

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



June 2007

*The staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents and pupils a sunny, safe and enjoyable holiday.*

**School Year 2006-2007:** This year has turned out to be one filled with days that were steaming with activities. New learning, school trips, invited visitors to the school and competitions were some of the myriad experiences that presented themselves to us. Indeed, we travelled a journey that led us from temporary accommodation in the local Community Centre to our newly renovated school and were most grateful for the gift of true humour that we encountered throughout. We are delighted with the progress and success we accomplished and look forward to all that the next school year might bring.

**Parental Support:** We would like to thank all parents most sincerely for their fundraising which has facilitated us with a wonderful resource library, blinds for the new extension and also financial assistance towards travelling expenses. As parents, you have again supported successful book club and Super Valu token collections, thus ensuring that reading is flourishing at St. Comgall's and that the school is now the proud owner of a wide range of P.E. equipment. Indeed, your positive attitudes, commitment and belief in the future potential of the school encourage us to realize new dreams and progress to new heights.

**Achievements:** We congratulate and commend all our children for their educational, artistic and sporting endeavours during the year. We remember the great gymnastic skills involving various shapes and moves which they learned with our gymnastics coach Joe Flynn. Well done to Zoe Clarke who won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the art competition in Clones Library and to Michaela Maguire and Jessica Gavin who achieved merit awards in the Write-a-book competition. Congratulations also to our senior pupils who, this month, reached the semi-final stage of a Gaelic football blitz in Clontibret. Indeed, all pupils participated enthusiastically in a football coaching day organised recently with ScotsHouse pupils and were praised by the coaches for their excellent behaviour.

**The Creative Arts:** Undoubtedly, the creative arts are alive and well at St. Comgall's. This year saw the successful commencement of Irish dancing classes with Gerard McQuaid and tin whistle lessons with Fran McMahon. A rosy glow was certainly cast over Tuesdays with these exciting activities and it was a joy to see children discovering new talents. Developing these talents further will be a high priority in our next school year, with music classes beginning in September followed, we hope, by dancing classes in the autumn term.

**Centra Art Competition:** During the year, the senior pupils participated in Centra's 'Children's art in the community' competition. It included a school's draw section and we are delighted to inform you that, our school was the proud winner of a school's artist hamper worth €500!



**Gardening Endeavours:** All in the community are well aware, I'm sure, of how Mrs. Pennell introduced us to the rewards of the garden through innovative gardening ideas. Delight was shared by both pupils and staff as we worked at tasks such as soil preparation, the planting of flowers and herbs, the creative recycling of tyres and tree trunks and the creation of unusual and playful garden artwork. It was no wonder then, that we were absolutely delighted with being awarded first prize in the 'School Planting Project', organised by 4Homes, Monaghan. The prize of a €500 voucher from the store will be used to purchase garden furniture and shrubbery. And when our school site has been fenced and seeded during the holidays, we intend to explore further the world of plant and animal life with the introduction of wildlife and vegetable themes.

**School Play:** We enjoyed another wonderful evening's entertainment before Christmas with the school's presentation of 'Baboushka'. The tremendous hard work put into preparing for the play was evident in the children's confident performances on the night. Parents' help and support with the learning of lines, assistance with costumes and of course attendance on the night was very much appreciated.

**Pastoral Care:** Our thanks to staff, priests, pupils and parents who were involved in the preparation of our pupils for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Particular thanks to those parents who co-ordinated the 'Do This in Memory' programme.

May I, on behalf of the whole school community, send our best wishes to Canon McQuaid, as he celebrates his 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration as a priest. As Chairperson of the Board of Management, we thank him for his continued interest and support of our work in the school.

A reminder that our altar servers have received a schedule of dates for serving at mass during the holidays. Should any child be away on an appointed Sunday, please ensure you make alternative arrangements for someone to serve in place of your child.

**'Reminiscences':** Our senior pupils were involved in the folklore/oral history project entitled 'Reminiscences' run by the Clones Erne East Partnership (CEEP). Material on life along the border and the history of ordinary life some forty/fifty years ago was researched and recorded in essay form by the children. They also wrote stories about a day in their lives, May 2007, and we look forward to these stories being placed in a time capsule in the new Connors stone chair when it is officially launched by the community.

**School Tour:** This year we headed to Kells for our school tour where the children learned about and took part in some traditional farming activities, notably, turf cutting at the bog. This was followed by a trip to Grove Gardens where we encountered beautiful tropical birds and some zoo animals. All pupils, parents **and** teachers enjoyed a very exciting, energetic day!

**Sports Day:** On Monday last, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 we were fortunate enough to enjoy, a 'rain free' sport's day over in our local football pitch. Well done to all pupils for their wholehearted participation and to Mrs. Pennell and Helen for such a highly organised schedule of events. Suffice to say our new sport's day P.E. equipment purchased with the Super Valu tokens from was a terrific bonus. No end of prizes was distributed and everyone was a winner. Many thanks to all parents who came along and cheered on our efforts from the sideline.



**Recycling:** Our recycling initiatives with Century 21<sup>st</sup> have proved enormously successful. Funds raised have been directed towards the payment of teachers of the Arts who visit our school. We are eager to continue with this effort again next year.

**Summer Break:** The school will reopen at 9:20am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007. Happy holidays!



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Catríona Donnelly (Principal)