

Easter



April 2017

## St. Comgall's N.S.

Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

*Wishing all our families a happy and memorable Easter holiday!*

**At St. Comgall's N.S.** we value the importance of recognising achievements during in- or out-of-school activities. Every Friday afternoon the whole school takes part in our 'Star of the Week' Assembly where one pupil per class is awarded a certificate to celebrate his/her outstanding achievement during the school week. Congratulations to those pupils who received their 'Star of the Week' since Christmas. Keep up the great effort for the last term.



**The children** at St. Comgall's have a very good attendance record. These are the children who had full attendance this term. Well done to Luke, Tara, Robyn, Caoimhe and Eoghan and thank you to your parents.

**We've had a busy term.....**

**Our 'Open Day'** on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 was a very successful and we look forward to welcoming six new pupils into Junior Infants in September 2017. Our highest junior infant enrolment to date!!



**We participated** in the *Operation Transformation 10* @ 10 on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. All pupils and staff put great effort into and really enjoyed the different exercises on the yard. It gave everyone good ideas of simple exercises that can be utilised at school or at home to keep fit!



**We endeavour, at all times, to teach and encourage an active life.** Gymnastics is an important element of the P.E. Curriculum and we were delighted to team up with Lisa Boyle of L.A. Gymnastics for a six week coaching programme. It was another way to teach the children to enjoy physical activity and we believe that this love of movement translates into other sports as well as a lifetime of activity. It encourages children to get up off the couch, put down their Xboxes, Playstations and iPads and have some fun! We love our Gymnastic Certificates...





**We celebrated World Book Day** by combining it with *Pyjama Day* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Pupils brought in their favourite books to school to participate in a special reading activity, whereby the older pupils were 'Reading Buddies' for the younger classes. The school congratulates all pupils and staff alike for the enthusiasm shown in taking part in the pyjama dress-up!

**Earlier that day**, as part of the History Curriculum, the senior pupils explored aspects of World War I with Pauline Tilson of the Monaghan Museum. Using a slide presentation and wonderful, old photographs, Pauline showed us food that was eaten during war times and talked about daily occurrences that were a reality for people at that time. The impact of 'Trench Warfare' was discussed and we examined food parcels that present day soldiers use while on foreign duty... most interesting!



**During the month of March** we participated in the 'Publish-a-Poem Competition', organised by the Monaghan Education Centre. We consider it another effective tool to help develop pupil's writing abilities and their imaginative and critical abilities. The 'Value of Homework' was a theme on which we were reflecting in the senior classroom, so the resulting poems make for an enjoyable read. We will be informed of competition winners in May and a presentation night will take place soon after.



**First Confession** for our Second Class pupils took place on the evening of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, in the Sacred Heart Church, Clones. Well done to Ethan, Jack and Dylan for their respectful preparation and participation in the ceremony. We look forward to their First Holy Communion Day on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> May in our local St. Alphonsus Church. A reminder to our sixth class pupils that on our return to school for the new term, the Ceremony of Light will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May in St. Macartan's P.S..



**Sincere thanks to our Parent Association** and Siobhan McQuaid for co-ordinating the school's participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, on the evening of Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March. By all accounts it was a well supported and most enjoyable occasion. As it's a wonderful opportunity to promote the school in the parish, I really appreciate parents' effort in ensuring, where possible, that children were present and in colourful costume. And in school we made lovely *St. Patrick's Day Jelly* ... yummy!!

**We are participating in the Green Schools programme**, an initiative which aims to foster environmental awareness in our school and the wider community. We are working towards our third flag which is focused on water. As part of the process, on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, we underwent an assessment on our knowledge of water with Niall O'Connor of Monaghan County Council and I am delighted to say that we were successful. He gave us permission to submit our official application and informed us that the presentation of the third flag will take place in *The City North Hotel* at some date in May. Two/three pupils will represent us at that event with Mrs. Pennell and then we will celebrate the raising of the flag here at the school, sometime in June.



**The “Something Fishy”** workshop held in the school on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March was an educational programme aimed at promoting more awareness in our understanding of fish, water, and angling. After a very informative talk and a slide presentation, we were allowed to view and touch fish such as perch, roach, young salmon and eel in their fish tanks. Examining water bugs under the microscope was also encouraged and finally we were able to appreciate the size of pike and brown trout as frozen samples on display. All in all, a fish-tabulous experience!

**‘Internet Safety Workshops** for both senior pupils and parents with Eimear Murphy of REIM Training Solutions were held in the school on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March. The school workshop proved to be most beneficial in promoting a safer internet for our young users. And our parent attendees were more than satisfied with the information that Eimear provided on ways to protect our children online re: Social Networking, Safe Searching, Cyber Bullying etc..



**Finally**, two local firemen, Rónan McDonald and Paul, visited us on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April to deliver a national programme of fire safety to pupils throughout the school. Each child received a ‘Safety Team’ pack which concentrates on exploring areas such as ‘Prevention, Detection and Evacuation.’ I would ask parents to read the information in the pack with your child and to please encourage them to complete the exercises..

**Easter Break** ~ St. Comgall’s N.S. will re-open at 9.20am on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

✴ Enjoy a holiday season filled with renewed hope for Easter and ... a choice of Easter Chick’s chocolate!! ✴

Catriona Donnelly (Principal)



