

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



October 2007

As we look forward with great excitement to Hallowe'en we would like to send out good wishes to all our families and would like to convey a special word of welcome to our new pupils, Amelia and Leah in Junior Infants. We hope that their time at St. Comgall's N.S. will be happy and enjoyable.

A New Board of Management at 'St. Comgall's N.S.': The term of office of the present Board of Management will expire in November and from December new members appointed and elected will serve on the Board for the next four years. Two parents of children enrolled in our school (one being a mother, the other a father), will be elected by the general body of parents of children enrolled in the school. There is a choice of two procedures for this election process, namely a meeting of parents to invite nominations for both a mothers' panel and fathers' panel or, the circulation of a list of parents' names to each home seeking from parents, nominations of candidates for elections. The method of election of Parent Representatives shall be determined in consultation with you through the Parents' Association.

School Mass: Our annual school mass was a very special celebration and we congratulate all the children for their wholehearted and reverent participation in the mass. Our thanks to Fr. John Kearns for his celebration of the Mass for our school community, parents, families and friends.

Insurance: In relation to insurance I would like to thank parents for their understanding and co-operation with regard to the allocated times for children's arrival at school and collection from school.

Fund Raising: A thank you also to all of our parents who contributed once again to the recycling initiative. The response realised an amount of €250. This money is contributing towards the cost of our music classes.

Attendance: I would like to thank parents for sending in notes and letting teachers know reasons for absences of a child from school. May I remind parents to retain all documentation regarding children being absent from school for 20 days or more as this may be required by the Education Welfare Officer under the terms of the Education Welfare Act 2000.

Trips: On Monday 8th October we visited the Church of Ireland, Drumully, to learn about their celebration of the harvest thanksgiving. We were welcomed by the Rector and some members of the Church community.

On Thursday 18th October we celebrated National Tree Day with a visit to Rossmore Park in Monaghan. Our guide for the 'Forest Walk' was Mr. George Beirne from Coillte. We enjoyed a very informative visit on a most beautiful, sunny and vibrant autumn morning.

Healthy Eating Policy: During our first term we explored a variety of healthy food options; we experienced an interesting 'vegetable tasting' session whereby children were introduced to some new foods and we then looked at some cooking and scientific food facts. We thank you for your support in ensuring that children continue with their healthy snacks and lunches.

As part of the Science curriculum, the senior classes will, throughout the year, participate in the 'Discover Primary Science' programme. Involving the children in various scientific activities and science trips will be central to this initiative and will ultimately aim to lead pupils to devise and develop their own experiments and investigations.

Music/Dancing: Tin Whistle lessons with Mr. Fran McMahon have resumed on Tuesdays. Next term will see the resumption of Irish dancing classes with Mr. Gerard McQuaid.

Charity: Once again we are participating in the Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' project. All relevant details are on the leaflet and we would ask that all items included in the shoeboxes are new. To facilitate customs checks during transit, please ensure that when covering boxes in Christmas paper, that they are not sealed. An elastic band will suffice. Our final date for sending in boxes is Thursday 8th November 2007.

Altar Servers: We congratulate most sincerely all our pupils for their continued commitment to altar serving in St. Alphonsus' Church. It is a most important role and one which has been noted and commended by visitors to the church.

Hallowe'en Break: School closes today Friday 26th October and will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 5th November 2007.
Finally, we would like to wish you all a... spooky, happy and safe holiday.



Catriona Donnelly (Principal)

