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FARRAN!

Vex Robotics



For the first time EVER primary schools were invited to participate in the Vex Robotics competition. Our school was one of only 18 schools in all

of Ireland who were chosen to enter the competition!!! We were over the moon when we found out we were chosen. Everybody had a different job. We needed people to build and design the robot, to fill in the engineering notebook and to drive the robot. We also needed people to solve an engineering problem and write about it for our STEM project. The robot could be driven with a remote control but it could also be programmed to move itself and we needed more people to do this for us. Brendan Daly and Pat Beechinor helped us with the programming and Orla and her dad worked really hard so that we could also enter the autonomous competition. We sorted out the jobs and we were practicing every break and Friday evening to be sure we were ready!!! We had to learn how to drive the robot so that it could collect the blocks and push them into the scoring zone. Stacking the blocks would earn even more points. We did n't have our own arena and blocks but Tadhg and Maeve Daly's granddad made some blocks for us to practice with and that was a great help .

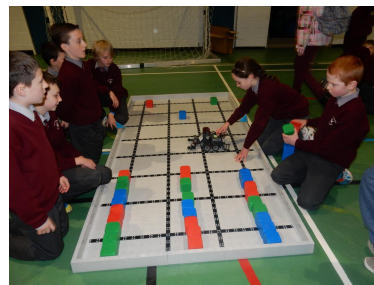
As the competition came closer, the Life Time

Lab sent 3 people to our school with the arena! This meant that we could actually try out our robot on the real arena. Every one got to try out driving. Then a few weeks later they gave us our very own arena for a few days to practice on. This really helped us on the day.

Finally February 6th arrived. We got on the bus early and headed off to C.I.T. The atmosphere was unbelievable! We went inside and got set up. And the competition began. We did really well in the single matches, autonomous challenge and the group matches which we played with other schools. Judges came to visit us in our pit area and to look at our engineering notebook and our STEM project team went and presented our project to the Vex judges.

During the break every one lined up to get signatures and pictures with . Also during the break people went doing activities provided by EMC2. Rebecca won a prize for guessing how many pieces of Lego were in a jar.

We did n't win but we had a super day!!! It was really worth doing. A lot of people helped us prepare for the day including for helping us prepare for the day. And EMC2 for sponsoring us to make it possible for us to do as well as we did!!! We would love to do it again next year!!



Indoor Hurling

Our third and fourth class participated in an indoor hurling league which they did brilliantly in .They practiced constantly for a number of weeks before the competition. The girls started off very well and finished off in third place after they has played all their matches. We are all very proud of them .Next up it was the boys who

also performed incredibly well . The boys finished off in third place in their competition. We are very proud of the third and fourth class for doing so well in the hurling championships.



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Special points of interest:

- ✓ The new building is progressing well and we hope to have the classes in their new classrooms before the end of March.
- ✓ The focus is now on the 2015/2016 school year. Enrolment forms are available to download on the school website and we would encourage parents to complete the enrolment form as soon as possible.
- ✓ The third and fourth classes have just completed six weeks of swimming lessons in the Castle Hotel and we would like to thank all the parents who helped us out by travelling with the classes on each of the days.
- ✓ The Children from second class received the sacrament of reconciliation on Wednesday night as they continue to prepare for their First Communion on May 9th.



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Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Hi, our names are Clodagh , Sinead and Isobel and we are this month's editors. We are in 6th class. This month we are going to tell you about Scór na bPáistí , Vex robotics and the indoor hurling blitz.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Slán

Bain triail as sa bhaile

Cad a thárla anseo?

Scór na bPáistí

It is that time of year again when songs and tunes are picked and dances practiced and lines learned. It can only mean *Scór!* (*Scór* is part of the GAA). For the last few years Farran School have entered in *Scór na bPáistí*. This year our scór date fell on the 6th of February. We have been practicing since November. Everyday we practiced whenever we had time.



The week of the February 6th we had three dress rehearsals including one in front of the whole school. When the day came nerves were put aside. Our first performance was the *Rince Foirne*. Isobel, Edel, Rebecca and Sinead were unlucky missing out on

getting into the next round with their four hand reel. Oisín was next. He enchanted everyone with his song. We were delighted with the outcome as he is one of 6 out of 9 acts that got through to the Muskerry final. Next up was the solo dance which was danced brilliantly by Isobel. Rebecca was our next competitor through with her portrayal of Tom Crean . This was followed by the solo instrumental and Orla's beautiful violin solo saw her win a place in the next round. The instrumental group, which included Rebecca and Indie on accordion, Eabha and Clodagh on the tin whistle and Billy on the bodhrán entertained the crowd with their lively rendition of the Kerry Polka and Britches full of stitches. While this was going on Cathal, Eabha, Isobel, David, Indie, David and Oisín were dressing up and getting everything ready for our novelty act: *Mrs. Brown*

Does Scór! The crowd chuckled and laughed as Mrs. Brown did her best to win an All Ireland but she did not do as well as the pupils of Farran NS as the final 2 acts of the night also went on to qualify for the Muskerry Final in Eire Óg on March 2nd. They finished the night with wins for the ballad group of Orla, Indie, Clodagh, Eabha and Oisín as they sang *Dilin Ó Deamhas* and *She Moved Through The Fair* and the quiz team of Rebecca, Isobel and Cathal. We wish them luck in the next round.

