



ROWANDALE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

ROWANDALE
PARENTS
COUNCIL
Charity No: 102500427



ROWANDALE'S GOT TALENT – IT REALLY DOES!



For the first time ever, Rowandale launched a school-wide talent competition, 'Rowandale's Got Talent' to highlight and showcase the amazing skills and talents within the school community. Over 100 children built up the courage to take part in their class competitions. Each participant received a certificate for taking part after giving their all. 19 class winners went through to the Grand Final which was held at Moira Presbyterian Church Hall on Wednesday, 8th February.

A packed hall of family and friends was buzzing with excitement as the children prepared to take to the stage. Superb performances on the evening included singing, comedy, Irish dancing, judo, lyrical dance, instrumental music, a monologue, gymnastics and archery! The acts received only positive feedback from four judges who had the difficult job of awarding third, second and first-place winners.

Huge thanks must go to our Judges **John Daly, Compare Extraordinaire!** TV Presenter and producer. BBC and RTE. Past parent of Rowandale and supporter of Integrated Education. John was just the perfect compare for the evening putting every child who performed on the stage at their ease. He was so encouraging and complimentary to all the children. You did an amazing job and we are so grateful! **Pamela Cassells Totten**, Pamela Cassells School of Performance & Rising Talent Agency. **Naomh Galloway**, Culture and Communications Professional & Into Film. **Brian Mc Fetridge**, Chair of the Board of Governors.

We were thrilled that Pamela, Naomh and Brian were able to be the judges at RGT. Thank you for giving up your time to play such an important role in our RGT celebration. Your comments to the performers made every child feel so special! Thank you so much!

Congratulations to Annie Gibson (3rd place), Mya McFaul (2nd place) and Eva Johnston (1st place) for doing so well. Check out the school's Facebook page to watch a highlights showreel of the finalists performing at the Grand Final. It's never too early to start planning for Rowandale's Got Talent 2024!

The event was one of two new annual competitions aimed at giving children with a passion for the arts an opportunity to shine. The second competition, The Rowandale Art Challenge, will take place in May, providing budding artists with a chance to showcase their work. Watch this space!



ROWANDALE'S GOT TALENT – IT REALLY DOES!



IFA REGIONAL FUTSAL TOURNAMENT



Rowandale's Futsal teams recently played in the IFA Regional Futsal Tournament in Craigavon. The winner of each competition was guaranteed a place in the National final in Belfast.

The boys, who have a lot of experience playing together, sailed through the group stage with 4 wins and a draw from their five games. They went into their regional final wary of their opponents who won their last game in the other group 8-0. After a tense final that finished 1-1, the game went to the lottery which is a penalty shootout. Unfortunately, the team lost the penalty shootout 3-2 with just the post halting our progress!



Meanwhile, the girl's team, who had never played together before, did brilliantly in their 5 games in the group stage. They got off to a difficult start with a defeat but bounced back fantastically well in the second game. They found themselves 2-0 down after 3 minutes but goals from Isla and Emer secured a draw and a comeback for the ages! The girls fought in every game and deserve huge credit for the character they showed!

Well done to both teams for their impeccable behaviour throughout the day!

Y2 & Y4 STILL I RISE - DIVERSITY STORYTELLING

Year 2 and Year 4 were so excited to welcome Orla McKeating from Still I Rise - Diversity Storytelling into their classrooms this month. Orla read a range of diversity stories to the children and they joined in with various activities for each book.

This visit supports our 'Equality for All' project work which we are promoting in every class in Rowandale this academic year as we aim to create trusted spaces to encourage tolerance, and acceptance and where all children and their families feel seen, heard and valued.



RAFA AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE, LONDON



Rafa in Y5 was dancing before he could walk. When he was only 3, he saw a small section of Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake on TV and he wanted to be just like the male dancers that he saw on the screen. Rafa started ballet lessons at Clare Novaes Balet School in Moira when he was in P1 and he initially felt nervous that there were no other boys doing ballet. He was really fortunate to be able to have 1 to 1 sessions with his teacher for a year to help him develop his technique without worrying about being the only boy.

Over the last 5 years Rafa has been exploring lots of different styles of dance and learning to navigate the dance world as a little boy in a sea of little girls! While he continues in his ballet work with Clare Novaes, he has hugely benefited from having the opportunity to work with male dance teachers who have inspired and motivated him along the way.



Rafa is part of 'Belfast Boys', Contemporary boys Dance Troupe, as part of DU Dance NI, which is led by a male dance teacher, Sean O'Neill. Rafa enjoys hip hop & street dance at PCSP in Portadown where he also has the benefit of having a male teacher as another role model.

In October 2022 Rafa was part of the Royal Academy of Dance 'Boys Only' weekend where he had the amazing opportunity to work with world-class male dance teachers, the trip culminated in an outstanding boys-only group dance performance at Trinity Laban in London.



Rafa has always been encouraged in his dancing by his peers and his teachers at Rowandale, and he is so lucky that he is surrounded by friends who are proud of him and all his talents. So now whenever anyone tries to tell Rafa that 'Boys Don't Dance'... he just laughs!

SATURDAY MORNING FUN

Saturday fun at Rowandale

11 March – Hairy Maclary
25 March – Paw Patrol

11am – 12noon: indoor activities
12 – 1pm: enjoy our outdoor space

All welcome

Activities designed primarily for pre-school age children



Rowandale weekend fun is back - each Saturday during term time. This is aimed at pre-school age children, the sessions are free, and there is no need to book, just turn up.

Kids can listen to a story, take part in arts and crafts, and then get an opportunity to play outside.

This month we have:
11th March - Hairy Maclary
25th March Paw Patrol

11am- 12 noon indoor activities
12-1pm enjoy our outdoor space

ACCELERATED READER WORD MILLIONAIRES



Many congratulations to our first Accelerated Reader word millionaires for this school year! We are immensely proud of these children who have each passed Accelerated Reader quizzes on books which contain a total of over one million words. Keep up the wonderful work everyone!

READING BUDDIES



PLAYGROUP UPDATE



Playgroup have had a busy month In February, celebrating Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Pancake Tuesday! The children have had great fun.

Thanks so much to our Parent Volunteers for cleaning up our outdoor area, it's much appreciated and our mud garden has now been re-barked! The children are going to plant some flowers this week to get it ready for lots of play in the Spring time.

We are also having an open day this Saturday 11am-1pm!



Rowandale Integrated Community Playgroup

Open Day

Saturday 4th March

11am - 1pm

Everyone welcome!

Join us for lots of fun activities!

PLAY

ENJOY

LEARN

18 Clarehill Rd, Moira BT67 OPB



MRS DUFFY TEACHER IN FOCUS



How long have you taught in Rowandale?

I have been teaching for twenty-six years, fourteen of which have been at Rowandale. I have taught a variety of age ranges and initially taught Year 2 when I joined Rowandale in 2008.

What is your favourite memory of Year 1?

There are many lovely memories over the years including the children singing Christmas carols which were aired on BBC Newline, stories of Jemima the puppet's sleepover adventures and more recently the freedom, adventures and excitement the children experience playing in Logan Forest.

What do you enjoy most about teaching Year 1?

I enjoy the nurturing aspect of teaching Year 1. It is lovely to watch children grow in confidence and find their voice. It is always a great moment when children recognise letter sounds, read their first book, write their first sentence and demonstrate a love for learning. The children in Year 1 are also very funny and keep us entertained!

What do you enjoy doing outside school?

I enjoy travelling with my family. I love going out for dinner and I like to bake during the school holidays. I also like to eat what I bake, which can be a problem!

What is your favourite food?

I love most food but really enjoy a steak (medium) and chips.

What is your favourite country?

My family and I visited Canada a few years ago and I would love to go back and explore more of the area around Lake Louise and the Rocky Mountains.



**ROWANDALE
INTEGRATED
COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUP**

**OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 4TH MARCH
11AM-1PM**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

BINGO TIME



BINGO TIME



Thank you to everyone who came to our 1st Bingo Night, bought tickets and donated amazing raffle prizes!!!! But of course a MASSIVE THANK YOU to Stephen, Roy, Andrea and Hayley at The Quirky Bird - Social Enterprise Cafe, the food was gorgeous and you made sure that we had everything we needed all night. Huge thanks to Ellie, mum in Y2S who donated her prize winnings to the school. The craic was pure mighty... laughs, smiles and fun all round with our Rowandale Integrated Primary School & Community Playgroup family getting a chance to connect and laugh together.

CREDIT UNION QUIZ



On 30th January, Rowandale Integrated Primary was represented at the Credit Union Schools Quiz by 3 teams of P6 and P7 pupils. Teams were split into 2 competitions based on age and answered several rounds of questions on areas such as Geography, Sports, Literature, Music and General Knowledge. In Competition A, 10 teams participated from schools in the Craigavon area, with Rowandale coming in 2nd place. In Competition B, 13 teams participated and Rowandale's teams placed 2nd and 3rd. All the children involved had great fun and really did themselves proud!



A very special thank you to all our February Kiss & Go Volunteers!

Christina, Deborah, Lorna, Judy, Laura C, Laura G, Michaela, Dana, Aisling, Sharon, Leanne, Niall, Angie, Sarah, Bronagh, Maria, Claire, Susanne, Ursula, Sian & Sarah B



JUDE IS WKU NI CHAMPION!



Jude from Y6 recently completed in the WKU (World Kickboxing & Karate Union) Northern Ireland Team WORLD QUALIFIERS. Jude won his category and is now the WKU NI Champion under 30kg.

The world championships are to be held in Canada in October. We wish Jude lots of luck as he embarks on his training to become World Champion!

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Wed 1st & Thurs 2nd: Year 1 & 2 Parent Teacher Meetings – see SIMS message re early finishing times etc

Thurs 2nd: World Book Day (see SIMS message)

Fri 3rd: IEF Odd Sock Day – see message on SIMS

Thurs 9th: Year 2 trip to Slieve Gullion

Fri 17th: School closed for St Patrick's Day

Mon 20th: closing date for Ulster Farmer's Union Competition (see SIMS for details)

Thurs 23rd: Year 5 trip to W5

Thurs 23rd: First Confession, 7pm @ St Patrick's & St Ronan's Church

Tues 28th: Portadown Festival Y5 – 7 Choir

Wed 29th & Thurs 30th: Y3 – 7 Parent Teacher Meetings (see SIMS re early finishing times etc)

Fri 31st: Year 7 @ W5 (Shared Education Celebration)

Y2 IPAD TIME



PANCAKE TUESDAY WAS A HUGE HIT!



ROWANDALE PARENTS COUNCIL
PRESENTS

STARS IN THEIR EYES

SATURDAY, 1ST APRIL AT 7:00PM

THE BALLROOM
THE SEAGOE HOTEL
PORTADOWN

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW
WITH EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rowandale-parents-cou>



COULD YOU BECOME A ROWANDALE READING PARTNER?



Contact Fiona Maree
via School Office



Calling all mums, dads,
grandparents and friends!

If you can spare half an hour, three
days a week, we'd love to hear
from you.

Thank you to our 4 volunteers so
far, but we still need more help!

Reading partnership is proven to improve a
child's reading by up to two years as well as
increasing confidence and self-esteem.

**Subject to AccessNI check

30.04.23

BELFAST CITY MARATHON RELAY TEAM



IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR RELAY
TEAM CONTACT MR EVANS

SUNDAY
30th April

RAISE FUNDS FOR
OUR SCHOOL



**PARENTS COUNCIL
NEXT MEETING**

**THURSDAY
30TH
MARCH
@7:30PM
IN SCHOOL**

ALL WELCOME



CONTACT US

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