



Happy Christmas to all families from the children and staff of Scoil Mhuire Primary School Christmas 2006



Each person through positive learning experiences will be stimulated to achieve his/her full potential, face life confidently, find fulfilment and be respectful in an ever-changing world.



VISITING SANTA AT GLENDEER FARM

Our Senior Infants visited Glendeer Farm last week and told Santa how good all the children are in Scoil Mhuire.

Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks to all of you who contributed a shoebox to this year's 'Operation Christmas Child' shoebox appeal. This year's appeal was an amazing success, with a contribution of 310 boxes coming from our school alone.

Leaflets were distributed to the children last October and the shoeboxes began rolling in after the Halloween break. Ms. O' Connor, 2nd class teacher, arranged for the boxes to be taken to the warehouse on Racecourse Rd. at the end of November. This warehouse was used as a checking centre for the next two weeks. It was kindly made available by Noel Naughton and as it had not been occupied or used for many years the first job was to clean it

up and move materials to make space for the boxes. A group of about ten, including Ms. O' Connor spent a Saturday doing that, and then another group sorted out the electrics. Finally, everything was ready and the checking could begin.

Over the next two weeks, 7,500 shoe boxes from Roscommon, Sligo, parts of Mayo and parts of Longford were opened, checked, sorted, sealed and packed into large cardboard containers. Ms. O' Connor, as part of the core group along with local volunteers worked hard from 6p.m. to 10p.m. every night. They had to work at a fast pace in order to get through them all and it was cold but Ms. O' Connor reported that they had fun too! Some of the local shops helped out by donating 'fillers' i.e. small items to boost some of the boxes.

Finally, two weeks later the job was done. All that was left to do now was to recheck the amount for the last time, tidy up the warehouse and wait for the lorry to arrive.

At the end of November once again Ms. O' Connor gathered with volunteers at the warehouse for the last time to load cartons onto the truck which had come all the way from Slovenia. At 8p.m. that night the final carton was loaded and the lorry driver took off into the night on his long journey, taking our shoeboxes (an amazing total of 7,500) all the way to their final destination in Eastern Romania, near the Moldovian border. They are due to arrive there by Christmas, in time to brighten up the lives of some very poor children.

In 2004 Scoil Mhuire collected 248 boxes, in 2005 our total was 250. This year we have exceeded that by 60, with a grand total of 310. So on behalf of Ms. O' Connor we want to thank all of you who donated a shoebox and hopefully next year we will increase it even more and on behalf of you all, I want to thank Ms. O' Connor and all the volunteers who made this event possible.

Writing on behalf of the staff , we wish all our parents/guardians and children love and joy this Christmas and health and happiness in the new year.

AT CHRISTMAS WE REMEMBER CHILDREN WHO MAY NOT BE AS FORTUNATE AS WE ARE.

In our school we are very busy every day striving to ensure all children have the opportunity to shine regularly. This is why we have such a wide range of activities on offer including a broad curriculum with 11 subjects, opportunities to perform on stage and participate in a wide range of sports including Basketball, Gaelic, Soccer, Volleyball, Camogie, Tag rugby, Dance and Athletics. Children also have a responsibility as citizens to look after those who may not be as fortunate as they are and the children in our school have been very generous. Well done all of you!

Multiple Sclerosis Readathon 2006

This year's project has been a bumper success in our school. All age groups participated. It was great fun. We raised 2,343.76 euro. Although we did want to raise money we also enjoyed ourselves, reading as many books as we could. It was good to support Multiple Sclerosis while having fun.

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 Triest Centre, and Clover Hill nursing homes were visited. The friends of Cherry House came to the school this week to entertain us for a change. Up to this year we put on a show for them and we want to thank the students in Cherry House for entertaining us. The band also played for Santa's visit to town when he turned on the Christmas lights. Well done to all children who have practised hard all year. Thank you Ms. Cuniffe, Ms. Morris, and Ms. Murray for all your hard work.

Princess Pushy and the toys that said No!

was staged in the Arts Centre and our 1st and 2nd classes attended. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show. Children interacted with the cast and joined in the singing. They were presented with a free CD of all the songs afterwards.

Christmas Concert

Thankyou to parents who attended our Christmas concerts. Thank you also for your generosity.

Trócaire

The children in the school have collected 1,980 euro during 2006. So far 180 euro was given to Cork Aid in Sri Lanka, 600 euro given to Fr. Jenkins in Liberia, 300 euro to the Apostolic workers, 400 euro to Sr. Goretti in Nigeria and 300 euro to the Society of Missionary children. Mission awareness is an ongoing feature of the school and the generosity of the children and the parents is most praiseworthy.

VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD APPEAL : THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS. If you wish to donate items please do so before tomorrow—Thursday. If you need help/support this Christmas please contact the principal.



Our 5th and 6th classes who performed recently at the Halleluiah Concert in the Point Depot, Dublin.

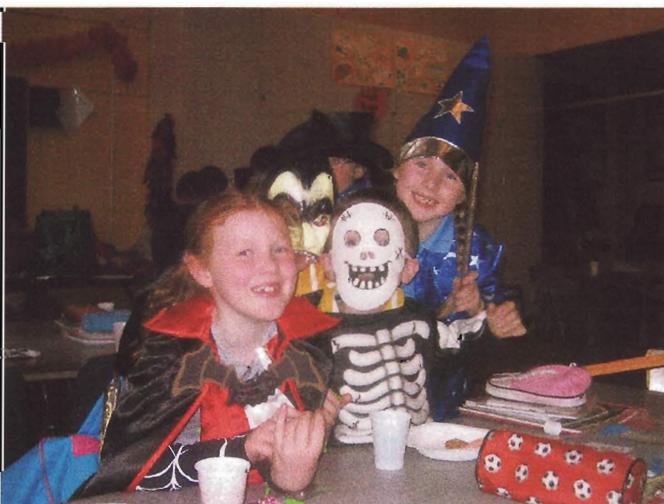
Young Scientist Projects

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*.

Visual Arts



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.

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.

Roscommon Minors visit Scoil Mhuire



Sport in Scoil Mhuire

The cold and wet weather does not stop us in Scoil Mhuire. Every week without fail Ms. Arlene Gilleran 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 Scoil 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!

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

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