



*Enjoy a happy, peaceful and fun-filled
Easter from the Easter bunny and all at
St. Comgall's N.S.*



March 2012

Enrolment/ Open Day: Our Enrolment/ Open Day took place on Friday 2nd March 2012. All visitors received a warm welcome and I was there, as Principal, to answer any questions from parents and give them a deeper insight into life at the school. Hands on activities for new entrants ran throughout the afternoon and the children were obviously enthralled with the opportunity to play with our extensive selection of learning resources around the classroom, including laptops and whiteboard literacy games. We thank the parents of new pupils for coming in to participate in our Open Day activities and we were delighted to show Matthew, Tara, Rocha and Ava around.

School Calendar Change: Parents are asked to note that the June Bank Holiday weekend has been extended and will now include Friday 1st June as a school holiday closure. Also, that the school year will end on Wednesday 27th June 2012.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: Our thanks to you the parents for your recent attendance at parent/ teacher meetings on Thursday, 9th February. Your positive involvement in you child's education helps to build an effective partnership between home and school and together we can ensure your children will succeed in school and in the future as productive, motivated and responsible members of our society.

St. Patrick's Day: Congratulations to all our pupils and parents who participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Clones. It was a tremendous success and the photographs taken of our pupils by the Northern Standard were very impressive and captured the wonderful atmosphere on the day. A huge thank you to our Parent Association for co-ordinating this very successful outing - you certainly promoted St. Comgall's in a very positive manner out in the community.



Setanta Book Club: Sincere thanks for your generous support of the Setanta Book Club. The importance of reading cannot be over emphasised and with so much going on in our busy schedules, reading together with your child is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family. The Book Club offers parents the opportunity to buy books at very keen prices and remember all orders placed generate commission for our school, which we can then spend on purchasing even more great titles for the school library.



Linking with our Community: Our local community guard, Garda John McEvoy recently visited the school and involved the pupils in a very interesting discussion on the importance of the role of An Garda Síochána in our community. He also explored with them ways of keeping safe in a variety of situations in their environment, particularly, if they have to deal with an experience of a serious nature e.g. cyber bullying. Indeed he complemented the pupils on their attention and positive participation in the 'Be Safe' session.

Green Flag: On Tuesday 20th March, Colin O'Byrne of ECO-UNESCO provided the children with an understanding of global warming and how saving energy can help towards reducing their impact on the environment. They were also introduced to renewable energy and the contribution that it can make to reduce our use of fossil fuels. The fun workshop offered a unique way to promote and highlight the energy efficiency challenges to pupils about their behaviour in using energy in school and in their home environment, in relation to lighting, heating and electrical appliances. We are certainly on our way towards achieving a second Green Flag by Easter 2013!



Sacraments: This term saw the senior classes continue with their preparation for Confirmation. On Monday, 20th February parents ensured that their children were present in the Sacred Heart Church, Clones, for the ‘Service of Light’ ceremony. We also thank parents for supporting and encouraging their children to take the pledge on Temperance Sunday, 26th February in St. Alphonsus Church. We look forward with great anticipation to the Confirmation of Sarah O’Connor and Rachel Maguire on Saturday, 5th May in Clones.

Swimming Classes: Six weeks of swimming lessons will commence on Thursday 19th April 2012, with subsequent sessions being held on Thursday the 26th April, 3rd May, 10th May, 17th May and 24th of May. Each session will last one hour, 12pm-1pm and parents of children in the junior class are welcome to sit in the gallery for the duration of each class. We will also be seeking a volunteer parent, particularly a parent of the junior infant class to assist teachers when the pupils exit the pool. Swimming is a valuable life-skill and we are delighted that this term the pupils will have another opportunity to enjoy water play while acquiring proficiency in specific techniques in Monaghan Swimming Pool.

Music/Gaelic Football Classes: January saw a resumption of tin whistle lessons with Fran McMahon and these classes will continue in the new term until early June. We also thank Monaghan G.A.A. County Board for supporting our school to promote Gaelic Games at primary level through the G.A.A. coaching in schools programme. All classes enjoyed intensive and challenging coaching sessions delivered by Anne McKenna which encompassed the development of Gaelic football skills and knowledge of the rules of the game.



Irish dancing: Our thanks to Gerard McQuaid for teaching our pupils not only many endearing Irish traditional dances but also an equally exciting modern dance. The benefits of dancing are well documented and as one of the strands of our Physical Education curriculum, we recognise its important role in developing better stamina, co-ordination and levels of fitness due to the physical nature of this discipline. Super fun was had by all.

‘Spring Clean-Up’: It’s Spring Cleaning Time! It’s time to spruce up your ... wardrobes, but before you send anything off in the refuse collection lorry, remember – recycle! As we have collected another twenty bags so far this month, which should earn us at least another €80, we are hoping to carry out a collection immediately after Easter. So please remember to drop bags of clothing into the school by 8:30am on Wednesday, 18th April. Thanks indeed for your continued support of this initiative.



School Holidays: A reminder that school will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 16th April 2012. Happy Holidays!

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)

