



## St. Comgall's N.S.

Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

*A happy and peaceful festive season to all our families and every good wish for the New Year!*

**Board of Management 2019-2023:** The term of office for our new Board of Management commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. We welcome onto the Board our two new patron representatives, Gerald McMahon, Chairman, and Michael Killen, our community representatives Owen Conlon and Christine Clarke and we also welcome Donna Marron and John Connolly, who have taken up the two new Parent Representative positions. I would like to thank members for their willingness to serve voluntarily on the Board for the next four years. Indeed, we wish them well for the future as they work together on issues related to the management of St. Comgall's N.S. for the benefit of all children and parents.



**Congratulations** to all those pupils who, this term, were recognised for their hard work, positive attitudes and for their kind, considerate gestures to others. Keep up the great effort and continue to do your best in 2020!



**Well done** to all those pupils who achieved full attendance this term. Good school attendance is highly valued in our school. If, however, you were sick, don't worry; it was important that you stayed at home to recover and that you prevented germs from spreading to those of us at school. We know that you'll be back to full attendance after Christmas!

So, congratulations to Donnchadh, Finn, Ava, Pádraig Óg, Kayla and Dáire in the junior classroom and to Ryan, Luke, Liam, Eoghan, Jack, Matthew, Luke S., Dean, Caoimhe, Jack, Rocha and Katie in the senior classroom.

**Our hard-working Parent Association** raised important funds through their efforts with the successful Christmas raffle and cake sale. My sincere thanks to our P.A. committee, guided by Elisha McCaffrey / Deirdre Parker (Secretary/Assistant Secretary), Natasha Duffy / Jacinta McCaffrey (Treasurer/ Assistant Treasurer) and Susan McCaffrey / Thomas McCaffrey (Chairperson/Deputy Chairman). Indeed, thanks to all parents for selling tickets, for donating prizes and for showcasing very impressive baking skills during the cake sale! This year, these events earned a total of €3,205. We are grateful for your wonderful parental support which helps to provide a teaching / learning environment that is impressively equipped with varied educational resources.

**The Active Flag:** We continue to make great strides towards achieving our *Active Flag*. Our playground leaders have shown great leadership in ensuring that all activities were correctly played, that skills were accurately learned and that games were thoroughly enjoyed. It is hoped that they will continue to build and foster an active culture among the younger pupils in the school, ultimately enabling us to meet the requirements for our Active Flag in 2020.





**The Green Flag:** We continue in our endeavours to work towards achieving our *Green Flag* for Travel. The Travel flag promotes good health and a more active lifestyle, benefiting not just our environment but our bodies too. The work to improve our parking area has started; we look forward to this work being completed early in the new year. We have been busy discussing all the different modes of transport, both public and private transport. The pupils will become environmental inventors in the new year inventing their own *environmentally friendly* type of transport. We are sure the pupils will come up with some fantastic ideas!

Sorcha Brophy, An Taisce, will visit our school in January to hold a workshop on climate change with the pupils. The pupils will explore further with her recent changes in climate change, which is a hot topic at the moment.

*During our second term of 2019-2020 ....*



**Christmas Shoebox Appeal:** The spirit of Christmas was evident through another successful '*Team Hope Shoebox Appeal*' collection in early November. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! Christmas is about sharing with those children who are poorer and less fortunate than us. We wish those children hope and happiness for the Christmas season.

**Cavan & Monaghan Science Week** offered primary schools a free 'Primary Schools Programme' in mid-November. Subsequently, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, all pupils attended a 'Bubble Maths' show in Clones Library, which tested their mathematical knowledge of length, height, area and volume. Using a cubic metre, constructed entirely from balloons, they had to predict how many children could fit inside it. Similarly, another challenge required then to predict how many pupils could fit inside a bubble, with a diameter measuring 1m. We were most definitely 'bubble brained' by the end of the session!!



**And so, Christmas 2019 began ... \*\*\*\*\***

**Eoghan placed star on tree...**



**Ava switched on lights...**



**Rocha placed star on tree...**



**Seán switched on lights...**





**Advent:** Fr. McKenna visited the school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November and discussed the significance of the Advent Wreath with the pupils, particularly in relation to Advent and our preparation for Christmas. He blessed the wreath and we were reminded about little steps we could take, as we journey towards Christmas, to welcome the birth of the Baby Jesus.



**Our Christmas play,** 'Stable Manners,' was performed on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December to a packed house in our local Connons Community Hall. It was a most enjoyable occasion. Thanks to our make-up artists, to the P.A. for the interval refreshments and to you the parents for your attendance and your donation of such generous prizes for our raffle. Finally, to my background production team - Mrs. Pennell, Mrs. Hagan, Mary, Stephanie and Jade. Their support and enthusiasm breathes success into our shows each year, their commitment is unwavering. Indeed, our raffle was a huge success and again realised a very impressive €800 / £7 on the night. So far, money raised has paid for more decorations, treats, presentations made on the night and the pupils' Christmas lunch. The remainder will help pay for additional educational trips during the remainder of this academic year.

**Show Time** proved to be another enjoyable occasion in Largy College on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, as our pupils enjoyed entertaining songs, dances and sketches that were very competently performed by the secondary students. Thanks to Principal, Sharon Magennis for making us feel so welcome and for commenting on how well the pupils behaved throughout the performances.



**Six-week volleyball** coaching with Francis McFadden finished up on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Each session was exciting, challenging and fun-filled, as Francis taught us the fundamentals of volleyball and explored many of the basic principles that the entire sport is built upon. Hopefully, we'll have an opportunity to develop this sport further in the future. A reminder that on **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January swimming coaching commences** with all classes. Please note the attached information sheet for further details.



**Santa Time** filled the school with exciting Christmas spirit on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December with a surprise visit from an extremely important visitor – Santa Claus!! As always, Santa proved to be a fantastic singer; he gave a gift to each child and then happily headed off to prepare for his busy schedule on Christmas Eve.



**Christmas Break** ~ St. Comgall's N.S. will close today at 12pm, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 and will re-open at 9.20am, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

\* Finally, we would like to wish you all a... **holiday season filled with sparkle and shine and may all of your wishes and dreams come true...** \*



Catriona Donnelly (Principal)