

The History of Belmont



Belmont N.S. shares its name with Belmont House. The Irish name for Belmont N.S. is Cnoc Uí Fhaith. The story goes that some time ago, there lived a giant in Belmont and another in Cnocma. They had a quarrel and it ended in a terrible fight. The Cnocma giant flung a huge stone at his enemy. He, seeing the stone approach, struck it with a violent blow of his sword and broke it into three parts. Two parts of it remained on the hill with the marks of the giant's fingers on one of them. The other part rolled down the hill to a field in Ballyglass and there they remain to the present day.

In fact, the name comes from the Irish word faiche for lawn, due to the beautiful lawns surrounding Belmont House.

There is a hill-fort on top of the hill which can be divided into two main features: one an extensive earthwork enclosure of pre-historic origin now marked by a stonewall boundary, the other a relatively modern private graveyard for a local family, the Blakes. There is a lone ash tree in the middle.

Michael Bermingham of Dalgin House who died on June 10th, 1835 was buried there. His wife Sarah (Sal) was one of the Blake family of nearby Belmont House. She died in 1870, aged 96 and is also buried there under the ash tree.

Belmont National School:

In 1881 the "old" school on this site was built on land donated by Jack Tierney. It had one room at first, later enlarged in 1900 with an enrollment of 138 pupils..

By 1970 the physical condition of the school building was diminishing. Windows and doors were in desperate need of repair. The old school was demolished to the ground and the new school was opened on the same site and finally completed on November the 20th, 1972.

In the 1990's, Dalgin N.S. closed. They amalgamated with Belmont N.S. and a school bus was put in operation to bring children from the Dalgin area to Belmont N.S.

The school got a new name 'St Brendan's N.S.' Everyone still knows the school as Belmont N.S. In 2000, it was decided to create a new school crest to reflect our school. The ash tree on Culkin's Hill is part of our crest, reflecting the love of nature and heritage we have in this school.