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Monthly Memoirs
December 2023

Ennis Educate Together NS
 Dulick,
 Gort Road,
 Ennis,
 Co. Clare.

December Birthdays:

Happy birthday to Martin, Elisar, Lukas, Kateryna, Arina, Patricia, Blaze, Thomas, John Paul, Adam, Eoin, Jessica and Martin.



We hope you all had a wonderful celebration!!

Home School Community Liaison:

Winter Decorating Workshop

On 6th December, a parent group was visited by artist Ana Colomer, who provided a wonderful workshop making winter decorations. You can see the brilliant results in the photos below! HSCL David Rundle and Nurture teacher Seán Ward also took part and had great fun making our decorations. Thank you Ana for an excellent session, and our gratitude also to CLDC for providing the tutor.



Attendance Raffles:

Our attendance numbers showed a big increase from the same time last year. For the last 2 weeks of December, all children who came to school on time received a raffle ticket that entered them and their parents into a draw for some wonderful prizes! Congratulations to all our winners!

Winter Raffle:

We held our annual Winter Raffle on Tuesday 19th December. On behalf of everyone in Ennis Educate Together, we want to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their support. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all local businesses for raffle prizes. We were blown away by the support from all the families, staff and wider community. We raised a whopping amount of €2,000. All monies raised will go towards sensory boxes for each class.

Students of the month for December:

Congratulations to all of this month's winners!!



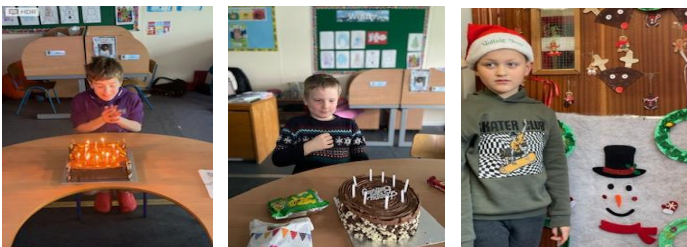
Elm Class

Elm class had a very busy month. We went to McDonalds as a special treat. We also went to Elm Café and ordered hot chocolate. We were learning all about winter and Christmas around the world. We went on a lovely nature walk and picked some ivy from a tree to make cards for our parents. We made lovely cards and went to the post office to post them home. We had Christmas dinner in school and we got to celebrate two birthdays with Hazel class. We had so much fun this month and are really looking forward to the winter break.



Hazel Class:

Hazel Class have had a wonderful few weeks in December. We were learning all about winter, Arctic animals, the post-office and Christmas. We made our own Christmas cards and walked to the post office to post them to our families. We had a delicious Christmas dinner at school. We celebrated Adam and Eoin's birthdays and had 2 gorgeous cakes to eat! Everyone wore their Christmas jumpers and we listened to lots of Christmas songs. We watched The Snowman and we loved it. Hazel Class learned the Penguin Dance action song and Milkshake. We had so much fun practising these. Today we had a movie afternoon and watched Stickman and The Gruffalo's Child. Happy holidays everyone!!



Rowan Class:

Rowan Class have been really busy this December. We have really enjoyed helping Aine prepare the garden for next year by saving the sunflower seeds for planting out in spring. We are becoming experts on times tables and our knowledge is growing daily. Jane has been teaching us wonderful songs in preparation for our performance at the Peace Proms in January. We are all really enjoying it! Thanks Jane!



Oak Class:

We had a busy December in Oak Class. We enjoyed our STEAM challenge to design a shoe for Denis. We were given a strict brief and limited materials to achieve our prototype and loved the challenge. Áine visited us and we harvested and packed the sunflower seeds from our school garden. We also visited our Buddies in Holly Class and helped them with their maths games.



EAL Class 2:

Some of our EAL learners were learning all about what stunt performers do. We did lots of dictionary work, looking up words we didn't know. We studied new vocabulary and grammar. We did lots of oral language and writing. Other groups were learning about the seasons. We can read and understand a simple description of a season, using pictures for support. We are able to write simple sentences in their copies about the seasons. We can describe different types of weather for different seasons. We have also been working on some world collaborative art which we can't wait to share next month when it's finished so watch this space!

EAL Class 1:

Throughout December, children from Junior Infants to Second Class have learned about colours, shapes, numbers and opposites. In Aistear, we have been learning about Christmas and explored the cultures of different countries with the help of our students. They continue to teach us new words in their own languages and we cover topics like family, favourite foods and hobbies as we develop our communication skills. They really enjoyed listening to the stories of 'Shape Story', 'Colours Book' and 'The Christmas Story'. As we come to the end of Term 1, we have learned so much about Myself, Our School, Food, Clothes, Colours, Shapes and Opposites. We have made great progress and really enjoyed learning English in our EAL classes this term.



Willow Class:

Willow class explored lines, angles and 2D shapes in Maths this December. We used tangrams to explore how 2D shapes tessellate and created lots of interesting pictures with the tangrams. Thanks as always to Mary for her help with Maths. We created Sleepy Sloths, 3D paper sculpture snow globes and colourful winter penguins in Art which have brightened up our classroom. Rugby with Cian has been the highlight of our PE this December, we have really enjoyed learning new skills and games from Cian! Áine visited our classroom again and we helped to sort, package and label sunflower seeds which will be distributed to all the students in the school!



Beech Class:

Beech class went to the cinema this week to see the movie 'Wish'. They walked all the way and then enjoyed popcorn and a drink while they sat back and enjoyed the movie on the big screen. Beech class made beautiful stars from Hazel and willow twigs to decorate the room. They decorated them with coloured wool and string. Thanks to Áine for coming in to show us how to do this.

We had a STEM challenge to "create the longest chain" in class and all the children worked really well in their teams to create the longest paper chain they could from 1 piece of paper.



Holly Class:

This month in Aistear, Holly class have been learning about the Toy-shop. We were selling toys, wrapping presents, posting packages and learning about the history of old and new toys. We have been doing loads of science experiments for example how colours diffuse in water and STEAM projects such as 'Walk the Plank'. In Maths we are working on creating patterns using different materials and colours. Aine the Gardener visited our class and made star decorations with the children. A big thank you to the kitchen staff for providing us with a wonderful Christmas dinner. The children really enjoyed the food and pulling some Christmas crackers.

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 8th January 2024: School reopens

As we see out the end of one year and welcome a new one, we'd like to wish our school community peace and togetherness during this holiday period. Many thanks to our hardworking staff for all that they do and to our families for their continued support! We look forward to welcoming you all back on January 8th for another year of adventures!!