

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



June 2008

We wish everyone an enjoyable and well-deserved break during the summer holidays.

School Year 2007-2008: This year marked another milestone in our school's history. The official opening of the new extension will always be a treasured memory. May I commend pupils, staff, parents and the wider community on coming together and making it such a special day. A great legacy has been bestowed on future generations and we thank everyone for what was achieved.



Admirable Accomplishments: As we reflect on another year's progress, we acknowledge and congratulate children on their academic, artistic and sporting endeavours during the year. Success has come in a variety of formats; children have received certificate recognition in swimming, Rachel Maguire won third prize in the Clones Library Art Competition, Sarah O'Connor, Leah Maguire and Kesley McGovern achieved merit awards in the Write-a-book Competition, while Sarah O'Connor's handwriting earned her recognition in the INTO/EBS Handwriting Competition. Congratulations also to our senior pupils for their enthusiastic participation in the Gaelic football blitz in Clontibret and the Ribena Soccer Competition held during the year in Monaghan.

School Tour: Armagh was this year's destination for our school tour. Paul at 'The Palace Stables' first engaged us in the finer details of orienteering and later challenged us to find our way around a park using our newly learned map-reading skills. Astronaut training and a journey around the planets of the Solar System were the order of the day at the Planetarium and this was followed up with an experiment and class investigation which explored the difficulty of working in space. Many thanks to Christine and Debbie for their company, help and good humour on the day – great fun was enjoyed by all!

Thrill of Twins: Great excitement was recently shared when Mrs. Pennell popped into visit us with her two beautiful new twin girls, Kerrie-Anne and Kayla-Marie. The babies slept peacefully the entire time as we all marvelled at their perfect little features. We send the whole family our heartiest congratulations and wish them a future of good health and happiness together.

Parents in Action: A particular note of thanks to all parents for your tremendous support throughout the year. The help with preparations for the opening of the extension, the external work on the garden and school playground, even your words of support and praise were most appreciated. Continued progress at the school is due in no small part to your voluntary effort and commitment to the education of your children. Indeed, it is in coming and working together that projects come to fruition – great energy is producing projects, of which we are justifiably proud. May I also thank you for your terrific financial assistance towards our funding needs. This money affords us the opportunity to enhance and enrich the learning experiences and possibilities for your children.



Gardening Endeavours: Science education enhances children's knowledge and understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. With this in mind, a school project incorporating the development of a vegetable plot and a wildlife area was, this year, an important focus of our attention. Pots were filled full with compost and bedding plants, raised beds were planted with an assortment of vegetables, hedging was set and a wildlife area was brought to

life. All in all, we discovered that gardening is a gradual process – the seeds didn't grow into plants overnight and the soil needed watering and constant weeding!! We may not have won any competition but more importantly we had great fun, we grew vegetables and were able to eat some fresh from the garden. Indeed, we have taken our first steps into the world of horticulture and plan on promoting this vital connection with our environment into the future.



Sports Day: On Friday, June 20th 2008 pupils participated wholeheartedly in another successful sport's day over at the football pitch. The sun shone beautifully as a great group of cheering parents enhanced a very sporting occasion. Huge thanks to Helen and Ms. McDonnell for the organisation and 'smooth running' of both athletic and fun events. Plenty medals and prizes were distributed - everyone was a winner in this very enjoyable learning environment.

The Creative Arts: Complementary music, dancing and French classes continued this year. Enhancing the goals of the curriculum was to the forefront as Gerard McQuaid introduced new Irish dances, Fran McMahon presented new tin whistle tunes and Jeanette Coyle exposed the children further to the French language. We thank all teachers for their expertise and interest in the teaching of these classes and look forward to a resumption of same at St. Comgall's in the new school year.

Summer Break:

*The school will reopen at 9:20am on Monday 1st
September 2008. Happy holidays!*



Catriona Donnelly (Principal)