

# Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi

## St. Comgall's N.S., Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan



**June 2010**

*May beautiful sunshine warm each day of the summer and may you enjoy a fun filled, enjoyable and relaxing holiday.*

**School Year 2009-2010:** It has been another excellent year working with our pupils. We have been extremely pleased with the progress we have observed over the past year. Their growth, in every way, has been significant and this is due in no small part to the hard work of our dedicated staff and to the support given to us by you the parents. We thoroughly enjoy our teaching time spent at St. Comgall's and would like to express our gratitude to everyone who makes what we do possible.

**Excellent Attendance:** Congratulations to Rebecca Gavin in the senior classroom and Caoimhe Connolly and Katie Somerville in the junior classroom who achieved the highest attendance record in the school for 2009/2010. Good attendance is crucial to the development and education of children. Good attendance has a positive impact on pupil achievement; children who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school. Parents who make regular school attendance a priority are also helping their children learn to accept responsibility and that's an important lesson for a successful life. Remember a missed day of education can never be retrieved!

**Effective Parental Involvement:** Positive parental involvement in children's education communicates positive attitudes about school and the importance of education to the child. Once again, we thank you our parents for your continued support of our endeavours. As a result of ongoing fund raising efforts and the purchase of new laptops through the Christmas raffle and cake sale, pupils will benefit in all areas of the curriculum and will be provided with the best possible learning opportunities. As our sixth class pupils leave us this year, I would like to thank their parents for the commitment and energy to St Comgall's P.A.. In particular, Margaret and Pat Connolly and Mary and Paul McCaffrey have had a long family association with St. Comgall's and will be sadly missed.

### Goodbye!



We wish every success to our four sixth class pupils, Daniel, Rebecca, Damien and Claire who leave St. Comgall's N.S. and embark on a new chapter in their respective lives in Largy College in September.



**Commendable Performances:** We congratulate the children who have surpassed our expectations once again with their academic, artistic and sporting abilities. Well done to Sarah O'Connor whose handwriting earned her recognition for a third year running in the INTO/EBS Handwriting Competition. Congratulations are also due to our senior girls for their enthusiastic participation in the Ribena Soccer Competition held in Monaghan and to all senior children who participated so positively in the football blitz which took place recently in Cloghan Gaelic football grounds. Two senior teams also performed admirably out of twenty teams in the Clones Credit Union Quiz and we were just pipped at the post in receiving a prize in the junior category.

**Write-A-Book:** We were very proud of the very imaginative and creative books produced by our children in the 'Write-A-Book' competition. Congratulations to Kesley McGovern, Rachel Maguire, Amelia Butler and Colin Maguire who were merit award winners and were presented with their medals and certificates at a ceremony in the Hillgrove Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> June. And also well done to Rebecca Gavin, Damien Connolly, Shannon Murphy and Caoimhe Connolly who achieved highly commended recognition for their books. The writing of these books certainly produced a great sense of pride and accomplishment in all pupils and is an exercise which the school truly values.



**PE Coaching:** During the year the children experienced further specialized coaching in the 'Aquatics' and 'Game's strands of the P.E. Curriculum. This incorporated six weeks of swimming lessons in Monaghan swimming pool and ten weeks of Gaelic football coaching with Anne McKenna here at the school. New and innovative ideas in the teaching of sporting skills were explored with the pupils. Indeed, we are fortunate to be in a position to develop high-quality physical education provision for our pupils and to support new sporting talent. We look forward to continuing with these initiatives into next year.

**The Visual Arts:** Music and dance classes also continued this year. All children had the opportunity to engage in tin whistle lessons with Fran McMahon where they learned to perfect many lively tunes. Gerard McQuaid also explored new dances with the children and to add a little spice to the proceedings Gerard introduced an exciting and lively 'pop' dance to the children's repertoire. Thanks to all teachers for their expertise and enthusiasm in teaching these classes, we look forward to a resumption of music, gymnastics and French classes at St. Comgall's in the next school year.

**School Visitors:** The Fire Safety Officer – As part of the SESE curriculum a fire safety information lesson was delivered by Eddie Tackney of Clones Fire and Rescue Service on 4<sup>th</sup> June. The information is part of a nationwide programme entitled '*Safety Team*' which has been designed to continue to enhance the level of awareness of fire safety in the home and to raise the level of children's understanding of fire safety in the community on an annual basis.

**Science Demonstration:** In order to deepen the children's experience and understanding of the Science Curriculum, Lisa Mooney recently held an interactive session which involved pupils in experiments aimed at guiding them to a deeper understanding of what sound is, how sound travels and how to make sound. A great session was enjoyed by all and it certainly wasn't quiet!!

**School Tours:** Our first outing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June took us to the very beautiful Crom Estate. The walks there were quite charming as we explored a bog habitat and time spent searching in the soil for minibeasts of every description was certainly 'spine-tingling'.

Off we headed to the Marble Arch Caves, Enniskillen Castle and the Castle Island Adventure Park for another exciting and entertaining school tour on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. We enjoyed exploring the fascinating, natural underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers in the caves. And then later on, pupils experienced a sense of what life in World War II was really like for the soldiers through a dressing up session and a tour of war memorabilia. Many thanks to Eugene and Lorraine for their company, help and good humour on the day – great fun was enjoyed by all!



**Sport's Day:** Could we have asked for a more beautiful day for our annual sport's day on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June? The day's events encouraged and tested fitness levels of pupils, parents and staff!! Thanks to all our cheering parents and well done to Gerry, Stephanie and Róisín for crossing the line before us poor staff – serious training will have to be done before next year.... And congratulations to all children on looking so colourful in fancy dress costumes?? Huge thanks to Mrs. Pennell and Helen for the organisation of all events - everyone was a winner on the day

**Sacramental Preparation:** Congratulations to Damien Connolly, Rebecca Gavin, Daniel Maguire and Claire McCaffrey who received Confirmation on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May and to Chloe Maguire who received First Holy Communion on 16<sup>th</sup> May. We thank all those who played a very positive part in in the children's sacramental preparation.

**Recycling:** Sincere thanks to parents and our local community for generating much needed school funds through the recycling initiative. This year we collected €568 worth of bags and still await further payment for the last 29 bags. So all in all this was a tremendous success. Funds raised went towards paying for music lessons (€810) and the bus for the school tour. May everyone continue to recycle their unwanted clothes – most importantly, it's good for the environment as it diverts waste from landfill. Bags will continue to be gratefully received in 2010-2011.

**School Uniform:** Can I remind parents to purchase (if required) the school uniform or school tracksuit for next September, in McGarry's of Clones and Hicks of Lisnaskea, respectively. It is important to maintain consistency in the colour of school clothing throughout the school. Following are prices for this year:

<b>McGarry's, Clones: School Uniform</b>		
Jumper	€20 - €25	(depending on size)
Trousers	€14 - €15	"
Shirt	€5 - €6	"
Tie	€4	
<b>Hicks, Lisnaskea: Tracksuit (£)</b>		
Bottoms	£8.99 (small)	£11.99 (big)
Polo Shirt	£7.99	(all sizes)
Sweatshirt	£11.99	(all sizes)
Jacket	£15	

} Deal  
all inclusive  
**£40**

**Be a Summer Bookworm:** Reading during the holidays ensures our children are learning throughout the summer. Encourage them to pick up a book whenever they say, 'I'm bored' and you'll be guaranteed perfect peace for a few precious moments.

**School Staff & Management:** We thank members of the Board of Management for their attendance at meetings, for the interest they showed in the school's management and policy issues and, in general, for promoting participation and partnership in the running of St. Comgall's N.S..

**Summer Break:**

*The school will reopen at 9:20am on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
September 2010. Happy holidays!*



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Catriona Donnelly (Principal)