

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.

Scoil Mhuire Convent Primary School NEWSLETTER Christmas 2007



Mrs. Mannion wishes you all a happy Christmas

On behalf of the staff I am happy to write a few lines for Scoil Mhuire Newsletter. I want to compliment all who have contributed to it. It shows that a lot of learning and fun has taken place in our school this term. It also gives an insight into all the different talents that our children have. It is clear that school life is very varied and there is a lot of motivation. Children are achieving in lots of different ways. Our wish here at Scoil Mhuire is that you will all experience joy, happiness and peace this Christmas.
Guím Rath Dé oraibh go léir
Mrs. Mannion

School Band.

The band played at the annual turning on of the Christmas lights in the square on the second of December and also have a busy schedule of visiting all the local nursing homes to play for the patients and residents. The service users from the Brothers of charity house in St. Coman's Park also visited the school to hear the band play. In September the band played at the reception in the Square for the Special Olympics team from the county including Bernadette Carr who later won bronze in the competitions in Shanghai.



A VISIT TO THE OMBUDSMAN; EMILY LOGAN

The Big Ballot

Saint Mary's Primary school took part in the recent Big Ballot organised by the ombudsman for children Ms. Emily Logan, the object of which was to have children's voices heard. All children were taught lessons from the special packs sent to the school and then the voting took place.

As Scoil Mhuire was one of the first schools in the country to return its ballot, representatives from the school were invited to a special reception in City Hall, Dublin. Mrs. Coll, Ms. Crean and eight children from 6th class attended, representing County Roscommon and had a very enjoyable day. Emily Logan and Miriam O Callaghan were there.

Skipping

On Thursday November 8th Lee James gave a skipping workshop in the school.

5th and 6th classes took part and learned lots of skipping skills.

Everyone was given a skipping rope and was taught about skipping safely. Skipping with arms crossed and with one arm under your leg are examples of some techniques in skipping also Pretzels and Hot cross buns where two ropes were crossed forming an x. Another trick was called 'Double Dutch' where two ropes were moving in opposite directions and you jump in between them. Later in the day 5th and 6th classes gave a presentation to all the other classes. Various children were picked to demonstrate different tricks. The children had great fun and learned a lot including the fact that not only is skipping such good exercise but it also helps prevent osteoporosis. Skipping is now a very popular activity in the yard.



Quiz Teams. Congratulations to Ms. Kearney and the members of the school quiz team who took part in the Library quiz and got 2nd place. They came joint 3rd in the county final. Well done Olivia Fullard, Ruth Brown and Caoimhe Mc Stay.

Shared reading sessions have been organised by the special needs team and take place from 9.15 to 9.30 a.m. Thanks to all the 6th class children who are helping out with this very important activity.

School SESE trips.

1st and 2nd classes visited Portrun and also Goff St. where Mr Seán Leydon and Mr. Bill Flanagan introduced them to the history of the area and showed them interesting buildings and features in the street. Sincere thanks to both. These classes also visited the Arts Centre for a wonderful production in mime called *Grimm Jam*. They were also given workshops in the school. Many thanks to all the parents who accompanied the children on their outings. 3rd and 4th classes attended 'Meet the Robinsons' in the mobile cinema during Science week. They also went to the Art Centre to see 'The Children of Lir'. Sincere thanks to Mr Gerry Brown who gave the children in the senior side of the school a talk on 'Fair Trade' Many of the children have since completed an art competition with this theme. 5th and 6th classes went to the new Roscommon Fire Station to have a look at the equipment there and find out what happens when there is a fire. They also had an outing to King House in Boyle and Forest Park as part of the history/science element of the curriculum.



HAVING FUN PLAYING FOOTBALL AT LUNCH TIME

Puppet show The whole school was treated to the story of 'Androcles and the Lion' in the school hall. The set was magnificent and the children interacted with great enthusiasm as this wonderful show was brought to life before them.

Senior infants made their debut excursion to Glendeer farm. Needless to say there was lots of fun and excitement.

Sport.

3rd and 4th classes have completed swimming classes. The school's cross country team under Mrs. Burgoyne's coaching did the school proud in the School's competition and again representing Roscommon in the Connaught final in Sligo. Congrats to Róisín Timothy who is through to the All Ireland.

GAA TRAINING IN KILBRIDE

Confirmation and First Confessions/communion preparations are well underway with parents and children actively involved in commitment ceremonies and 'Do this in memory of me' ceremonies. Confirmation will be held on April 26th and Communion on May 17th.



Congratulations to Mrs Feeley, her husband and all the family on the birth of their beautiful little girl, Zoë. Congratulations also to Mrs. Fallon and her husband on the birth of her lovely baby boy, Oden.

Best of luck to Ms. Crehan who is getting married this month.

Ms. Cunniffe who got married over the Summer is moving nearer home to take up a new teaching post there. We are very sorry to see her leave. She is a wonderful teacher and we will miss her very much. We hope she is happy in her new post.

Missions Samaritan's Purse Christmas Box Appeal

Ms. O Connor once again organised the shoe box appeal in the school. Almost three hundred boxes were donated. They were brought to the warehouse in Roscommon where they were checked, sealed and packed along with boxes from all over Mayo, Sligo and Westmeath. All in all 7,525 boxes were collected by a Polish lorry driver and brought to Belarus. Well done to everyone.

Response to the missions is very good with over €400 collected so far this year. We ask the children to bring in used stamps as they raise a lot of money for needy places.

Green Schools Project.

We continue to focus on keeping the school environment clean and 5th class work hard emptying bins and composting. Unfortunately a lot of discarded chewing gum is appearing on the school yard and on the footpaths around the school. As it is banned in school we ask visitors to be careful when discarding of it.

Afterschool activities.

Ms. Acton oversees the smooth running of afterschool activities and there has been a big uptake again this year. Ms. Connaughton and her group are making great improvements to their volley ball skills. Ms. Haran is working diligently with the Grúpa ceoil, Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Morris with the accordions/ tin whistles and Ms. Doherty with the violins. Ms. Dolan, Ms. Greene and Ms. Úna Glynn are making great progress with the Irish dancers and Ms. Crehan and Ms. Connell are ensuring camogie stays alive and well in the school. Ms. Gaughan is keeping our football tradition to a high standard with the help of Mr. Gilleran and Speech and Drama is under the careful guidance of Ms. Hannon. Judo, Ballet and Irish language classes also run in the school so there is something for everybody.



Scór na bpáistí

Almost forty children from the school participated in Scór. The figure dancing groups came first and third in their competition. They were trained by Ms. Mary Dolan and Ms. Aisling Greene. The Ballad group came second, trained by Ms. Deirdre Crehan. It was a most enjoyable evening and schools from all over Co. Roscommon took part.

Hallelujah Concert

The children of the 5th and 6th classes had a wonderful experience on Sunday 2nd December when they were part of the 2,000 strong Hallelujah Choir in the RDS in Dublin. All the practice has paid off and they were entertained by some very well known acts.

Congratulations

Ríona Delaney won 1st prize in the Credit Union Poster competition and Cara Gannon and Olivia Fullard won prizes in the Library Bookmark competition.



Watching the 5th/6th classes 'Hallelujah Choir' perform on stage



Mrs. Burgoyne and the School Cross Country Team

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Parents Association would like to thank all parents for their support and help in 2007.

The car park is a big issue for the Association. We as the parents must do all we can to ensure our children's safety in the Car Park.

A thank you to Noel Fallon at the Roscommon champion for his article outlining our concerns on the car park issue. We hope it will help to improve the situation.

For the safety of the children please drive and park carefully outside the school.

Our recent BAGPACK fundraiser at Fleming's Supervalu raised €836.54 and we would like to thank all parents who gave their time on the day. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

In December we met with Jean Healy from the National Parents Council. Jean provided us with guidance on the role of the Parents Association. All had a great night. Jean will be providing training in January for parents interested.

Well done to all the children of our school who have achieved great success in many areas this year and a big Thank You to Mrs. Mannion and all her staff for making it possible.

All parents of Our School are members of the Parents Association, and we would like to welcome all the new parents who have joined the school in 2007.

The role of the Parent's Association (Education Act 1998)

'A Parents Association shall promote the interest of the students in a school in cooperation with the board, principals, teachers, students.'

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas. Season's Greetings

Mary Feeley Chairperson PA
