

Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi

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



December 2009

To wish you all every joy and happiness for Christmas and 2010. May the year in store bring all that your hearts desire.

Christmas Play: Well done to all our pupils for their wonderful presentation of *Silent Night*. Their enthusiasm and total commitment to this effort is to be commended. Many thanks to parents for helping children to learn their lines, for organising costumes and for attending on the night. We are extremely grateful to David Somerville for assisting with make-up which added greatly to the overall excitement of the event. The performance was captured on DVD by Martin Maguire and may be ordered, through the office, at €15 per disc.

Fundraising: Sincere thanks to the Parents' Association for your effort and generous donations to the annual Christmas draw and cake sale. What a tremendous success! Debbie informed us that a total of €3,315 was realised through these initiatives. This funding will go far in buying school resources and covering expenses normally accrued through swimming and other classes.

We certainly appreciate your on-going support of the recycling initiative. During the term this response realised an amount of €232.86. Money contributes towards the day to day costs involved in running the school. Remember bags can be dropped into the school at any time as the Cookstown recycling company can make a collection at short notice.



Music/Dancing Classes: We will resume tin whistle lessons with Mr. Fran McMahon after the Christmas holidays while French classes will also take place sometime in the forthcoming school term. A total of €300 raised through our Christmas raffle on the night of the play will help to furnish payment of these classes.

Our thanks to Gerard McQuaid for introducing our pupils to many endearing Irish traditional dances and to a very modern and lively 'Rock around the Clock' dance. Great fun was had by all.

Parish Carol Service: We applaud our pupils who performed their carols so beautifully during the Christmas Carol Service in Aghadrumsee Church on Monday 14th December. We were most proud of them and say well done for looking so well in their neat school uniforms on the night.

Gaelic Training: On the 11th January a Primary Schools' Coaching programme will commence with the teaching and development of fundamental skills of Gaelic football by Anne McKenna. All classes will be involved and will have a minimum of seven sessions.

Swine Flu: Our thanks to all parents for your co-operation in responding to arrangements aimed at helping to prevent the spread of this pandemic flu. Please continue to send in with your child/children a clean hand towel(s) daily. Children in schools throughout the country are being vaccinated, therefore, it is envisaged that our pupils will be offered this vaccination next term. When we receive more information in this regard we will inform you immediately.

Sacraments: Our sixth class pupils took their first step towards preparing for Confirmation through their attendance at the Service of Light ceremony in the Sacred Heart Church on December 1st, 2009. Chloe Maguire is also wholeheartedly preparing for First Holy Communion through the *Do this in Memory* programme and on Christmas Day she has the privilege of laying the Baby Jesus in the crib.

Charity: Sincere thanks again for your wholehearted support of the 'Christmas Shoebox Appeal' - a total of thirty-three shoeboxes were filled. This project marks a great opportunity for children to experience that Christmas is not just about gifts received, but rather is a special time for giving to less fortunate children. It is certainly a lovely preparation for the coming of Jesus.

Trips: On Wednesday, 16th December the junior classes enjoyed a highly entertaining pantomime, 'Goldilocks & the Three Bears', in Monaghan. Then we all took pleasure in sitting back to watch the musical experience, 'Stars in Their Eyes' in Largy College on Monday 21st December 2009.

Altar Servers: On Wednesday, November 18th Fr. Kearns did a training session with the altar servers, particularly as Rachel Maguire is one of our new altar servers. We would like to thank those pupils who have committed to altar serving in St. Alphonsus' Church for the foreseeable future. A new rota has been distributed to pupils for the rest of the year. Once again please make appropriate arrangements should your child be unable to serve at an assigned mass.

School Visitor: Monaghan County Enterprise Board sent its representative, Lena Shaw, to deliver a second enterprise awareness in-school workshop to the senior pupils. It certainly proved to be another valuable lesson in helping the children to discover the entrepreneurship that exists in Monaghan and emphasised how things they learn at school and their inherent abilities can make them successful business people.

Curriu Success: The Dr. Ward trophy, recently won by Currin visited St. Comgall's on Monday 21st December 2009. All the pupils had the opportunity to hold and be photographed with the trophy and speak to the local players including Captain Dick Clerkin and past pupils Enda McCaffrey, Francis O'Callaghan and Philip O'Callaghan. No doubt, this unique visit will live in the memories of the pupils for many a day and hopefully some of our present pupils will play on a future Currin team.



School Holidays: A reminder that school will re-open at 9.20am on Thursday 7th January 2010. Happy festive holiday!

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)