. We hit refresh on our classroom walls & noticeboards, while we all settled back into our school surroundings again. As we prepared for another month of learning, creating & further building of our teamwork together.

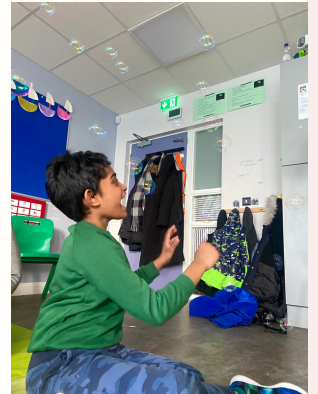
Our fascinating theme for January was based on all things 'Transport' related. This gave us plenty of inspiration & ideas to explore this exciting theme. During our circle group time together, we learnt from listening to the various sounds we can hear daily from motor vehicles on the road & in the sky. This had us hovering with the helicopters, digging with the diggers & keeping up with the busy buses.

We enjoyed listening to the story of; 'The Noisy Wind-up Fire Engine' & had great fun with our sing along stories such as; 'We All Go Travelling By'. We got creative with our Art skills when we made our very own colourful hot air balloons & also some super sail boats, that we displayed proudly on our class walls.

We continued with great progress on our core words & especially focused on; 'Stop, Wait and Go' while getting to learn about traffic lights & road safety. This also gave us an opportunity to further explore the colours of the traffic lights, which we painted & coloured in as a fun activity.

Although it may sound like we were a pack of busy worker bees this month, we also had plenty of time to enjoy our nature walks around the school grounds, lots of sensory fun with bubbles & foam, dancing in the atrium & go-kart chases in the yard.

From all in class Juniper, we'd just like to say a big well done to all the boys on another impressive month of hard-work & laughing through the January blues!





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Apple Class

The Apple Class would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! The boys have been very busy since they came back to school and are thriving back in their routine.

Our first week back, we enjoyed a day out to Parslickstown House. The boys shared some lovely treats while we were there and shared with their friends.

Some of Apple Class have been busy in the kitchen making pasta, hot chocolate and popcorn to share with the rest of their friends in class.

It has been a cold month but that has not stopped us getting out for our daily walks and playing in the yard together.

We are looking forward to all the upcoming festivities this school term will bring!





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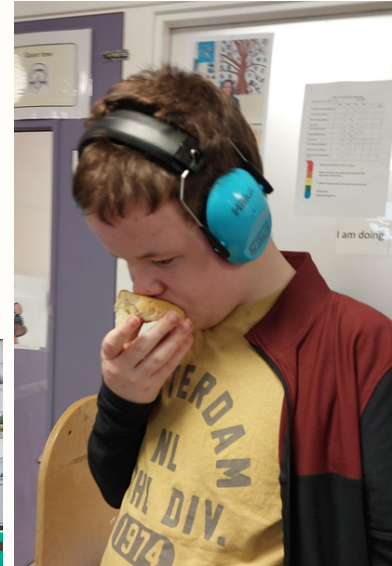
Ash Class

Class Ash had great fun exploring our transport theme in January. We did some great artwork using a variety of materials. Everyone enjoyed ripping and scrunching red, orange and green tissue paper to make a picture of traffic lights. We learned some new songs about cars, trains, bikes and planes and listened to stories about different types of transport. We especially liked “We all go travelling by” by Barefoot Books.

One of our favourite activities in school is our PE and dancing sessions. This month we discovered a new dance called Cha Cha Slide by DJ Raphi. We had great fun practicing the new moves and the award for best dance moves has to go to Malcolm !

Everybody got involved in our baking session. We made a loaf of crusty, white bread. Bogdan and Mihran did a great job pouring and mixing. Alan especially liked kneading the dough. When the bread was baked Jing Qi cut it into slices for sharing and Jamie’s favourite part was smelling and tasting the bread.

I have really enjoyed my first month in Danu, especially getting to know all the fantastic students in Class Ash and I’m looking forward to exploring new learning experiences with the students.





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Hawthorn Class

After Christmas Holidays, January has been a bit busy in Hawthorn Class. This month the theme was Transport and is linked with our short course "80 days around the world".

We've been learning about transport, different types of landmarks in Ireland and also how to locate our frequent places on a map, short course is part of our L1LP. In the learning goals for this month, we are back to swimming lessons as part of P.E curriculum.

In Literacy and Communication we started using Core words such a finish, more, big and small linking with Lamh signs.

As part of life skills our students continue doing some jobs in the class and outside the class, such a making hot chocolate and tea, cleaning and helping in the community.

A new lesson has happed in Hawthorn Class, we learnt how to use a leap card on the Dublin bus and visit the library. This is a new place in the community that we will love to visit.

This is our January news from Hawthorn Class and we are looking forward to what February will bring for us.





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Oak Class

January has been a big month in Class Oak with celebrations, a new student and lots of great work. We celebrated the 16th birthdays of Nizar and Malcolm. Malcolm and Nizar visited all the classes in the school, received cards and gifts from all the students and had a whole school disco to celebrate. It was great fun and everyone enjoyed the celebrations.

We sadly said goodbye to Malcolm who moved to a different class but we were delighted to welcome Yahya to Oak. Yahya has been getting to know his new friends and in this short time it seems like he has always been part of our class.

As we continue to make our way through the L1LP for Junior Cycle, the students have been learning all about transport. We have created some wonderful art, learned to identify vehicles based on their sound and categorised transport into air, land and sea vehicles. Our students have also been busy honing their living skills with various jobs around the school including food delivery, litter picking, leaf cage management, window cleaning and much more.

We look forward to what February might bring us.





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Parents Association (PA)

From parents association we would like to know if any parents have any idea of fundraising ad so you would get in touch with Nichola.

Kind regards,
Parents Association



Upcoming Events

Theme for February 2024 - Theme: Love and friendship

15th February: St Brigid's Day, School Closed

6th February: Safer Internet Day

Every Thursday- Eoghan from Music Generation for Primary Classes

Children's Mental Health Week- Second week of February

11th February – International Day of Women and Girls in Science

17th February- Random Acts of Kindness Day

15th & 16th February – Mid Term Break- School Closed

28th February- BOM Meeting 6pm in Danu CSS

1st March- NEST Performance Day





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Art Work for January

