



*Sending You a Basketful of Warm Wishes for
a Bright and Happy Easter from all at
St. Comgall's N.S.*



April 2014

Clones Festival Parade: Sincere thanks to Brenda McCaffrey and Stephanie Fitzpatrick for successfully coordinating the school's participation in the Clones St. Patrick's Festival Parade 2014. When the pupils returned to school the following Tuesday, they were full of excitement and praise for the whole event. They thoroughly enjoyed it and I must say it was lovely to see our pupils and school banner on view, alongside all the other Clones schools, in both the 'Northern Standard' and 'Anglo Celt' newspapers.



Third Green Flag: Water is the third theme of the Green-Schools programme. The aim of the Water theme is to support schools in introducing and implementing

a sustainable water programme and raising awareness of and engagement in water related issues. A first step towards that goal involved two of our fifth class pupils, Amelia Butler and Leah Maguire, representing the school at an information 'Green Schools Water Forum', held in Ballybay Wetlands Centre on Tuesday 25th March. The girls discussed water issues with pupils from other schools and returned with very

be extremely relevant in guiding our research on water in the coming year.

Confirmation: Congratulations to both Chloe Maguire and Jade Crudden who were confirmed by Bishop Liam McDaid, in the Sacred Heart Church, Clones, last Saturday, 5th April 2014. Both children were beautifully presented on the day and participated both respectfully and reverently in the ceremony as they read the 'Prayer of the Faithful' and brought up one of the offertory gifts. We keep them in our prayers and wish them well as they continue on their faith journey into secondary school.



'On Your Bike': A sincere thank you to all parents who supported this activity by bringing in and collecting the children's bicycles from school, on two occasions, in recent weeks. It was definitely worth the effort and was hugely beneficial. The cycling coach, Valerie Campion, complimented the pupils and said that, due to their excellent behaviour and positive learning attitude, she was able to cover all components of the course relating to proper bike handling skills and road safety issues. So well done children and keep cycling safely!

interesting and inspiring ideas that will

Irish dancing: Our thanks to Gerard McQuaid for teaching our pupils so many wonderful, endearing Irish traditional dances such as Siege of Ennis, Walls of Limerick, Bridge of Athlone.... and an equally exciting 'Rock Around the Clock' modern dance! The pupils enjoyed 'kicking up their heels' and we all agree that dancing is a super fun way to develop better stamina, co-ordination and levels of fitness. Indeed, Gerard's good humoured teaching sprinkled the classes with lots of giggles!

Active School Flag: Our health experts now recommend that 'Children need at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity activity every day of the week.' Hence, in our efforts to promote health and well being in the school setting, we have decided to become involved in the 'Active School Flag.' In doing so we will strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community and the attached leaflet explains the journey involved in earning this flag. You will see that 'Active Schools Week' is an integral part of this process and the week of May 12th – 16th is the week set out nationally for schools to organise fun events in the school i.e. to basically organise activities that ensure that learning in all subject areas are more physically active throughout each day. We envisage, weather permitting, holding our annual Sports Day, during that particular week and will pin down a date nearer to the time.



Paired Reading: As we endeavour to help children to practise oral reading and to read with appropriate rates of reading fluency, we are asking parents to become involved, once again, in the 'Paired Reading' initiative at home. 'Paired Reading' proved to be a successful initiative when introduced during the last school year. It is considered an effective reading strategy which sees parents and children reading along together. On our return from the Easter holidays, the reading booklets with guidelines will be sent home with every child and both teachers will be available to go over the steps involved in this initiative, should any parent have a question related to same.

Uniform Survey: The Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn has requested of schools that promote the wearing of a school uniform, to circulate the attached 'Uniform Questionnaire' to families; the aim of which is to assess parents' opinions on the wearing of / cost of school uniforms. Once the questionnaires are returned, the information will be tabulated and discussed at our next Board of Management meeting. Subsequent to that, parents will be informed of the outcome of these deliberations.

Victorian School Tour: On Tuesday, 29th April, we will visit the Cassandra Hand Centre, Clones, where we will participate in an educational programme, the theme of which is 'The Victorian School'. The tour will first offer children the opportunity to dress up in clothes and to experience school life during that period. We will then be guided on a walking tour to the Round Tower and Abbey and finally the tour will conclude with a craft and traditional games activity with the all important 'refreshments' treats. An interesting morning in store!

Swimming: The first of our six swimming lessons is scheduled to commence on Wednesday 30th April 2014 in Monaghan Leisure Complex. Our classes will be held in the pool from 12:00-1:00pm, and, as usual, a bus has been organised to transport us to and from the pool each week. Swimming hats are compulsory and are not available on loan at the pool. Arm bands which are clearly labelled may be brought by the younger children but this is not essential as there are plenty armbands readily available for loan at the poolside.

School Holiday: School will close at 3:00pm on Friday 11th April and will re-open at 9:20a.m. on Monday 28th April, 2014.

Thanking you.

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)