

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

December 2015



Wishing all our families a
peaceful festive season
and a happy
New Year!

An Nollaig
2015



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 2015 and will continue until 30th November 2019. The Board manages the school on behalf of the patron, Bishop McDaid, and is accountable to the patron and the Minister for Education, Jan O'Sullivan. Members of our new Board include; Joe Kirke (Chairperson/Patron's representative), Alphonsus Scarlett (Patron's representative), Irene Rooney and Maura Conlon (Community members), Stephanie Fitzpatrick and Finbar Murphy (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 Parent Board member, John Joe Gavin, for his contribution and proactive involvement in school management issues during the last term.

Attendance: We had a very impressive percentage of pupils from both classes who achieved full attendance this term. It is totally understandable that there are times when illness takes over and we need to stay at home to recover. Indeed, we are delighted that, overall, school attendance at St. Comgall's is excellent. We thank parents and encourage you to keep up this great effort.

Educational Outing: Our participation in Science Week, 2015, saw us, on Wednesday, 11th November, paying a trip into the Science Bus in the Diamond, Clones, where the pupils were treated to exciting and interesting science experiments. It was a presentation which actively involved the pupils in experiments which looked at the forces and chemical reactions behind air movement and water reactions. This was then followed by a viewing of 'Iron Man II'.

Weekly Awards: Congratulations to those pupils, chosen for outstanding effort in school work or behaviour, effort and perseverance. Those pupils who impressed staff received the 'Star of the Week' award or the 'Corn Gaeilge'. We know that parents celebrate these achievements with us and will encourage children to continue to do their best in 2016.



S.P.H.E. Issues: Facilitators from 'Streetwise 4 Life' delivered a Substance Awareness Programme to our 5th / 6th classes and the senior classes from Gransha N.S. during two workshops on Tuesday, 10th November and Friday, 13th November.

The facilitators discussed issues surrounding cigarettes and alcohol, and the effects they have on the lives and bodies of young people. The overall aim was to encourage children to make healthy decisions through games, storytelling and discussion work and the experience proved to be most beneficial.

Primary Schools' Debating Competition: Our participation in a Primary Schools' Debating League, is proving to be a rewarding and interesting experience. Clontibrit N.S. and Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa, Carrickmacross have been our opponents to date and our final debate will take place against Rackwallace N.S., before the end of January 2016. As part of our preparations to date, we would like to thank Sascha Cumiskey, teacher in Largy College, and her students for advising and showing us ways in which we can improve our debating skills. A sincere thanks also to Principal, Sharon Magennis for her welcome, support and promotion of positive relations between our school and Largy College.



Sacraments: A reminder that on Wednesday, 9th March, 2016, the Second Class/ P4 pupils from the four primary schools in Clones Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Sacred Heart Church, Clones. First Holy Communion will take place at 9am on Sunday, 8th May in St. Alphonsus Church, Connons.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, 16th April, 2016. A date for the Ceremony of Light has yet to be confirmed.

Parent Association: We thank the out-going committee members of our Parent Association Committee – Brenda McCaffrey, Martina Crudden, for their support and assistance with P.A. related concerns over the last number of years. The P.A. was very capably and positively managed during their time in office. We welcome John Joe Gavin, Secretary, and Lorraine Fitzsimons, Treasurer, onto the committee, who, together with our Chairman, John Connolly will guide the P.A. into the future. A sincere thanks to them for organising another very successful Christmas raffle and cake sale. The raffle earned a total of **€2,165**, including a surplus of **€40**, while the cake sale brought in **€376**. Sincere thanks to parents for the fabulous effort put into baking such a vast array of cakes and 'goodies' for the cake sale! We wish our P.A. every success for the remainder of the year.

Visual Arts: Sincere thanks to David Somerville for sharing his immense creative and artistic talents with the senior pupils. David was most patient and generous with his time and, under his supervision, the pupils created really, beautiful mosaic mirrors. I have no doubt that these mirrors will serve as memorable interior design

features in all your houses into the future.



Recycling: We are most grateful for your continued support of the clothes recycling scheme. Our last collection in November amounted to **€75**, which will be used to fund our music classes. As more bags have been dropped into the school, we envisage holding another collection early in the New Year.

Christmas Play: Another year and another successful Christmas play! 'Scrooge' proved to be both a challenging and extremely rewarding experience. Thanks to the pupils for another spectacular performance. Also our thanks to Phyllis Somerville and her background team – Martina and Stephanie, Siobhán - for addressing make-up matters, which greatly enhanced the overall production. We thank the Parents' Association for organising tea/coffee on the night. Thanks also to the efforts of Mrs. Pennell for ensuring the play was another major success!!

We greatly appreciate the generosity of people who donated prizes to the raffle and who also bought tickets. The sum of **€704** was raised on the night, from which payment will be made for heating oil, tea/coffee, materials for our Santa Grotto and 'Scrooge' backdrop. A total of **€420** will be lodged into the school account to support payment of dancing/swimming lessons.

Pantomime: On Thursday, 10th December our junior pupils travelled to the Garage Theatre, Monaghan for the annual school pantomime. The production, 'Santa's Wish List', was a real Christmas treat and was thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils. Many thanks to Donna for helping with transport to and from the venue.

Largy College's 'Showtime': The songs, dancing and acting 'sketches' were a most enjoyable morning's entertainment in Largy College on Thursday, 17th December. Huge congratulations to a former pupil, Rebecca Gavin, who was a member of the winning dance group. Our thanks also to Principal, Ms. Sharon Magennis for her warm welcome and to Stephanie for helping us go get there safely.

Santa's Visit: A special caller paid a visit to the school on Monday, 21st December. That familiar ring of Santa's bell put a smile on all our faces! We listened eagerly to his advice on preparing for his Christmas night visit and we enjoyed his lovely songs. We even followed him around the school in a line, singing 'Jingle Bells.' After that we entertained him with our own singing and performed some dances from our Christmas play. He was really impressed and complemented the children on their beautiful voices! Before saying goodbye, he gave us a very kind selection box and then we made sure to remind him of the presents that we hoped he would bring on Christmas Day. Many thanks to Nathan's Daddy, John Joe, for ensuring Santa was put safely on his way, back home to the North Pole.....



Christmas Break: St. Comgall's N.S. will be closed from Wednesday, 23rd December, 2015 to Tuesday, 5th January, 2016. It will re-open at 9.20am on Wednesday, 6th January 2016.

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)