

Scoil Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi

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



Wishing all our pupils and their families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Christmas 2012

New Experiences: We have had a busy but very enjoyable term in St. Comgall's N.S.. We have a lot to celebrate. Our involvement in the cross-border initiative to launch the Drummully Community Alert/ Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, proved to be a most valuable and fun-filled experience for our pupils. The pupils' creativity and hard work produced a beautiful wall hanging with a countryside theme and will be on display in the school in the New Year. Our thanks to Aphonsus Scarlett for his input in this project and for helping to make it such a success.



School Activities

Star Awards

Congratulations to all our pupils who have been awarded a 'Star Award' this term. Awards are given for a range of reasons, from being a good friend to hard work in curriculum areas to improved behaviour. So, keep up the great effort everyone!



Maths Week

Maths week 2012 was another exciting activity for pupils – challenging mathematical problems and engaging activities covering all strands of the Mathematics curriculum were the order of the day. Tasks undertaken related to manipulation of 2D/3D shapes, number function board games, problem solving puzzles and computer software games. Once again it proved to be so worthwhile.

Classroom Cookery

Cooking gives us the opportunity to teach the pupils valuable lessons. It is proving to be a great way to reinforce subjects being taught at school or introduce new ones – simple Maths skills, nutrition, language skills. Who knows, we might end up with a celebrity professional chef from St. Comgall's in the future!



Gymnastics

Recently we enjoyed six weeks of enjoyable and challenging gymnastics classes with Catriona Boyle. The focus was on fun, safety, and personal progress and was geared towards developing strength, coordination, and flexibility. It was amazing to see how well the pupils had progressed since our last gymnastics session.



Christmas Play

A fantastic crowd turned up to support our annual Christmas play 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw'. Again the pupils rose to the challenge and treated the audience to a wonderful performance. Our thanks to David and Phyllis Somerville for organising make-up which greatly enhanced the overall production. Thanks also to the efforts of Mrs. Pennell and Ms. Maguire for ensuring the play was a major hit!! A huge thanks to parents' support of the raffle which made €415 on the night.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Our thanks to all pupils for so kindly and generously donating gift-filled shoe boxes which will go to needy children in communities, schools, hospitals, churches and orphanages all over Eastern Europe and other areas. You will light up a child's life with a little of God's love this Christmas with your shoebox! Giving to those poor children less fortunate than we are is certainly a thoughtful and worthwhile preparation for Christmas.



School Outings

Clones/Aghadrumsee Carol Services

Our thanks to parents for ensuring that the children were punctual and looking so well in neat school uniforms at both the Clones and Aghadrumsee carol services. We applaud our pupils for performing their carols so beautifully at both events. We were most proud of them and say well done.

Thanks also to Amie and Chloe who each read her reading / prayer so confidently and fluently during the service.

Pantomime

On Monday, last our junior pupils travelled to the Garage Theatre, Monaghan for the annual school pantomime presented by Centre Stage Theatre. Their production of 'Santa's Sooty Christmas' was funny, but had a very scary 'witch' in it, with whom Luke wasn't at all impressed!! Nevertheless, it was a real Christmas treat and was thoroughly enjoyed by 'almost' all pupils....

Largy's 'Showtime'

An enjoyable afternoon was spent in Largy College on Friday, 14th 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 Jessica Gavin, Zoe Clarke, Peter Clarke and Megan Brogan perform at this most enjoyable event. We wish them continued success with their singing and instrument playing into the future.

Our Parent Association: Thank you to St. Comgall's Parents' Association who continue to support our work here in school by helping out at school celebrations, working with the Principal and staff on policy development and review and by fundraising to ensure that our resources are renewed and kept up to date. We congratulate our committee on organising another very successful Christmas raffle and cake sale; the raffle earned a total of €2034, while the cake sale brought in €172. We wish our P.A. every success for the remainder of the year.

School Mass / Sacraments: Many thanks to all our parents, family members, friends and members of the community who attended our annual school mass. It was a lovely ceremony celebrated by Fr. Cathal Deery. Regarding the sacraments, First Holy Communion for Caoimhe Connolly, Lilly Fitzpatrick, Shannon Murphy and Colin Maguire will be held in St. Alphonsus Church, Connors, on Sunday 19th May 2013. We congratulate pupils and parents on the steps they are taking through the 'Do this in Memory' programme as they prepare for this sacrament.

Green Schools Initiative: This year St. Comgall's will continue taking more steps towards achieving a 2nd Green Flag and in so doing, will engage in a process of continuous improvement with regards to 'Energy' issues in our environment. The children are working very hard to ensure our school is energy efficient; we turn off lights, close doors to keep in the heat and we are always careful not to waste water. They are encouraged to do the same at home to keep you homes equally efficient. Our application to 'An Taisce' will be submitted during the school year 2012-2013 and pending a successful review by an assessor from An Taisce, we aim and hope to receive the flag by the end of that school year.

Recycling: Our recycling initiative continues to be an effective means of raising funds for our music classes. Many thanks for your contributions to our recent collection. Our school account received a total of €108 from Cookstown Textiles, in lieu of bags collected both prior to the summer holidays. We hope to earn more in the next payment, although James informed me that the bags are now being weighed, so it's difficult to know how much that will influence payment. Please remember that bags can be dropped into the school at any time and may include items such as clothes/sheets/fabrics and shoes.

Gaelic Football: In the New Year Gaelic football coaching for all classes with Anne McKenna will take place until the Easter term and will, please note, be held on Mondays.

Christmas Break: St. Comgall's N.S. will be closed from Monday 24th December 2012 to Friday 4th January 2013. It will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 7th January 2013. Finally, we would like to wish you all a... happy and safe festive holiday.

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)

Enjoy a restful Christmas holiday from all of us at St. Comgall's!!!

