



Danu CSS News

February 2024

Message From Principal

Welcome to our February 2024 edition of the Danu CSS Newsletter.

The theme for the month of February was Love and Friendship. Each teacher has provided an update on what was going on in the classroom during February in this newsletter, so enjoy. Like all schools nationwide, there continued to be sick students and staff, so we look forward to Spring where both our students and staff will be healthy and well.

Details of Aladdin Connect were sent home to parents. By March 1st Parents will be able go about setting up the Aladdin Connect App by following the directions sent home with their designated passwords. Parents and Teachers will then be able to communicate with each other via the App. Teachers will only be able to communicate with parents before class time and after class time as they will be teaching.

Music Generation continues during March in the Junior classes. Parents of these students will be invited in on 21st March to see how their child engaged with this. We are delighted to inform you that our Patron DDLETB, will fund the Music Generation programme for this term and will continue to do so on a weekly basis due to its remarkable success in Danu CSS.

The Blanchardstown CDNT wish to remind our Parents to contact them regarding any concern or support your child or you need. This dedicated Danu CSS team are there to help and assist you, so please do reach out to Noelle, Suzanne, or John.

On 28th February, I will attend meetings with the DE in Tullamore as the procurement for the New School Building will be held. Once details of who has been appointed to build the new school, we will let you know.

NEST, in Draíocht theatre in Blanchardstown, have been working with one of our students Adam and his family on a performance and show for Adam, Spreacha Soar: Adam. This show has its first performance in Danu CSS on the 1st of March, for Adam, his parents, and the school students. It then transfers to Draíocht for its world premiere public performance on 13th March. We wish Adam, his parents, and Bri his advocate, every success on this performance. Please see details below if you wish to attend. <https://draiocht.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173652476>

Kindest Regards, Pat

“We can easily manage if we take each day the burden appointed to it. But the load will be too heavy for us if we carry yesterday’s burden over again today and then add the burden of the morrow before we are ready to bear it.”

John Newton



Danu CSS News

Willow Class

We had a very busy month of learning in willow class this month. Our learning outcomes for writing were motivation and choice, and writing presentation. The children are continuously learning to make choices related to their own education and when presented with different writing activities, they made some great choices. The students refined their fine motor skills by cutting, gluing, putting in and pulling activities. All of these pre-writing activities are vital in building the fine motor skills needed to hold a pencil and write in the future. One of the students achieved great things this month as he learned to write his Mammys phone number and Daddys name.

The Maths learning outcomes we worked on were shapes and space, and spatial awareness. This looks very different for each student in Willow class as some work on making shapes, some on placing items in different areas and some on building. We had one boy who reached an amazing milestone by building 7 blocks high. We love to celebrate these achievements and the pride the students feel is visible to all.

For SPHE the learning outcome was relationships and our Stay Safe topic was safety. We focused on safe and unsafe people. We learned about the people we know in our lives such as family, teachers and the people we don't know such as strangers passing by and shop keepers. We looked at photos relating to this and sorted pictures into Safe and unsafe people. Some students looked at photos of their families, teacher and stranger while the teacher modelled language such as "Mammy is Safe", Stranger is not safe". Other students sorted people in the community into safe and unsafe people. We also had lots of fun this month decorating and tasting pancakes. Willow class was very proud to win the pancake competition in the school. One student was amazing at tasting all the different foods associated with pancakes.

The students in willow love to play a game called spin the wheel. This game was a way to engage the students with attention autism but in an age and stage appropriate way. The students could play with the item behind the door they chose. However, we were very proud of them this month, as I introduced full Attention Autism into the class. The students were fully engaged with the activity and loved to watch how each item worked. The students happily allowed me to put the items back in the bucket as they watched closely for the next one.





Danu CSS News

Juniper Class

Well it's been another productive month for our Juniper boys, who continued into February with more excitement & motivation to learn. This month we explored & celebrated the theme of 'Love & Friendship' for all the love in the air during February.

We further developed on our classroom bonding & friendships through plenty of lovely circle time together. Where we especially enjoyed songs that helped us cheer for all the family & friends in our life that we have so much love for. I think we may have a new Juniper class anthem with the song 'You've Got A Friend In Me', in particular for one of our boys who shares his excitement of the song with us every day!

For our communication & literacy, we further progressed with matching/recognising our classmates through visuals, name spelling & verbal prompt. We continued our enjoyment of 'ABC' dance songs that had us all up on our feet, pushed on our drawing/letter formation through the fun of 'Mat man' & showed great progress on our 'Days of The Week'.

February also marked the beginning of our junior sessions with Eoghan from the Music Generation programme, for some magical musical therapy. Our boys have been loving the opportunity to dance, sing & test out all of the exciting instruments on offer. We've definitely learned of some possible rock stars in our midst from the impressions they made on the tambourines. Eoghan also took some crowd requests, much to the delight of our 'You've Got A Friend In Me' fans.

We've also been loving our adventurous sensory story time in the afternoon, where we've been enjoying the tales of our class favourite; 'Stick Man', 'Snow Bear' & some lovely stories on kindness, friendship & family. We've gotten creative with our thoughtful Valentine's cards for our families & did some lovely classroom cooking of pancakes for a school bake-off and also caramel rice crispy buns. And with the change in weather, we also enjoyed our outdoor walks & some trips to the local Centra for some well-deserved treats.





Danu CSS News

Apple Class

This month has been very busy for Class Apple! We enjoyed celebrating all the festivities this month brought, Pancake Tuesday, Valentines, and the beginning of Spring!

We celebrated the topic of Love and Friendship this month, learning new core and Lámh words and creating very thoughtful art pieces to send home to our family and friends.

The boys did fantastic art pieces to celebrate Valentines Day, they used fabrics and fibres to design hot air balloons for our display of 'Love is in the Air'. Class Apple further developed their hand eye co-ordination through their cutting, sticking and painting during this month's art activities.

Class Apple celebrated Pancake Tuesday together as we made our own pancakes from scratch which required a lot of patience and great sharing with their friends. The boys enjoyed getting messy with the ingredients but were even happier when they got to decorate their own pancakes.

We have been very fortunate to have Eoin from Music Generation coming into us every Thursday. The boys get an opportunity to explore, experiment and enjoy a variety of instruments. Some really enjoyed the guitar, others liked the tambourines and shakers.

This is a great way for the students to explore different sounds. All the boys have been really enjoying this activity every week!

We look forward to the upcoming festivities March will bring!





Danu CSS News

Ash Class

In Class Ash we really enjoyed engaging with the new activities based on our monthly theme for February - Love and Friendship.

We took part in the “Best Pancake” competition on pancake Tuesday, working together in the life skills room to make our own pancake batter.

We especially enjoyed eating our pancakes after all our hard work. We made Valentine cards for the people we love and had fun at the Valentine’s Day disco.

From the maths curriculum we focused on Shape and Space and the strand unit Spatial awareness. We developed our awareness of the space around us by identifying different locations in our school building using photographs, pictures and symbols. We went on a bus trip to Beech Park and found lots of different shapes in the playground.

We worked on the Junior Cycle PLU, Being part of a community and element 4.11 Visit and participate appropriately in using facilities in their environment when we went to Mc Donalds in Blanchardstown.

It’s been a busy month in Class Ash and I am really impressed with how well the students have engaged in a broad range of learning opportunities. I look forward to more adventures in March !





Danu CSS News

Hawthorn Class

February months in Hawthorn Class bring new learning for our students. This month the theme was Love and Friendship. As working on our PLU in Literacy we work on new core words and “See and Learn” programme. We start also a programme call Edmark reading . We’ve been learning about love and friendship and safe people and unsafe people as part of our stay safe programme. Continuing our short course learning we start visiting new places in our community are such a DTU College and we finished having a breakfast in the canteen. In Maths PLU we work on spatial and space. We have to special events in the school during this month, we celebrate Pancake’s day and all our students make a delicious pancakes and we make a competition with whole school and St. Valentine’s Day some treats and make a card to our loves one at home.

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





Danu CSS News

Oak Class

We have had yet another busy month in Oak learning, having fun and celebrating a birthday. We are learning about love and friendship this month and this theme ran through out the month. We learned the songs, Lean on me, You've got a friend in me, Count on me and I'll be there for you. We hope you liked the cards and art we made for Valentine's Day, we certainly were feeling the love!

We are continuing to learn how to use the exercise bike and to take walks. Keeping fit and getting lots of movement is very important for us all.

As we continue to work our way through the L1LP Junior Cycle we are hard at work every day. Every morning we work hard on our literacy skills. Some of us are working on our pencil grip and some of us are working on our sentence structure. In the late morning we turn our attention to our maths skills and all the boys work very hard on building these skills, from learning to tell the time, following patterns and sequence and matching money. Every afternoon we open our class café where are barista Jared serves the staff and students a choice of hot chocolate or Miwadi.

He is doing a great job and really concentrating on doing a good job. The other boys are working hard on asking for their choice using their language or device.





Danu CSS News

Parents Association (PA)

We still looking if any parents have any ideas of fundraising and if so could you get in touch with Nicola.

Kind regards,
Parents Association



Upcoming Events

Theme for March 2024 - Theme: Easter and St. Patrick

1st March: NEST School Performance

6th March: School closed for students at 12pm for staff training.

6th March: BOM Meeting 6pm in Danu CSS

7th March: World Book Day

Every Thursday: Eoghan from Music Generation for Junior Classes

10th March: Mother's Day

11th March: School closed for students for Teacher Primary Mathematics Training.

13th March: NEST Draiocht Performance

18th March: St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday

22nd March: 12pm School Closed for Easter Holidays

8th April: School Reopens





Community
NATIONAL SCHOOLS

Danu CSS News

Art Work for February

