

Summer 2015



*Now that summer is here, we look forward to
new adventures far and near ...
Happy holidays from all at St. Comgall's N.S.*

Summer 2015



School Year 2014-2015: Another successful year draws to a close and we continue to be amazed at how much has been achieved by the children, staff, parents and Board of Management. The achievements span from the academic, to the sporting and the creative arts and to the fundraising exploits of our Parent Association. I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone concerned for working together as a team to achieve our goals. Working as a team, is I believe one of our greatest gifts as a school.



School Attendance: Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life! Well done and congratulations to Luke Somerville, Nathan Gavin, Katie Somerville and Seán Connolly for their excellent attendance throughout the year. All four achieved a **Gold** Attendance Certificate for 100% attendance. Children, who attend school regularly, learn more and are more successful in school. Thank you to parents who make regular school attendance a priority for your child/children.



Good Luck: A memory of the 6th class of 2014/2015! Sincere thanks to all parents who, on Tuesday 23rd June, attended their 'Graduation Ceremony'. We wish every success to our four sixth class pupils, Amelia, Leah, River and Eoin, who leave St. Comgall's N.S. to embark upon new experiences, as they further their educational development in Larcy College, Clones, Loreto College, Cavan and Breifne college, Cavan. They face a future overflowing with new learning, exciting challenges and expanding friendships. We know they'll shine and will represent our school well in all their endeavours.



We were treated to a delightful performance of

Sacramental Preparation: Congratulations to Leah Eoin, River and Amelia who were confirmed by the Very Rev. Bishop McDaid on Sunday 1st March, 2015. Well done also to Oisín, Michael and Nathan who, on the 10th May, 2015, received their First Holy Communion. We thank all parents for playing a very positive role in the children's sacramental preparation through their participation in the 'Service of Light' ceremony and the 'Do This in Memory' programme.



Achievements: Once again, we recognise and applaud the children for their excellent participation in academic, artistic and sporting fields. Our junior and senior team members participated admirably in the Clones Credit Union Quiz in January, with our junior team achieving a third place finish in their section. In April our senior girls took part in a very enjoyable Ribena Soccer Competition in Monaghan.



'Gold, Frankincense & Mirth' at Christmas. As always we amazed at the pupils' wonderful acting, dancing and impressive makeup and costumes. Congratulations to Mrs. Pennell, the pupils, and parents on ensuring the play was another memorable production.

Well done to Colin Maguire, Michael Connolly and Amelia Butler, who were 'Merit' award winners in the 'Short Story' competition and received their medals and certificates at an award ceremony on the 15th June, in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan. Well done indeed to Leah Maguire, Katie Somerville and Nathan Gavin who also received 'Highly Commended' recognition for their efforts. Congratulations to all pupils who submitted excellent stories for this competition.



School in Action: Partaking in various sporting fields was again encouraged in PE this year. During the autumn term we developed our gymnastic skills during six weeks of coaching with Catriona Boyle. In Gaelic football coaching, Anne McKenna continued to develop important football skills with all classes. Then finally, on Thursday, 4th June, we enjoyed a Sport's Day full of competitive and fun events in our local community field.



Finally thanks to two more families: Elisha for her donation of €100, which she raised through

St. Comgall's Parent Association: We are most grateful for the encouragement and support of our Parent Association. It is critical in helping us to provide the best possible teaching and learning environment for our pupils. Therefore, I'd first like to express my thanks to all our parents for your kind words of praise and recommendation to prospective parents interested in attending St. Comgall's N.S..

Secondly, thank you to John, Brenda and Martina for co-ordinating matters related to the association; particularly to Brenda for communicating so effectively with all our parents, through SMS – a difficult job at the best of times! Thanks to Stephanie and John Joe: for their advice as parents on our BoM; for Stephanie's wonderful effort in making the cake sale so successful and for ensuring our safe transport to and from so many local trips during the year; for John Joe's attention to detail in relation to the management of the school building and grounds.



Thirdly, thanks for the vital monies raised through the raffle (€1886) and cake sale (€236.90) which we will use to fund new laptops and a second 'Labcabby'.

This year we were fortunate, through the great endeavours of Donna, to be the recipient of half the funds, amounting to €1, 198.74, raised through our local 'Newtownbutler Tractor Run'. This, in turn will pay for quality external signs that will provide learning opportunities for the pupils and will brighten up the playground.



sponsorship, for her participation in Lisnaskea Festival 10km fun race; sincere thanks and our best wishes to Eoin's Mum and Dad, John and Teresa, who donated €100 towards school funds – they wanted to thank both teachers and pupils but also wanted to express their appreciation to you the parents for welcoming them into the school and for making them feel so much a part of the community over the last two years.

Recent School Visitors: The Fire Safety Officer – A Fire Safety Awareness programme is offered to schools annually. The fire safety officer from Clones Fire Station paid a visit to the school in June and delivered a talk designed to heighten pupils' level of awareness of 'Fire Safety' in the home and to raise their level of understanding of 'Fire Safety' in the community. Librarians - Laura dropped out to see us, this month, from Clones library to underpin the importance of reading during the summer and to encourage the pupils' participation in a Reading Challenge in the library during the holidays.



Various Educational Experiences: We participated in events in the local library quiz to celebrate 'World Book Week'.



We also enjoyed a very informative afternoon with Josephine Traynor who explained and showed us the wonderful work being carried out by people with special needs in 'Cairde', Clones.

School Uniform: As we strive to show pride in our dress and appearance, it is important to purchase the whole uniform (particularly tracksuit bottoms) from Hick's of Lisnaskea. This ensures consistency



Thanks to Phyllis, a very enlightening and educational trip was spent locally on Cavanagh's Free Range Farm. The Hall Family invited us to see the chickens in their enclosures, we observed the egg grading and packaging process and to finish off the tour we took part in a lovely art/crafts session.

School Tour: On Tuesday 2nd June, we travelled to 'Butler's Chocolate Factory' and 'Jump Zone', Santry, for another interesting and very energetic school tour! A video, the chocolate museum and a guide vividly highlighted the important history and manufacture of chocolate up to the present day. And there were plenty chocolate treats to keep us going! The tour concluded with an exhilarating session in 'Jump Zone'. The 'trampolining' and squeals of excitement rang out all over. Definitely worth visiting again! A great day - many thanks to Donna and Phyllis for their company and all their help!



Summer Reading Challenge: Clones Library, once again, invites children to keep up their reading skills by reading six books, in their 'Summer Reading Challenge', during the long holidays. This will then be followed up with activities and events to further promote pleasure in reading. Overall, it's a great activity, so head to Clones Library during the holidays for some fun, free reading!!

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 Self Evaluation: The Department of Education has asked all schools to continue to engage in a process of 'School Self Evaluation'. The primary focus of our attention during the school year was 'Numeracy'. Having gathered data through standardised testing, questionnaires and staff reflection, the emphasis will be on developing problem-solving strategies with all classes for 2015-2016; this is an aspect of numeracy, in which we feel we could improve. From the findings, we have developed a three year school improvement plan, to guide this process into the future.

School Management: As another year draws to a close, my sincere thanks, once again, to the Chairman of our Board of Management, Joe Kirke, for his support and advice on Board issues during the year. Thanks to 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.. Enjoy a wonderful and safe summer holiday!

School Return:

The school will reopen at 9:20am on Tuesday 1st September 2015. Happy holidays!

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)