

# Scoil Mhuire Newsletter

20th December 2005

## Christmas in Scoil Mhuire



OUR CHRISTMAS CRIB

Writing on behalf of the staff, we hope that all our parents/guardians and children will experience many moments of love and joy together over the Christmas holidays. The simplest of things can bring joy to children: being together, laughing together, singing together, having a meal together, playing a game together, watching a film together, saying a short prayer together.

Wishing you many Golden Moments !

## Operation Christmas Child

Beginning last year Ms. O' Connor organised *Operation Christmas Child*. This involves packing goodies/presents in nicely wrapped shoe boxes, for children who are less fortunate than us. Our kindness makes sure they have a taste of Christmas cheer. This year our boxes were sent to Belarus. Everyone from 1st—6th donated a Christmas shoe box, putting in soap, toothpaste, hat, scarf, little toys etc. Thank you Ms. O' Connor for organising *Operation Christmas Child* in the school, and spreading the message of the Good Samaritan. We hope this tradition continues in to the future. By 3rd and 4th classes.



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

Our preparations for Christmas started on the 2nd December with an Advent Prayer service for all pupils led by Sr. Madeleine. On Friday 16th December children from 3rd—6th classes participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thursday 22nd, is a *No Uniform Day* 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 2006.**

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 1st—6th classes are just as enthusiastic as the parents of our infants but due to lack of space we regret that we cannot facilitate you all on the dance floor!

## School Activities (articles contributed by 4th and 5th classes)

### Santa and the Present Pirates

which was staged in the Arts Centre on Friday last was attended by 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show interacting with the cast to help Santa solve the dilemma of the stolen presents. Having been introduced to the songs in their classroom before going to the show they were able to join in the singing and were presented with a free CD of all the songs afterwards.

### Infants visit local library and Santa

This week our Junior Infants and their teachers Ms. Acton, Ms. Coll and Ms. Mitchell are visiting our local library for story telling.

Senior Infants and their teachers Ms. Clarke and Ms. Mannion visited Santa today in Glendeer Farm. Ms. Feeley has already told Santa how good all the girls and boys are in Scoil Mhuire.

### Environmental Awareness

Since September St. Mary's pupils have been actively involved in Green Schools. With Ms. M. Hannon's help and through liaising with Olwyn Cooney, Environment Offices, Roscommon County Council we have aimed to:

1. Slim our bins
2. Act as litter busters
3. Come to appreciate our built/natural heritage

In the Tidy Schools Competition 2005 we are the overall county winners for the "Best use of art in school grounds". We have also been awarded prizes in the Anti-Litter awareness Poster Competition and the Green Schools Christmas Decoration competition.

### National Readathon 2005

This year's project has been a bumper success in our school. All age groups participated. By doing so children benefitted personally/ practically by reading such a volume of fascinating books. Subscriptions collected totalled 417.94 euro. This money will be used for the benefit of Roscommon Multiple Sclerosis sufferers. Sharing is caring. Thank you Ms. Hannon for organising this project.

### Band

The school band has a busy schedule every Christmas as they take to the local nursing homes to entertain the patients and staff. This year the Sacred Heart Home, Peter Trist Centre, Clover Hill nursing home and Oakwood nursing homes were visited. The friends of Cherry House will be coming to the school this week to be entertained by the children. The band also played for Santa's visit to town when he turned on the Christmas

lights. Well done to all eighty five children who have practised hard all year. Thank you Ms. Morris, Ms. Cunniffe and Ms Crean for all your hard work.

### Scór

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

### Magical Science

Our visit to the IT Technology Centre, Athlone, exposed us to the wonders of Sound and Gravity from the scientific point of view. It was fun and fact and fascinating for each pupil.

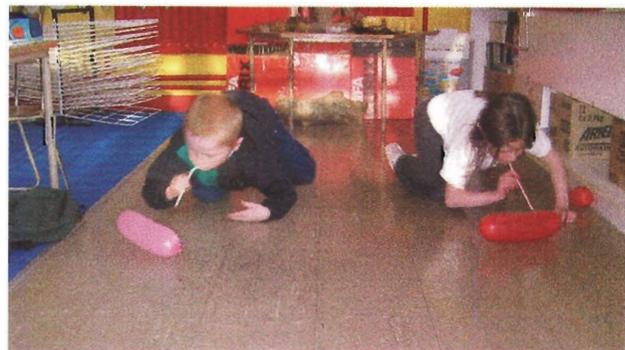
This term a group of pupils representing our school collected an *Award for Excellence in Science* n Sligo Institute of Technology. Below you can see some of our 1st class pupils enjoying science experiments.

### Attendance

Staff, parents and members of the Board of Management attended a meeting to discuss strategies for improving attendance in the school. You will be hearing more about this in January 2006.

### Drama

Thanks Ms. D. Hannon for taking children for Speech and Drama after school. We love these classes, they are different to what you would expect.



# Young Scientist Projects

Children from 4th and 5th classes have been assisting Transition year students in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál with their Young Scientist projects. This is a very valuable experience for the children who themselves are involved in the Primary Schools Discover Science programme which is being organised by Ms. Gannon this year. All classes from 1st up are conducting various experiments which we hope to display for parents later in the year .



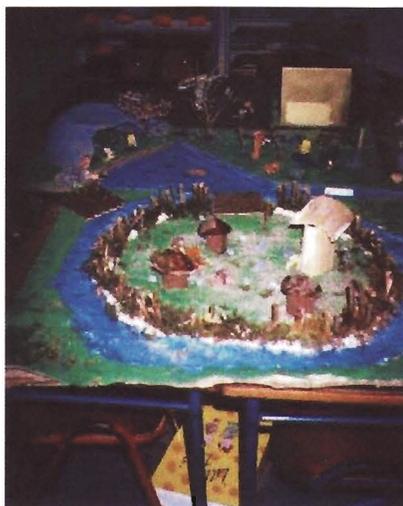
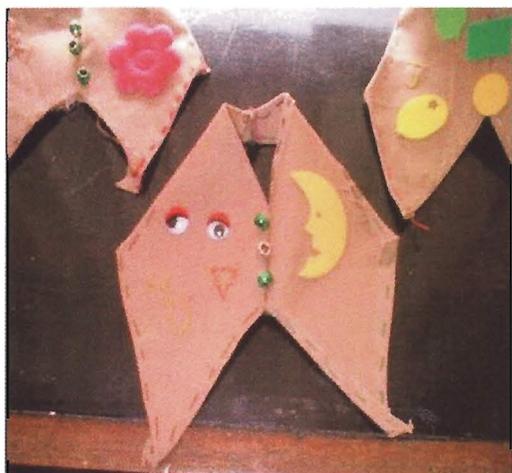
# School Choir

Ms. Margaret Madden continues to take the school choir and we look forward to a performance before the end of the school year. Already the singing coming from the hall on Thursday evenings is a real treat. The school choir attended the Carol Service in the Sacred Heart Church on December 18th where they performed two carols: *Away in a Manger* and *Calypto Christmas*. It was a most enjoyable service with a wonderful atmosphere enhanced by the beautiful candle light display. We were really delighted when everyone in the church clapped after we sang *Calypto Christmas*.

# Trócaire

The children in the school collected over 425 euro for Trócaire during the month of November. Mission awareness is an ongoing feature of the school and the generosity of the children and the parents is most praiseworthy.

# Visual Arts



Congratulations to all our girls who were winners in the recent Credit Union Art competition. The theme "Credit Unions Can Make It Happen" was very aptly illustrated by all our students. Scoil Mhuire submitted a very large number of pictures as this is a very popular competition in the school.

Here is a selection of some of our art work. Some of our students are making their own robots using programmable brick. Eight of our teachers attended a course held in our school, on constructing and programming robots using this brick over the Summer holidays.



**Our young musicians who get up early every morning to practise with Ms. Morris from 9.00a.m. onwards. Well done girls !**



**Paired Reading:** We run a 'buddy system' in the school where children are paired up and read together in the morning. This is run by Ms. O' Shea and Ms. Cunniffe. This is proving a great success in raising interest in reading. We also have DEAR time after 2.00p.m. every day where the whole school Drops Everything And Read.

**VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD APPEAL : PLEASE SEND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD IN WITH CHILDREN BEFORE THURSDAY. THANK YOU.**

## **Sport in Scoil Mhuire**

The cold and wet weather does not stop us in Scoil Mhuire. 3rd—6th classes have been playing Gaelic every Friday at lunch time under the direction of Ms. Harrison and a Transition Year student from the CBS, Patrick Hughes. Patrick has been sharing his skills this term, on Fridays, with all classes. Thank you Patrick.

Our after school homework/ activity club is proving a great hit especially the sweet Hot Chocolate made by Ms. Burgoyne for the children attending an activity after homework. A big thank you to all our teachers who have made this so successful.

The Children's skills are really improving in Camogie thanks to Ms. Connell and Mary Mc Neill. We are very fortunate to have such talented and willing parents in our school.

Ms. Gannon continues to take Basketball classes after school and is assisted by Transition Year students from Soil Mhuire Gan Smál. We are very fortunate to be allowed to use the secondary school gym for basketball training.

Our teachers had a day's inservice training on the 14th December. Ms. Burgoyne, our caretaker, is a National Coach in Athletics and she attended the section on Athletics . Teachers really enjoyed the day and there was much laughter heard as teachers shared their talents/ skills in gymnastics, Athletics and Dance with each other! Children you are in for a real treat!

**Lord, as the year draws to an end, we thank you for so much: for all the good and happy times, each smile and loving touch. We thank you, too for other times, when things went sadly wrong, for being there to understand, you helped us to be strong. Now as the year is ending, Lord, we ask you to be near, to be our guide and guardian throughout the coming year. Irish Hesselden**

**Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir**