

Christmas Newsletter 2012

Presentation Primary School, Clonmel

Dear Reader,
Before the Christmas rush, you might like to read about our busy first term!

SPORTS SPOT

Swimming

Two classes enjoy swimming lessons every Thursday for eight week blocks as part of their PE programme. Thank you to the parents who help. Occasionally the classes are treated to a trip to the library, museum or the Arts Centre while they are in town, making Thursday a very popular day!

Hockey and Football

Coaches visited the school in October and November so Rang 5 improved their football skills and Rang 3 and Rang 6 learned hockey.

Cross Country Running

Wednesday 23rd October saw senior pupils represent the school at the Schools' Cross Country Competition. The races were held in Marlfield and all enjoyed the bright autumnal weather. Well done to all who ran so well. Thank you to Orla Tobin, Claire Keane and Jeanette O'Dwyer for organizing our teams and to Noreen O'Regan and Orla Tobin who accompanied the girls on the day. The girls ran well and were delighted to come home with bronze medals.

Safe Cycling

A specialist instructor taught cycling skills to Rang 5 last week. The activities engaged and challenged the girls while helping them to improve their control of the bicycles and to learn safe practices which will help them when they are out and about cycling. Thank you to Carol Creighton, Road Safety Officer with ST County Council and all others involved in funding and organizing the lessons.

OUTSTANDING OUTINGS

The girls and boys in Ms. Mulcahy and Ms. O'Dwyer's classes enjoyed learning more about the town this term. The children paid a visit to Marlfield Lake, St. Patrick's Well and the Garden Centre. They finished the day learning about the pets in Uncle Mike's Pet World.

The boys and girls in these classes also enjoyed an autumn harvest day in the countryside where they picked cooking apples and made chocolate apples and apple crumble. Very tasty (or so I heard!). Rang 5 and Rang 6 enjoyed a trip to Clonmel Museum early in the term. The theme was ancient weaponry and will be remembered for the opportunity to wear chain mail (very heavy!) and brandish swords (very dangerous!).

Rang 6 attended a talk from three authors in Clonmel Library before Hallowe'en. The authors, Sarah Webb, Oisín McGann and Judi Curtin, shared their childhood memories and other influences on their writing with all - the perfect inspiration for our budding writers.

SCHOOL MATTERS

Parking

The Board of Management is currently working on the provision of parking facilities for the parents of infant children. We hope to make more progress on this over the coming weeks.

Volunteers

We would like to thank our retired colleagues, Ann Doyle and Norberta O'Gorman, for their regular visits and the voluntary work they offer the school. Pupils and staff appreciate their help and interest.

Busy Bees

Busy Bees After School service now collect children from Nano's Nest Playschool. Facilities include homework club, computers, cookery, sports and drama.

Opening hours: 12:30 – 6:15 p.m. For more information please contact Vanessa on (086) 0444202

Job Bridge

The school is taking on three interns as part of the Job Bridge scheme. These adults will act as classroom assistants in various classes in the school. The positions were advertised on the Job Bridge website. We look forward to working with the new classroom assistants.

Croke Park

Staff members fulfil the conditions of the Croke Park agreement by working in school for an extra hour most Wednesdays and on various other occasions during the school year.

Green Schools

We are working steadily to achieve our third Green Schools' flag. Our focus this time is on the importance of water and the need to appreciate and conserve water. Pupils from Rang 2 upwards know plenty about this topic now. Ask a few questions and hopefully you will hear about our rap, our experiments and visitors to the school! As Barney told us all years ago, "Never let the water run!".

Attendance

We encourage pupils to attend school when they are well and to aim to have a very good attendance record. Good attendance is essential in the early years. Pupils who are in school every day feel they know the teacher and procedures well and settle in better. Parents/guardians will

understand that good attendance is important for learning at all ages. It can be very challenging to learn a new concept if you have missed the introductory lesson. Good attendance is also a factor in a child's social development in class. A child who is in school regularly will find it easier to make and sustain friendships. We award certificates for full monthly attendance to encourage your child to appreciate the importance of being in school every day. It would be helpful if you and your child chat about attendance and that you acknowledge your child's achievement when he/she gets a certificate.

Book Fair

Once again the Book Fair was a source of excitement and interest around the school, allowing pupils and their parents/guardians to browse, read and buy a wide selection of books. Much of the profits from sales are returned to the school for the purchase of books. This year we invested in class library books which we look forward to reading after Christmas.

Healthy Lunches

Thank you to class teachers who regularly teach children about nutrition and encourage them to bring healthy lunches to school. As we know from medical and nutritional experts, healthy school lunches help make healthy children. We believe that making healthy food choices is something that needs to be taught by teachers, learned by students and reinforced by parents. By working together to ensure pupils have healthy lunches in school, we will be encouraging the

children to eat healthily and to enjoy the many healthy foods that are available to us in Ireland. We will be giving them the best chance of health and fitness, now in their childhood years, and also into the future. It is encouraging to see most children eating healthily at lunch time. Keep it up everyone!

At this opportune moment, I would like to thank Traas Apple Farm for their kind gift of an apple for every child this Hallowe'en. The apples were crunchy, juicy and delicious!

A WESOME ARTISTS

Watch out for Stakelum's Van

Encouraged by their 5th Class teacher, Lisa O'Brien, the present Rang 6 entered Stakelum's Design a Van competition late last year. Aoife Walsh's design was chosen as the overall winner from over 1,200 entries. There was great excitement in September when Stakelum's visited the school with their art and craft van bearing Aoife's art work. Congratulations, Aoife. A great achievement indeed!

Abbott Art Winners

Well done also to pupils who won prizes and a laptop for the school in the Abbott Art Competition last year. The winners were Saffron Quinn (Senior Infants), Aimee Hennessy and Lauraine Canty (Rang 4) and Courtney McGuire and Abbie Conway (now in secondary school). Maith sibh, a chailini!

Honey Show

We were delighted to have winners among our young artists who entered the painting competition run by The Bee Association.

Prizewinners were Ciara Ryan (Rang 1) and Roisin Dunphy (Rang 2). Keep an eye out for their lovely paintings which are on display along the corridor.

Credit Union

Winners in this year's Credit Union painting competition were Briannah Arrigan (Rang 1), Kate Murphy (Junior Language Class) and Aoife Walsh (Rang 6). Kate and Aoife also won prizes in the second round. Well done girls.

Uncle Mike's Colouring Competition

The staff of Uncle Mike's Pet World presented a workshop to Rang 3 recently. Needless to say, the pets evoked differing reactions but the clear favourites were the rabbits and raccoons! Winners in a follow up competition were Anna Galgan (Rang 3), first prize and Niamh Carey (Rang 3), runner-up. Well done, girls.

Art Display

Thank you all involved in the art display for the parent/student/teacher meetings. The display gave families a chance to view a sample of the art we engage in every week and to appreciate the creativity and imagination of our pupils.

MARVELLOUS MUSIC

Blue Suede Shoes

Pupils in Rang 5 agus Rang 6 hummed and clapped all the way during a very lively performance of Blue Suede Shoes, this year's musical from the Presentation Secondary and the High School. This hilarious tale of unrequited love and misunderstandings kept the audience spellbound from the opening scene to the

finale. The standard of performance from the young cast was excellent and members of staff were, of course, delighted (and proud!) to watch past pupils display their talents. Congratulations to Lisa O'Brien, who taught in the school last year, on her wonderful achievement as producer/director. And did true love win the day? I would hate to ruin a story line, so do try to see this show sometime in the future. It is a laughing-and-tapping experience you are sure to enjoy.

The Wizard of Oz

Congratulations to four 6th Class pupils who were members of the cast of "The Wizard of Oz" in a recent production by St. Mary's Choral Society. The girls, Ali Corcoran, Sine Landers, Katelin McGrath and Aoife Walsh acted, danced and sang wonderfully.

Hallowe'en Disco

The night was dark,
The school was quiet,
The pupils returned,
Oh! What a sight!
The hall grew noisy,
Music filled the air,
Ghosts and witches
Appeared everywhere.
Parents grew pale,
Teachers said, "Oh no,"
Children danced happily
At the Hallowe'en disco!
(Thanks to the Parents' Council)

Credit Union Talent Show

Well done to Kadie Grogan (Rang 4), Kelly Joyce, Kate Lonergan and Julie Holland (all Rang 5) who were prizewinners in the Credit Union Talent

Show. Kadie and Kelly danced, Julie sang and Kate played the guitar and sang. The girls performed their winning acts at Assembly, much to the delight and amazement of their peers. It was lovely to see Julie mentioned in local papers last week for her outstanding performance in her Grade One Piano exam with the Leinster School of Music and Drama.

Hot Chocolate Night

On the 13th of December 2012, most of the children in the school came to a hot chocolate night. Each class went into a room where they either played games or listened to a story. Everyone also got a cup of delicious hot chocolate with marshmallows floating on top. At the end we all sang Christmas carols in the yard. It was a lovely, magical night. Many thanks to the Parents' Council and all the teachers who helped.

by Ali Corcoran and
Livvy O'Brien Rang 6

CHRISTMAS WISHES

This month is magical in school. It is wonderful to watch the pupils engage in Christmas activities and to feel the growing sense of anticipation. I am sure the excitement of Nativity plays or Carol Singing has spilled into your homes. Many of the younger (and maybe older) pupils count down the days in "sleeps". As the countdown to the holidays can be counted on two hands now, let us wish all our pupils, families and staff a safe and happy holiday. School will resume on Monday 7th January but until then, Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go leir. Go mbeirimid beo gan am seo aris.

