

Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi

St. Comgall's N.S., Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Summer 2012



*Wishing you all a happy summer with each day warm
and beautiful. Enjoy a well-deserved break,*

Summer 2012



School Year 2011-2012: This year has been yet another busy and successful one for St. Comgall's. We truly value the support and co-operation of our whole school community. We attribute much of our success to the hard work and effort that goes on both at home and in school. Therefore, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone for the significant and very valuable work that everyone has contributed towards the success of this academic school year.

Helen: It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Helen and to her role as Special Needs Assistant to Sarah in our school. It has been a wonderful experience working with Helen who has been central to daily school life for the past eight years. We thank her for providing such a wonderful and supportive presence here at St. Comgall's and wish her all the very best in life into the future.



School Attendance: Congratulations to Shannon Murphy in the junior classroom who achieved a 100% attendance record and was awarded a Gold Attendance Certificate for this academic year. We also say well done to Nathan Gavin, Oisín Murphy, Caoimhe Connolly and Amelia Butler who were also awarded Silver Attendance Certificates for equally impressive attendance records. Good attendance enhances positive educational development of children and crucially impacts upon pupil achievement; children. Children who attend school regularly, learn more and are more successful in school. I again urge parents to make regular school attendance a priority for your child/children in the forthcoming year



St. Comgall's Parent Association: A supportive Parent Association is central to helping us to provide the best possible educational experiences for our pupils. Therefore, once again, thanks to our all parents for another successful annual Christmas raffle and cake sale and for your support with the recycling clothes initiative. A particular thanks for the very generous donation of €4,000, towards the purchase costs of our playground equipment. The playground has received the "thumbs-up" from all pupils and is proving to be a great attraction during playtime. We also thank Kathleen and Dessie O'Connor for their long association with St. Comgall's P.A. over the years. They will be sadly missed.

Good Luck!

Sacramental Preparation: Congratulations to Sarah O'Connor and Rachel Maguire who received Confirmation on Saturday 5th May, 2012. We thank all those who played a very positive part in the children's sacramental preparation and we wish every success to Sarah and Rachel who leave us for Largy College and St. Comhghall's to embark upon new experiences in secondary school.



Summer Reading Challenge: In an effort to ensure that children are enthusiastic about reading and that reading standards are maintained during the summer holidays, Clones Library is once again running "The Summer Reading Challenge 2012" called "Story Lab". Children will receive a free Story Lab model, they will be challenged to read six or more books of their choice and ultimately will collect stickers for the Lab model along the way. There will be follow-up activities and events in the library designed to further promote pleasure in reading and boost children's confidence and self-esteem. Overall, it sounds like a great activity, so head to Clones Library during the holidays for some fun, free reading!!



School Visitors: The Health Promotion Officer – As part of the SESE curriculum an information lesson on dental hygiene was delivered by Maureen from the HSE on 4th June. The lesson was aimed at promoting awareness and knowledge of dental health topics such as oral hygiene, best practice when brushing and proper nutrition.
Local Author: In order to deepen the children's experience of writing books, we welcomed local author, Colm McElwaine into the school on Tuesday, 19th June, to share the knowledge and skills needed to write his book "James Clyde and the Diamonds of Orchestra." It was a really interesting session and is definitely a book worth reading for the older pupils!!

Impressive Performances: Looking back we congratulate the children on their excellent participation in academic, artistic and sporting fields. Congratulations to Amelia Butler, Leah Maguire and Katie Somerville who were recent merit award winners in the 'Yours sincerely' letter writing competition and whose letters were published in the "Yours Sincerely" Poetry Book. Well done indeed to all pupils who submitted excellent letters for this competition. In April our senior girls took part in a very enjoyable Ribena Soccer Competition in Monaghan while our senior team members contributed tremendously well in the Clones Credit Union Quiz in January, achieving a third place finish in the senior section. We were treated to a delightful performance of 'Christmas Stars' at Christmas. As always our pupils had us all mesmerised 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: Participation in various disciplines was clearly evident in PE this year. All children received certificate recognition in swimming with five children in the senior classroom reaching Paws 4 level. Gaelic football coaching with Anne McKenna also promoted further development of Gaelic football skills. Irish dancing with Gerard McQuaid proved to be another highly enjoyable class with all children further developing their rhythm and dance moves to both traditional and modern dance music. 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. 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 the Dublin Zoo for another fun-filled school tour on Thursday 14th June. An invigorating few hours were spent looking at amazing animals from all over the world. And this was followed by an equally exciting trip to Tayto Park to explore the factory, animal area and children's playground on campus. Even the drizzle couldn't dampen our spirits! Many thanks to Donna and Stephanie for their company help and good humour – an entertaining day was had by all!



Recycling: Sincere thanks to parents and our local community for generating much needed school funds through the recycling initiative. This year we collected €562 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 (€540). Recycling unwanted clothes is good for the environment; it diverts waste from landfill. Bags will continue to be gratefully received in 2012-2013.

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 (particularly tracksuit bottoms) 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 Monday 3rd September 2011. Happy holidays!



Catriona Donnelly (Principal)

