

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

Summer 2011



*May your summer be filled with wonderful promises
and may you enjoy a warm and relaxing holiday.*

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School Year 2010-2011: After considering the many exciting experiences shared during another very eventful school year, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to pupils, staff and parents for the significant and very valuable work that everyone has done towards the success of this academic school year. Being part of such a dedicated and creative community at St. Comgall's N.S. brings with it, as always, a great sense of achievement. Therefore, in this newsletter I would like to mention a few notable items, which by no means expresses everything that happened this year, but rather gives us a flavour of what we accomplished.

President McAleese: It was a day of honour and great pride when President Mary McAleese visited St. Comgall's on Thursday, November 18th, 2010. The visit marked a truly wonderful occasion for the whole school community. We recall her thoughtful and encouraging words on the day and commend all who contributed to making the visit a tremendous success.



First Green Flag: We were delighted to be awarded our first Green Flag from An Taisce in January 2011. The flag was awarded in recognition of our efforts to integrate issues related to litter and waste reduction into our daily school lives. Success in achieving this flag was due, in no small part, to the hard work and commitment of all pupils and staff and to the support of parents. We were also thrilled that two of our Monaghan County football players, Conor McManus and Dessie Mone and school neighbour, John Connolly were present on Friday, 3rd June to help us raise the flag and join in a memorable day of celebration!

School Attendance: Congratulations to Lily Fitzpatrick in the junior classroom and Jessica Gavin in the senior classroom who achieved the highest attendance record in the school for 2010/2011. Good attendance is central to the positive educational development of children. Good attendance has a crucial impact on pupil achievement; children, who attend school regularly, learn more and are more successful in school. Unfortunately school attendance this year was disappointing for a high number of children. I am urging parents to make regular school attendance a priority for your child/children in the forthcoming year

St. Comgall's Parent Association: No school can be successful without the support of the parent community. You, the parents help us as we strive to create the best possible experiences for our pupils. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your organisation of the annual Christmas raffle and cake sale, for your support with the recycling clothes initiative and for making yourselves available to lend a helping hand when important visitors paid us a visit!! A particular thanks to Christine Clarke whose commitment and dedication to the position of Treasurer of the P.A. proved to be an integral part in the smooth running of an effective organisation. We also thank the parents of our sixth class pupils for their long association with St. Comgall's P.A. over the years. They will be sadly missed.



Debbie, John Joe, Eugene, Kathleen and Róisín make a presentation to Christine at the final P.A. meeting.

Good Luck!



We wish every success to our five sixth class pupils, Kevin, Caolan, Zoe, Jessica and Kesley who leave St. Comgall's N.S. to embark upon new experiences as they further their educational development in Largy College.

Summer Reading Challenge: Research indicates that reading standards fall during the summer holidays. To help alleviate this Clones Library is running a national reading initiative called a 'Summer Reading Challenge; Circus Stars' in the library during the holidays. The challenge for children will be to read six or more books, to grade the books and to become involved in activities and events in the library, which are designed to further promote pleasure in reading. The initiative will culminate with each child being presented with a certificate and medal in recognition of their reading efforts. So head to Clones Library during the holidays for some fun, free reading!!

Creditable Performances: Looking back we congratulate the children on their admirable participation in academic, artistic and sporting fields. Congratulations to Kesley McGovern who was a recent merit award winner in the 'Publish a Poem' competition. Well done also to Amie Somerville, Leah Maguire and Caolán Maguire who achieved highly commended recognition for their poems. The beautiful handwriting of Sarah O'Connor earned her recognition for a fourth year running in the INTO/EBS Handwriting Competition. Congratulations to Kevin Murphy for his artistic achievement in winning the Clones Forum wildlife drawing competition. Kevin won lovely prizes for our school garden, including a bat box and ladybird box. In May our senior girls took part in a very enjoyable Ribena Soccer Competition in Monaghan while in the same month all senior pupils participated wholeheartedly and

won two games in the football blitz in Cloghan Gaelic football grounds. Finally our senior team members contributed well in the Clones Credit Union Quiz back in January.



Christmas Play: We were whisked away to a magical performance of 'Papa Panov' at Christmas. Our pupils had us all spellbound with their wonderful acting, dancing and impressive makeup and costumes. Congratulations to all the pupils, and thank you again to parents for being such an enthusiastic audience. Well done again to the staff on another remarkable production success.

PE and Music Matters: Gymnastics classes with Catríona Boyle proved a great success this year. The classes provided a wonderful opportunity to build self-confidence, physical strength, coordination and flexibility in the pupils and also to promote positive teamwork. Gaelic football coaching with Anne McKenna also promoted new and innovative ideas in the teaching and further development of football skills. Indeed, we are fortunate to be in a position to develop high-quality physical education provision for our pupils and to support new sporting talent. We look forward to continuing with these initiatives into next year.

Tin whistle lessons with Fran McMahon continued throughout the year and pupils learned to perfect many lively tunes. Acquiring the ability to play the tin whistle is a very valuable and sociable skill and we thank Fran for his expertise and enthusiasm in teaching these classes. We are delighted that he is available to teach our pupils again next year.

School Tour: We headed off to W5 in Belfast for another fun-filled school tour on Wednesday 1st June. Exploring the interactive science and discovery centre was certainly challenging and tested all our brain cells! Later on, adults were happy to relax and watch the pupils have great fun in the play centre out in Glengormely. Many thanks to Phyllis and John for their company, help and good humour – an entertaining day was had by all!



Sacramental Preparation: Congratulations to Jessica Gavin, Kesley McGovern, Caolan Maguire, Zoe Clarke and Kevin Murphy who received Confirmation on Sunday 27th March and well done to Leah Maguire and Amelia Butler who received First Holy Communion on 15th May. We thank all those who played a very positive part in the children's sacramental preparation.



Recycling: Sincere thanks to parents and our local community for generating much needed school funds through the recycling initiative. This year we collected €612 worth of bags and we await payment for bags collected this week. Again this initiative has been a tremendous success. Funds raised went towards paying for music lessons (€750). Recycling unwanted clothes is good for the environment; it diverts waste from landfill. Bags will continue to be gratefully received in 2011-2012.

School Uniform: Can I remind parents to purchase both the school uniform and school tracksuit for next September, in Hicks of Lisnaskea as McGarry's no longer operates in Clones. As we strive to show pride in our dress and appearance, it is important to purchase the whole uniform from this shop in order to maintain consistency in the colour and style of school clothing throughout the classes. Following are prices for this year:

Hicks, Lisnaskea: School Uniform (£)

Jumper	£11.99 - £13.99 (depending on size)	} Deal all inclusive £30
Trousers	£11.99 - £13.99 (depending on size)	
Skirt/Pinafore	£8.99 - £13.99 (depending on size)	
Shirt	£4.99	
Tie	£3.50	

Tracksuit (£)

Bottoms	£8.99 (small) £11.99 (large)	} Deal all inclusive £40
Polo Shirt	£7.99 (all sizes)	
Sweatshirt	£11.99 (all sizes)	
Jacket	£16.99	

School Staff & Management: We thank members of the Board of Management for their attendance at meetings, for the interest they showed in the school's management and policy issues and, in general, for promoting participation and partnership in the running of St. Comgall's N.S..

Summer Break:

*The school will reopen at 9:20am on Thursday 1st
September 2011. Happy holidays!*



Catriona Donnelly (Principal)