

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

~~~~~ New Year 2008 ~~~~~

With fond memories of times we've shared last term and of aspirations that were realised; we wish you to a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to your continued help and support in 2008.

The Official Opening: The official opening of the new extension by Minister Hanafin on Friday, 30th November was a proud day indeed for the whole school community and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents for your generous contribution and voluntary effort with the building works over the last eighteen months. It is a great tribute to all involved that we now have a lovely school with a rich stimulating atmosphere and environment in which to foster enhanced teaching and learning opportunities for our children. To mark the occasion Mr. Seán Connolly, our videotographer, has compiled a DVD of the day's events and this may be ordered, through the office, at a cost of €15 per disc.

New Board of Management: I would like to welcome our new incoming Board into the school community; welcome to Brendan Jenkins (chairperson) Irene Rooney and Dessie O'Connor (community members), Lorraine Fitzsimons and John Joe Gavin (parent representatives) and a particular welcome to Fr. Larry Duffy our new Parish Priest and patron's representative. Thanks to all members of the newly-constituted Board for their interest and willingness to participate and work voluntarily for a four-year term towards education provision at St. Comgall's. May I also pay tribute to a very supportive out-going Board for their involvement and advice in the running of the school during the last three years.

Parish Carol Service: On Tuesday 19th December we attended a Christmas Carol Service in Aghadrumsee Church. The children did us justly proud as they performed their two carols so beautifully during the service. We commend their excellent behaviour and we would like to thank you the parents for ensuring they arrived at the church punctually and in neat school uniform.

Fund Raising: Again, a sincere thanks to all parents for your effort and very generous support of the Christmas draw and cake sale. This money will help to fund music, dancing and swimming classes next term.

School Play: Heartiest congratulations to all our pupils for their wonderful performance in *Stable Manners*, our Christmas play. Tremendous hard work was put into play preparations and particularly into the learning of parts and songs. Thanks to parents for assisting with costumes and of course for attending our production. Many thanks to David and Shirley Somerville for assisting with make-up, this added greatly to the overall excitement and ambience on the night. The performance was also captured on DVD and may be ordered, through the office, at €15 per disc.

Trips: We enjoyed a number of educational trips to various events last term. On Thursday 15th November our senior classes visited Clones Library to attend a science presentation which involved a number of sound related experiments. In December the junior classes travelled to the Christmas Pantomime in Monaghan while all children enjoyed the musical experience, 'Stars in Their Eyes' in Largy College the following week.

Altar Server Rota: A rota has been drawn up and distributed to servers. Please make the appropriate arrangements with other parents if your child is unable to serve on his/her assigned date.

Charity: Participation in the 'Christmas Shoebox Appeal' was a great opportunity once again for children to experience the real meaning of giving at Christmas. Sincere thanks for your wholehearted support with this initiative. The children were very enthusiastic about this project and between staff and pupils a total of thirty shoeboxes were filled.

Dancing/French: Dancing classes with Gerard McQuaid have commenced and will continue for eight weeks. French classes for the senior room will begin on Wednesday 16th January.

Library Art Competition: Congratulations to Rachel Maguire who won 3rd Prize in the art competition in Clones Library. Rachel with her family and teachers attended a presentation of prizes in the Iontas Centre, Castleblaney on Thursday 13th December 2007.

21st Century Recycling: We wondered if perhaps you would welcome a 'Post Christmas Clean-up'? To participate in the recycling scheme items which may be included are clothes, sheets/fabrics, shoes, old mobile phones and used ink cartridges. We would ask you to fill these items into bags provided/ or black refuse bags and drop them into us by 3pm on Tuesday 29th January. Each bag filled will earn €2 for school funds.

Parent/ Teacher Meetings: It is envisaged that parent/ teacher meetings will be held from 2pm to 5pm on Tuesday 12th February 2008. We will endeavour to facilitate times for parents, to the best of our ability.

Quiz Competitions: A reminder to parents of children in the senior classes that the local heats of the Credit Union Schools Quiz takes place on Friday 25th January 2008 at 7.30p.m. in Largy College. All children should be in the hall at 7.00p.m. for photographs wearing full school uniform.

Midterm: St. Comgall's N.S. will close at 3pm on Wednesday 13th February and will reopen at 9:20am on Monday 18th February 2008 for midterm.