

*Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi*  
St. Comgall's N.S., Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan



*Easter 2010*

*Sending you a basketful of good wishes at Easter from all at St. Comgall's N.S.*

**Competition Winner:** Our congratulations to Sarah O'Connor whose handwriting earned her recognition for a third year running in the INTO/EBS Handwriting Competition. Sarah was presented with a €30 book voucher at a lovely award ceremony on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Glencarn Hotel, Castleblaney. We also applaud our two senior teams for their wholehearted participation in the Clones Credit Union Quiz.

**Green Schools:** Well done to all pupils for the initial steps they have taken in the Green-Schools programme. A committee was elected that will now direct the operations of the school's Green-Schools programme. This committee is representative of the whole school and will be as pupil led as possible. To date a number of meetings have been held and pupils are now maintaining progress records and minutes of every meeting. Having first carried out an environmental review of the school and the school environment the pupils looked at the types of waste we are producing and where in the school the most waste is being generated e.g. lunch packaging, paper from the photocopier. Results were produced in table format and then ways to minimise this waste were highlighted. The pupils decided that bringing in drinks in flasks during the cold weather would minimise bottle/carton waste and we thank parents for facilitating and supporting this effort. Indeed we wish pupils and Green-Schools co-ordinator, Mrs. Pennell, continued success with this initiative into the future.



**Sacraments:** We congratulate our sixth class, Damien Connolly, Claire McCaffrey, Rebecca Gavin and Daniel Maguire who took the pledge on Temperance Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, during 11am mass in St. Alphonsus Church, Connons. We commend their parents for advising and encouraging them to do so. In preparation for this ceremony the pupils also participated in a retreat day in St. Macartan's College, yesterday, Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March. The day was organised by Clogher Óige and pupils found it both beneficial and enjoyable. We now look forward to joining with the pupils in their celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at 6pm on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

Well done to Chloe Maguire, our second class pupil, who continued with her sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion through her participation in the 'Do this in Memory' programme at Mass on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February. Fr. Kearns praised her for her proactive involvement in all preparations, particularly her First Confession which we celebrated last Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, here in St. Comgall's. We thank all parents who joined us for this lovely, spiritual event. First Holy Communion will be held locally in St. Alphonsus on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.




**Gaelic/Music/French Classes:** A very successful Gaelic coaching session with Anne McKenna took place during the Christmas-Easter term. Classes were well structured and organised with a healthy, competitive and enjoyable experience had by all pupils. Activities were clearly designed to develop various important football skills for the children. We thank the Monaghan County Board for its continued support in this regard.

January also saw the successful resumption of tin whistle lessons with Mr. Fran McMahon. Fran suggested that perhaps a little concert with children performing tunes learned might be held towards the end of the year. A possible date will be decided on after the holidays.

French classes with Janette Coyle will also take place sometime in the forthcoming school term.

**Swimming Classes:** Swimming is a valuable life-skill and we are delighted that this term the pupils will have another opportunity to enjoy water play while acquiring proficiency in specific techniques in Monaghan Swimming Pool. A six week session will commence on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010, with subsequent sessions being held on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Each session will last one hour, 11am-12pm and parents of children in the junior classes are welcome to sit in the gallery for the duration of each class.

**Computers:** Next term a new investment plan incorporating approximately €2,000 from the Department of Education and Science, €1,000 from the Parent Association and a further €1,000 from school funds will see new laptops in both classroom and consequently a much closer integration of ICT in all elements of teaching and learning. We thank parents for their generous donations to fundraising to date.

<p><b>World Book Day:</b> St. Comgall's recently celebrated World Book Day with fun activities aimed at promoting books and reading in the school. We thank parents for supporting the 'Swop a book' session which encouraged the pupils to exchange old books for new and exciting novels. Pupils were given a wonderful opportunity to discuss reasons why they enjoyed reading a particular story.</p>	<p><b>Write-A-Book:</b> We also participated in the 'Write-A-Book' competition, run by Monaghan Education Centre. It provided a wonderful opportunity to develop children's creativity based on their experiences, observations and imagination. It was also an excellent means of focusing on a particular need indicated by their writing e.g. punctuation or a specific teaching objective e.g. uses of direct speech in writing. We commend pupils on their efforts and wish them every success in the competition.</p>
<p><b>Altar Servers:</b> Our thanks to those pupils who continue with their commitment to altar serving in St. Alphonsus' Church. Your reverence and generous efforts are very much appreciated. Once again please make appropriate arrangements should your child be unable to serve at an assigned mass.</p>	
<p><b>Insulation:</b> We were delighted, this year, to secure an 'Energy Efficiency Scheme Grant' worth €4,090.65, which offered our school the opportunity to upgrade our existing insulation levels, improve the comfort in the building and significantly reduce our annual heating bill. Insulation work was carried out by local contractor James Corr in all attics and external walls. The work is almost complete and we look forward to an enhanced energy performance in the school into the future.</p>	
<p><b>Recycling:</b> We appreciate your on-going support of the recycling initiative. During the term this response realised an amount of €141.90. This money contributes in no small part towards the day to day costs involved in running the school and ongoing payment of music classes. Remember bags can be dropped into the school at any time as the Cookstown recycling company can make a collection at short notice</p>	
	<p><b>School Holidays:</b> A reminder that school will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Happy holidays!</p>

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Catriona Donnelly (Principal)

Hip hop, hippety hop  
My "Easter Bunny" went off to the shop,  
He bought me an egg and lots of chocs  
And packed them into a cardboard box.  
Then he wrapped it with paper and shiny string  
It really was such a pretty thing.  
Disaster struck when I opened the door-  
He slid across the parquet floor,  
He went round the corner and past the stairs  
And finished up in a pile of chairs.  
Of the Easter goodies not a trace,  
He'd thrown them into my fireplace!  
So a warning before you go opening doors  
Make sure your "Bunny" has non-slip paws!