

Green School Revisited

In our "Trial Issue" of Nature's Web, we featured St. Joseph's Primary School, Fairview, Dublin 3, who were working towards achieving a Green Flag. Loughlan O'Brien (5th Class) wants to update readers on all the science and nature studies that have been going on in "Joey's" since then!

When we were last in this magazine we said we were hoping to get our first Green Flag soon, and in February 2006 we were all delighted to achieve our goal! But that was only the start of our great science and nature adventure in Joey's! Soon after that we started exploring natural energy, and our first task was to release nearly 2000 biodegradable helium filled balloons into the sky! Each one was tagged with our school address and the finders were asked to post them back to us. The prevailing south westerly winds sent them to North East England first, so we got balloons back from around Newcastle. Then the winds changed and about a week later we got balloons back from France, Germany, Austria and then Poland. Our winning balloon was posted back with photographs from Serbia!!!

Then our school's Science Club got interested in natural, balloon powered propulsion. The lads studied cephalopods, squid and cuttle fish and did loads of experiments. They interviewed a marine zoologist at Dublin Zoo too. Then they showed the project in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition!

Then we turned our attention back to the school. We all thought our yard looked a bit grey so we dug up the concrete in one corner of our yard to turn it into a nice garden! Local business people in the Irish Financial Services Centre came to help with

digging and laying out the flower beds. Then we put in a bird house, flowers, trees, a vegetable patch and grass. It looks great now! We use solar energy to power our fountain and our 2nd Green Flag flies there too! In September, we're hoping to get birds to nest there, and watch their nests with live tiny video cameras!

E Twinning is an online way for schools across Europe to share projects, photos and videos with each other! This year our Green School Students' Council twinned with Ecole Elementaire Charles Digeon in Saint Mandé, in Paris, France. We held an online video conference with the school sharing our work on science and nature studies! We could



wave at their class on the interactive whiteboard and they waved back. It was amazing! Our glamorous Green School Students' Council are holding another conference in May!

A man from RTE news came into school this Spring and asked 6th Class all about flowers and budburst. They had been studying 'The Signs of Spring' and taking temperature readings every day as part of "The Green Wave Project" for our Discover Primary Science studies! They showed them talking on their interactive whiteboard. It was great seeing our school on News2Day on The Den!

Then, two boys were interviewed with Ms. White and Eanna Ni Lamhna by Newstalk 106 on a Saturday morning about the Green Wave Project. It's all about checking to see where in Europe spring starts first, and where in Ireland.

So as you can see, we've been doing loads of really interesting science and nature studies in our school since you last heard from us! For nature studies we've earned 2 Green Flags and been on TV for our work on The Green Wave Project. And in science, we've



Above: The Great Joey's Balloon Race. Left: Joey's Garden.

won The Discover Primary Science Award of Excellence for the last 4 years in a row!

I have lots of friends in other schools and I don't think they do enough of this kind of work. It's interesting learning all the cool ways you can study science and nature. Most of all, it's important to look after our environment!

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