

A decorative border of pumpkins with carved faces surrounds the entire page. The pumpkins are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some on the top and bottom edges and others forming vertical columns on the left and right sides.

Newsletter October 2019

Sponsored Walk

Many thanks to all those who supported the Sponsored Walk which took place on the 7th of October. A total of €2011.91 was collected. This money is very welcome as the general running of both school buildings has become increasingly expensive. Well done to everyone!

School Contact Numbers

If you wish to contact the school, the phone number is 091 631627. We do our best to answer the phone but it is not always possible. If you leave a message, it will be picked up as soon as possible.

Sporting Events

Both 5th and 6th Class had a fantastic day at Gort Community School Mixed Hurling and Camogie tournament organised by the transition year students. The boys and girls played excellently in their respective teams and represented the school with a great attitude and impeccable behaviour. There is no doubt there are some future hurling stars in our midst! Well done to all involved and keep up the great work.

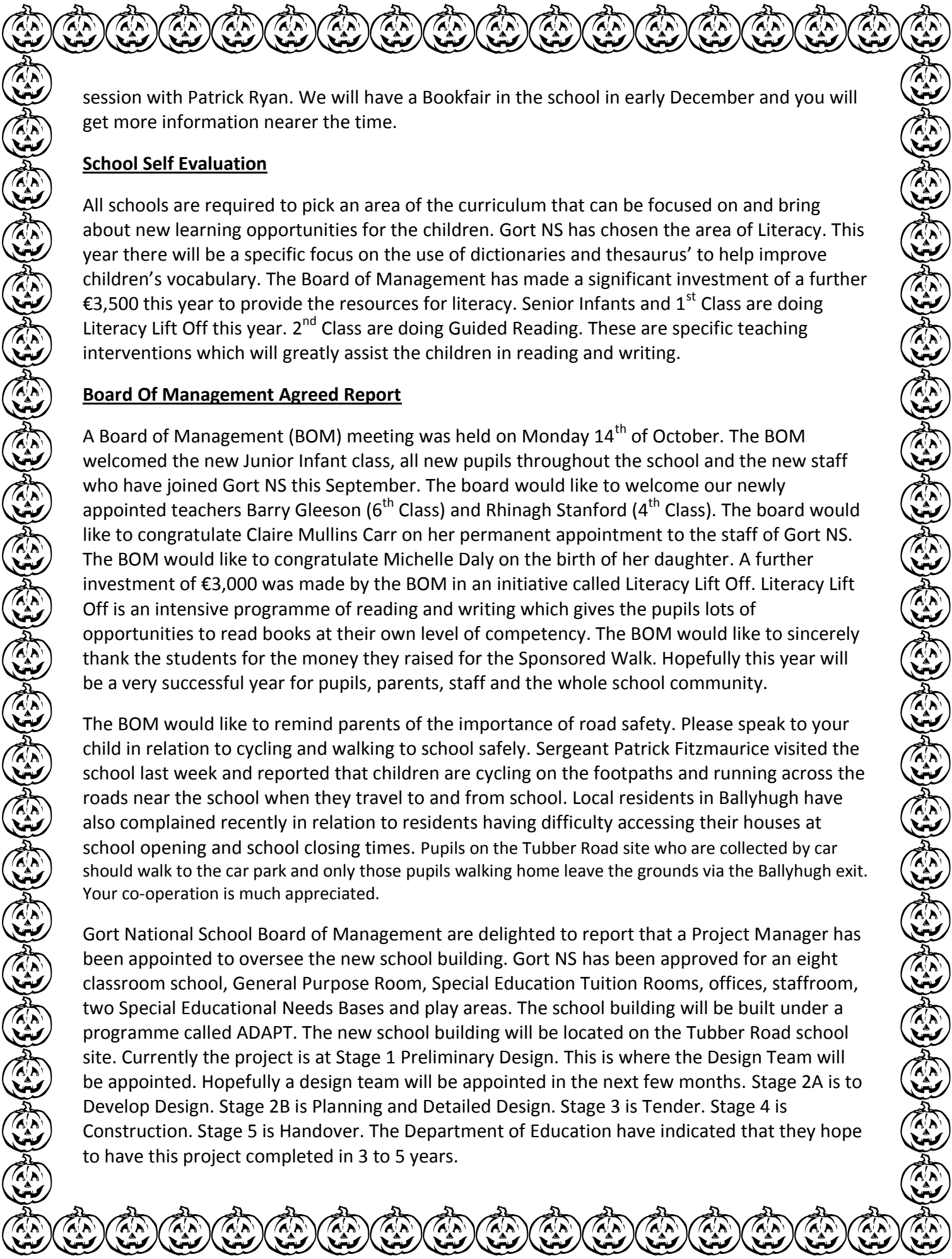
Last Wednesday saw the boys and girls of 5th and 6th Class taking part in the Nations Tag Rugby Blitz next door to the school in St Colman's Park. Our school was representing Ireland and they went to great lengths to showcase this. Applying a mixture of style, speed and footwork, the boys and girls teams had great fun and took part in lots of games against a huge selection of other schools. Some of the tries scored were from the top tier, showing the potential the boys and girls have to play the sport.

Food Dudes

Food Dudes is a Department of Education and Science initiative being rolled out in schools to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables. Children from Junior Infants to 2nd class have received a letter about the Food Dudes Programme and are receiving a portion of fruit and vegetables at school each day. The programme will begin in 3rd to 6th on 24/10/2109. Please encourage your child to eat the fruit and vegetables. This is a great opportunity to review your child's lunchbox and encourage healthy eating. We encourage the children to have fruit and a healthy snack in their lunchboxes. Please encourage your child to drink water at school and avoid sending juice as much as possible.

Library Visits

2nd and 3rd class are visiting Gort Library every second Friday. This is part of the School Self Evaluation Plan for Gort NS. The library is a free service for all children and we are lucky to have a library in Gort. On Tuesday 15th of October 2nd Class visited the library for a storytelling

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session with Patrick Ryan. We will have a Bookfair in the school in early December and you will get more information nearer the time.

School Self Evaluation

All schools are required to pick an area of the curriculum that can be focused on and bring about new learning opportunities for the children. Gort NS has chosen the area of Literacy. This year there will be a specific focus on the use of dictionaries and thesaurus' to help improve children's vocabulary. The Board of Management has made a significant investment of a further €3,500 this year to provide the resources for literacy. Senior Infants and 1st Class are doing Literacy Lift Off this year. 2nd Class are doing Guided Reading. These are specific teaching interventions which will greatly assist the children in reading and writing.

Board Of Management Agreed Report

A Board of Management (BOM) meeting was held on Monday 14th of October. The BOM welcomed the new Junior Infant class, all new pupils throughout the school and the new staff who have joined Gort NS this September. The board would like to welcome our newly appointed teachers Barry Gleeson (6th Class) and Rhinagh Stanford (4th Class). The board would like to congratulate Claire Mullins Carr on her permanent appointment to the staff of Gort NS. The BOM would like to congratulate Michelle Daly on the birth of her daughter. A further investment of €3,000 was made by the BOM in an initiative called Literacy Lift Off. Literacy Lift Off is an intensive programme of reading and writing which gives the pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. The BOM would like to sincerely thank the students for the money they raised for the Sponsored Walk. Hopefully this year will be a very successful year for pupils, parents, staff and the whole school community.

The BOM would like to remind parents of the importance of road safety. Please speak to your child in relation to cycling and walking to school safely. Sergeant Patrick Fitzmaurice visited the school last week and reported that children are cycling on the footpaths and running across the roads near the school when they travel to and from school. Local residents in Ballyhugh have also complained recently in relation to residents having difficulty accessing their houses at school opening and school closing times. Pupils on the Tubber Road site who are collected by car should walk to the car park and only those pupils walking home leave the grounds via the Ballyhugh exit. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Gort National School Board of Management are delighted to report that a Project Manager has been appointed to oversee the new school building. Gort NS has been approved for an eight classroom school, General Purpose Room, Special Education Tuition Rooms, offices, staffroom, two Special Educational Needs Bases and play areas. The school building will be built under a programme called ADAPT. The new school building will be located on the Tubber Road school site. Currently the project is at Stage 1 Preliminary Design. This is where the Design Team will be appointed. Hopefully a design team will be appointed in the next few months. Stage 2A is to Develop Design. Stage 2B is Planning and Detailed Design. Stage 3 is Tender. Stage 4 is Construction. Stage 5 is Handover. The Department of Education have indicated that they hope to have this project completed in 3 to 5 years.

The last meeting was the current Board of Management's final meeting. The four year term is complete on the 30th of November 2019. Paddy Grealish thanked the board members for their professional manner, their support and the time members have given to Gort NS over the last four years. A new Board of Management will be put in place for the 1st of December 2019. There will be further communication in relation to this shortly.

Halloween

All children may dress up in their Halloween costume on Friday 25th of October if they wish to do so. Ms Fahy is organising a small fundraiser for Temple Street Hospital. If children wish to donate a small amount, perhaps two euro, this would be warmly received.

Dates for your Diary

28th Oct – 1st November

Mid-Term Break

13th & 14th November

Parent Teacher Meetings 3rd – 6th Classes (Tubber Rd School Site)

20th & 21st November

Parent Teacher Meetings Junior Infants – 2nd Classes (Convent School Site)

Happy  Halloween