



Danu CSS News

May 2024

Message From Principal

Welcome to our May 2024 edition of the Newsletter. The theme this month was animals. Each teacher has provided an update on what was going on in the classroom this month, so enjoy. Students and staff are heading out on a class trip during June, so we wish them a safe and fun day out together.

Details of 2024 Home Based Summer Programme have just been released by the DE. These will be circulated to Parents on 5.6.24. Sadly, we have not been able to secure any modular space for our students this summer. Please inform your teacher if you are seeking a home tutor and we will try to assist.

88% of Parents have signed up for the Aladdin Connect App. Thank You. For Parents who have been unable to set this up, contact the office or class teacher and we will assist.

Teachers met with Parents to review IEPS this month, thank you. We look forward to sending out school reports by Monday 17th June 2024. The PA Committee met with our Teacher Elaine during May. Meeting together regularly helps keep good communication, support and transparency for the whole school community. We all look forward to the Family walk organised by Sile for Sunday 9th June at 12pm in the Millennium Park, in Dublin 15.

We would like to thank Cat Scanlon, the Youth & Community Coordinator from Localise. Cat organised a local group of young volunteers to paint a beautiful mural in the Atrium of the school and clean up our Sensory Garden. Much appreciated.

Just a gentle reminder that Parents should continue to reach out to the Blanchardstown CDNT at any time regarding any concern or support for your child. As the weather gets warmer, please send in sun protection cream as your child may be in the playground for learning activities more than usual.

To keep you in the loop, DDLETB and the school leadership team met with the New Building Design Team on Thursday 30th May. At this meeting we were able to put forward our whole school community collective new building requirements and wish list. We will continue to meet with this team regularly as they work towards putting forward our building requirements to the DE.

Kindest Regards, Pat

'The wonderful thing is that, it is so incredibly easy to be kind.' June Curtin



Danu CSS News

Willow Class

This Month for the PLC the elements were sentence structure and grammar, as well as requesting and answering questions. We explored these elements in many ways but the students favourite way was through the story “We’re Going On A Bear Hunt”. This story allowed the students to explore sentences and grammar in a fun and repetitive way. The students took part in the story by placing the characters in the appropriate place, such as the snow storm, the grass and experienced the story using their senses by playing with sensory items associated to the story. This book also meant the students could explore core words such as go, not, uh go and put. The students were able to request a character and also respond to requests from the teacher such as “put the boy on the snowstorm”.

In maths the strand and strand unit was numbers and counting. The students all explored numbers differently.

Some students attended to numbers by listening to number and counting songs, some students matched and traced numbers and some students counted and learned about addition.

SPHE this month was very engaging to the students as we explored the strand Taking care of my body. The students learned about the parts of their body and loved playing games such as Simon says. The dentist also visited the school this month and the students all did really well at allowing her to look inside their mouths.

As the good weather started, we were very happy to have more time outside. The students played alongside each other as they shared water tables. They all had a lot of fun cooling down while playing with the water. We look forward to the month of June and hope that the weather allows for us to continue to enjoy playing outside.





Danu CSS News

Juniper Class

We had another very busy and fun month in Class Juniper- we were delighted that Summer is finally upon us as we all love the outdoors and sunshine 🌞

We have all continued to work so hard and tried our best in all aspects of our school day. We enjoyed story time, sensory stories, turn taking, songs, music, bizzzy break and movement as a group 📖🎵

We explored paint, foam, kinetic sand, cereals, cornflour, water and conditioner in both visual art and sensory play 🎨🕒🍷

Warmer weather allowed us to enjoy our time outdoors in the yard, go karts, sensory garden and basketball court for fun and play 🏀🌞🏃

In cookery, we made chocolate goodies 🍪, popcorn 🍿 and enjoyed sharing these with our friends.

We were very happy to enjoy a fab trip out on the Gardai bus to explore a nearby park and our trip of course included a lovely treat- lunch from McDonald's 🚚🍔🍟delicious 😊

That's all the news from Juniper for now 😊- we look forward to June and more Summer fun and activities





Danu CSS News

Apple Class

The month of May has been a very enjoyable month for Class Apple. We were able to spend a lot more time outside with the gorgeous weather and sunshine. The boys enjoyed going on their daily walks and weekly trips to the shop while seeing the summer flowers blooming. It was a great opportunity for more outdoor play, water play and games out on the basketball court.

Our theme this month was animals. Old MacDonald has become one of the students' favourite songs and has been a great way of labelling animals and identifying them by the sounds they make. This theme has been incorporated into many curricular subjects, through music, drama and art, and numeracy by counting different animal's legs.

The boys have done very well practicing their independent skills while on our weekly trips to the shop, paying for their own treats with their personalised wallets. Class Apple took a trip to the local chipper to get a midweek treat. The boys waited very well for their food to be ready, thanked the lady afterwards and carried the bags of food back to the school.

Class Apple look forward to the final month of the school, full of more fun activities and our end of year school trip to Dublin Zoo.





Danu CSS News

Ash Class

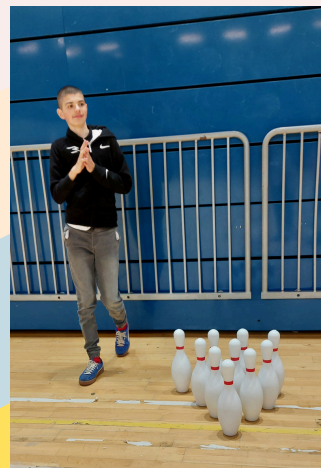
May was a really fun and exciting month for Class Ash. We started the month in the middle of Active School Week. The focus this year was to find ways to get the whole school community moving and learning through dance. We chose the Macarena as our dance. All the students and staff practiced their dance moves in class and got together in the atrium for a whole school dance every day. We also did a whole school walkway on the Rath Dara courts every day and used the sensory garden to do exercise stations.

We made the most of the beautiful sunny weather by doing our science experiments outside. We used a funnel, some fabric and bubble fluid to make bubble snakes and had fun doing a magic milk experiment using food dye.

Our theme this month was animals. We decided to focus on farm animals and had lots of fun trying to match the sounds that farm animals make with the correct pictures. We are really looking forward to our trip to the farm next week. Our art strand unit was Creating in Fabric and Fibre so we created a gallery of farm animals using lots of different textures and materials.

Along with other students from Class Hawthorn and Class Oak, some of the students from Class Ash took part in the Special Olympics Motor Activities Training Programme in the Sports Ireland Indoor Arena. We had a great morning learning new skills and meeting new friends from other special schools.

We were delighted to welcome John and Vince from Think Big Space into our classroom this month. They showed us how to build robots and how to make them move using an iPad. We also learned how to draw lines on a floor mat using a writing robot.





Danu CSS News

Hawthorn Class

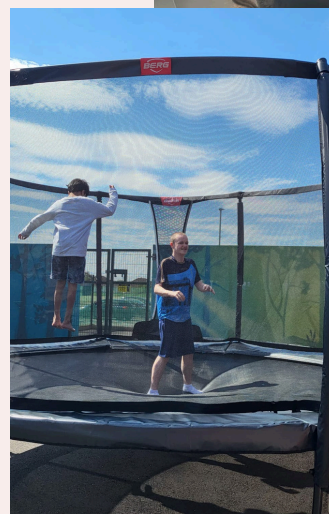
Hawthorn class work a lot during May our monthly topic was "animals". In our first week we really enjoyed Active Week in our class and focused on dance. All staff and students practised the "Macarena" song and we had a lot of fun. We also did a whole school walkway on the Rath Dara courts every day and used the sensory garden to do exercise stations.

In our PLUs we are working on animals every week in different habitats, such as ocean animals, wild animals, Antarctic animals, etc. We enjoy doing clues games and binocular guess who am I. In maths we worked on measures and data. PLU The Arts we were focus on how to make things, mini beast animals and some wild animals using wide techniques, such a cubism or pop art.

A student from Hawthorn join with Oak Class and Ash Class, participate in the Special Olympics Motor Activities Training Programme in the Sports Ireland Indoor Arena.

Senior classes received a workshop from Think Big Space and they worked on Legos and coding which was really successfully in all classes and our students learnt a lot about robots.

The last but not least, we participated in May in the Food Dude Programme and we really try our best to in smell or taste vegs and fruits and it was a really good experience for them to see what they liked or disliked.





Danu CSS News

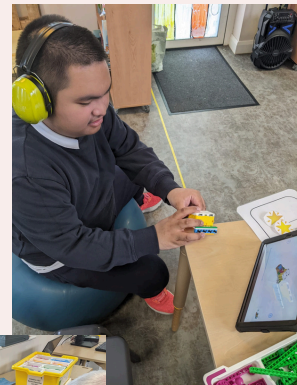
Oak Class

We cannot believe it is the end of May already and only one more month left in our school year. We started off the month by taking a trip out, thanks to the Garda bus, to Parslickstown House for a late breakfast. As we make our way through the L1LP Short Course, Around The World In 80 Days, we focused on the strand, Home Is Where The Heart Is: Local places of interest/ famous landmarks and the strand unit, "identify the local attractions and famous landmarks in their home county". We went to the National Sports Campus and really enjoyed running around and exploring the fields and gardens at Abbotstown House.

We also went to visit the Special Olympics Headquarters, where we got to take part in the Motor Activities Training Programme. Here, we experienced and explored Special Olympics events with an opportunity to display our skills. Well done to Nizar and Jared who flew the flag for Class Oak.

We had a wonderful visit from Think BIG Space who created a really engaging STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) workshop for our students. The students got to interact with and explore coding and robotics for beginners. All of our students got involved and really enjoyed the workshop as you can see from the photos.

As always, we worked hard on our numeracy and literacy skills, we've been learning about animals, (through music, story and art), we've been taking care of the worms in the wormery and now we are ready for a break. Enjoy the long weekend everyone.





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Art Work for May

