**Election Fever**

This week our class held a mini-election. We had to elect two members of our class to represent us on the Green School’s Committee.

First each student seeking a nomination had to present a speech to their classmates. Darragh from sixth class gave excellent advice. He suggested that it was very important to prepare a good speech and to connect with your fellow classmates.

It must be said that all hopeful candidates delivered excellent speeches. Some used very persuasive sentences using words like “loyal” and “trustworthy”. Another boy engaged a clever strategy telling us that his favourite colour was green! Some candidates even resorted to bribing, promising a reward to the person who would nominate them.

Giving careful consideration to their decision each boy was asked to nominate his choice of candidate. All names were placed on the ballot paper and then the important job of voting began. It was a secret ballot. Each boy was asked to vote by placing 1, 2 and 3 in order of their choice. The ballot papers were collected and we had to wait patiently for the final result.

It was a very interesting count. There was one spoiled vote. Two willing tallymen helped to count the votes. All the first preferences were carefully noted and the lowest scorers were eliminated. Their votes were transferred. Interestingly those with the most first preferences also secured the most transfers. An independent scrutineer made sure that everything was carried out according to rule.

Canvassing was over and there were lots of hopeful faces in the classroom on Wednesday morning. All the boys waited nervously for the final result. It was worse than the x-factor! The suspense was unbearable. When our teacher called out the names of the two successful candidates there was a generous applause. Many boys bravely concealed their disappointment and gave the winners a chance to savour their victory. Our teacher said it was possibly the best display of sportsmanship she had ever seen.

We learned a lot from this mini-election. Next week we will understand all the “jargon” on the television and will have a greater understanding of what it is like for those seven hopeful candidates on their journey as they wish to become the next President of Ireland.

Congratulations and best wishes to Joey Donovan and Eoin Guiney who are our successful candidates. We will all share this experience with them and work together towards a greener school.