

Scoil Mhuire Newsletter

20th December 2004

Christmas in Scoil Mhuire

Míle Buíochas, many thanks to each and every parent for supporting us this term.

Our preparations for Christmas started early in December with an Advent Prayer service for all pupils on 2nd December, led by Sr. Madelenine and will end on Thursday 22nd when the children will dress up in something with a Christmas theme i.e. tinsel or Christmas hat or decoration.

The school will close at 12.30p.m. on Thursday 22nd December, for the Christmas holidays. School will re-open on Monday, 9th January 2005.

Santa is visiting our school tomorrow, Wednesday 21st. There will be a mini-disco for the children. **Junior Infant and Senior infant parents who would like to see Santa or dance with their children, can come to the school at 1.30p.m. instead of 2.00p.m.** We know our parents from 2nd—6th classes are just as enthusiastic as junior parents but due to lack of space we regret that we cannot facilitate you all on the dance floor!

Staff Matters

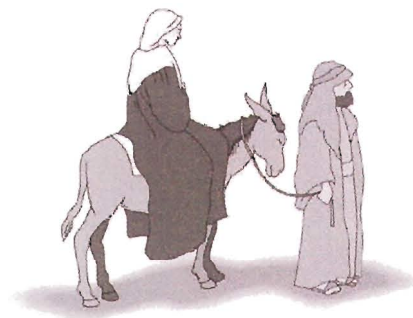
Our 3rd class teacher Ms. Crehan had a baby boy. She called him Daniel. Ms Crehan will be returning after the

mid-term break in February. Ms. Morris was elected as a nominee for the People of the Year award and we were all very proud of her.

Ms. Gavin who has started taking pupils for Gaelic training this term won an all-Ireland Gaelic medal in Ladies football on behalf of her local club St. Brigid's.

We welcome Ms. Caroline Harrison from Ballyleague who joined our staff in early October. Ms. Harrison is working with non-English speaking pupils.

Sadly Ms. O' Shea's father John O' Shea passed away this term. May he rest in peace.



Waiting with hope. Everybody deserves to have a life of dignity, peace and happiness. Happy Christmas and a joyful new year to all.

Sport in Scoil Mhuire

The children have been very busy this term taking part in Athletics, Basketball, Gaelic, Soccer and Swimming. Soccer coaching was provided by John Hannon and Fred Mulryan. Our Basketball team travelled to Cornamaddy N.S., Athlone for their first match. Although they lost they did us proud and on their return journey they aired their determination to beat Cornamaddy N.S. when they visit our school in January. Our Athletics team travelled to Athlone Institute of Technology with Ms. Morris and Ms. Burgoyne. Again we were very proud of them. Ms. Gavin and Ms. Harrison provide Gaelic training for the girls in 3rd—6th classes on Thursdays during lunch hour. Both soccer and Gaelic

coaching will continue next term. After school coaching for next term will be from 3.00—4.00p.m. as follows:

Tuesday: Athletics (Ms. Burgoyne)

Wednesday: Camogie (Ms. Connell)

Thursday: Basketball (Ms. Gannon)

Thank you to all our staff who give so generously of their free time to promote sport in the school. Parents may be asked to bring children to matches next term as we have joined Cumann na mBunscoil.

School Activities

Computers

All class teachers have evaluated software and chosen pieces suitable for reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Children from Senior Infants to 6th class are time-tabled for computers every week. Talk to your children about the software they are using in school. If you would like advice on suitable software for home use please let us know.

Halleluiah Concert

On Sunday 19th December 6th class travelled to Dublin to take part in the Halleluiah Concert in the National Concert Hall. Thank you to Ms. Crean who prepared the children for this event.

Infants visit local library and Santa

On Wednesday 15th and Friday 17th Junior Infants and their teachers Ms. Clarke and Ms. Mannion visited our local library for story telling. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Senior Infants and their teachers Ms. Acton, Ms. Coll and Ms. Mitchell visited Santa in Glendeer Farm. Santa was very impressed with the children from Scoil Mhuire and promises to be good to them all!

Ms. Heneghan and Ms. Ward's First classes will visit our local Arts Centre on Tuesday 21st to see a live performance titled 'Santa's Magic Sleigh'.

Green School

Under the direction and thanks to the hard work of Ms. Hannon and Ms. Burgoyne we have decided to renew our membership as a Green School.

Parents Association

The Parents Association have been very busy supporting the work of the school. Recently the association were involved in collecting donations and selling tickets at the Christmas concert. During this term some of the topics discussed at meetings included school uniform, parking facilities, hand dryers for children, sport, parent/teacher meetings etc.

Representatives from the association have had a number of meetings with politicians and the council on 'drop off' and parking facilities outside the school. This is an important issue with the opening of the Govern-

Christmas boxes to Armenia

Over 150 Christmas boxes were sent by children from our school to children in Armenia. Ms. O' Connor organised this worthwhile project. It is nice to know that our children will to help make Christmas Day extra special for some children in Armenia.

Speech and Language Class

Our children in this class have progressed very well this term thanks to Ms. Duignan and Ms. Ruane. They had a very enjoyable trip down town last week.

Band

Our school band has been very busy this month. They played at the 'turning on of the Christmas lights' in town. This week they play for patients in our local Nursing Homes. Getting over 90 children to play together is a daunting task. Thank you Ms. Morris, Ms. Crean and Ms. Cunniffe for all your hard work.

National Readathon

Bravo to Ms. Hannon and those eager beavers who took part. Not only did they succeed in reading 400 books, they also contributed €400 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society which will be used locally.

Scór

Some of our children performed very well in Scór both in the instrumental and drama sections.

School Historical Tour

This term pupils in 5th classes visited Strokestown House, Cruachán Aí and the Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre. The children's projects on their experiences reflected the quality learning that took place.

ment Offices across from the school in January.

Representatives were consulted during the drafting stage of school policy on formal and informal Parent/teacher meetings. A copy of this policy is available in the school for any parent who wishes to have one.

The Parents Association thanks everyone who helped in any way with activities during the term. Any help is very much appreciated and anyone who wants to get involved is very welcome. A meeting will be arranged in the New Year to which you are all welcome.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir