

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



*With every good wish to all our families for a
happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*



December 2011

New Board of Management: Boards of Management of primary schools are appointed for a four-year term. The term of office for our new Board of Management commenced on 1st December 2011 and will continue until 30th November 2015. The Board manages the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to the patron and the Minister for Education. I would like to welcome our Board members into the school community; welcome to Joe Kirke (Chairperson/Patron's representative), Fr. Larry Duffy (Patron's representative), Irene Rooney and Maura Conlon (Community members), Debbie Butler and John Joe Gavin (Parent representatives). Thanks to all members for their interest and willingness to work voluntarily towards the effective provision of educational excellence at St. Comgall's. May I also pay tribute to a very supportive out-going Board for their contributions and proactive involvement in school management issues during the last term.

Educational Outing: Our participation in Science Week, 2011, saw us paying a trip to Clones Library on Tuesday, 15th November, where the pupils were treated to a spectacular science magic show by the educational team from W5, Belfast. It was a presentation which actively involved the pupils in experiments which looked at the forces and chemical reactions behind magical tricks. And guess who played the part of Isaac Newton as we learned about his life and his 'gravity' related discoveries??



Christmas Shoebox Appeal: Once again our pupils showed the real meaning of Christmas through their generous participation in the 'Team Hope Shoebox Appeal'. Giving shoeboxes, filled with lovely gifts, to those poor children in Eastern Europe and Africa, who are less fortunate than us, will, we pray, bring God's love to them and fill them with hope for the future. What a wonderful preparation for Christmas – well done children! Thanks also to Helen for co-ordinating this initiative.

Christmas Pantomime: On Tuesday, 6th December our junior pupils travelled to the Garage Theatre, Monaghan for the annual school pantomime presented by Centre Stage Theatre. Their production of 'Little Miss Muffet' was funny, included spectacular effects and was filled with the usual audience interaction. It was a real Christmas treat and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

'Hallelujah 2011': On Sunday, 11th December our senior pupils participated in the 'Hallelujah 2011' concert - the largest Irish children's choir - in the RDS, Dublin. The atmosphere within the concert hall was indescribable. It was a magnificent experience which overwhelmed both pupils and parents alike as the children performed alongside professional artists such as The High Kings, Connie Talbot and Randolph Matthews. It was a truly unforgettable day which the children thought was just brilliant. Congratulations to our children on learning their songs and dance moves so well and for being so well behaved on the day!



Carol Service: Well done to all children who performed their carol, 'Mary's Boy Child', so beautifully during the Christmas Carol Service in Aghadrumsee Church on Wednesday 14th December. Also, thanks to Rachel and Chloe who read so confidently and fluently prior to the singing. Our pupils were extremely reverend in the church, they did our school proud and looked so well in neat school uniforms on the night.



Christmas Play: Well done to all pupils who put on the wonderful nativity play, 'Christmas Stars' and sang festive songs in front of a packed house in our local Connons Community Hall on Thursday 15th December. The pupils delighted the audience with terrific performances. Our gratitude to David Somerville whose make-up enhanced the overall costume design on the night. A performance of this magnitude is a lot of work but is well worth the effort, so my thanks to Mrs. Pennell and Helen for ensuring the play was a success! When the performance, which was captured on DVD by Martin Maguire is ready, it will be available through the office at €15 per disc. Finally, my sincere thanks to our parents' generosity in donating so many prizes towards the raffle – it was a huge success and realised a very impressive €407 on the night.

Fundraising: To all those who contributed once again to the success of our annual Christmas raffle and cake sale, I extend my heartfelt thanks. We are extremely grateful to all the hard-working parents in our parent Association who donated prizes and sold raffle tickets for the event. Our thanks also to all our sponsors for their generous support. This event earned a total of €2,400.31, while the cake sale brought in €227. Both events bring us even closer to purchasing children's playground equipment. As teachers we are tremendously fortunate to work in a school community, in which parents are so supportive of our efforts to ensure that all aspects of children's learning are adequately resourced. Our recycling initiative continues to build on valuable school funds, our recent collection earning the school approximately €80. This will help pay for tin whistle lessons into the next month. Thereafter, monies from the raffle will cover further costs. Please encourage people in the community to drop in bags at any time, into the school. Recyclable items may include clothes/ sheets/ fabrics/ shoes and mobile phones.

Show Time/Santa Time: An enjoyable morning was spent in Lary College on Wednesday, 21st December as our children were treated to an array of entertaining songs and dances by the secondary students. It was with great pride that we watched past pupils Stephen Clarke, Rebecca and Jessica Gavin perform at this most enjoyable event. We wish them continued success with their singing into the future. There was no shortage of the Christmas spirit as the day culminated with a visit from a most important visitor – Santa Claus!! Santa proved to be a fantastic singer and joined in with us as we sang his favourite song 'Jingle Bells'. He gave a gift to each child and reminded all children to go to bed early on Christmas Eve and to remember to leave him out some orange juice for his busy night of delivering presents!



Music/Irish Dancing Classes: Tin whistle lessons with Fran McMahon will resume in January. Irish dancing classes with Mr. Gerard McQuaid will also be introduced in the new term and will continue for seven weeks. We look forward to learning new Irish traditional dances from Gerard, with maybe, a modern dance added to the mix. These classes will be followed by Gaelic football coaching for all classes with Anne McKenna until the Easter term.

Happy Retirement: A fond farewell to our postman Dermot Rooney - we wish him every joy and happiness in his retirement. We will miss his daily smile and his refreshing sense of humour but we wish him fun and enjoyment in every adventure that awaits him in the next chapter of his life. Thanks Dermot for your dedication to your job for so many years, we will not forget you.



School Holidays: A reminder that school will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 9th January 2012. *Happy festive holiday!*