

June 2011

Scoil Mhuire Primary School Newsletter

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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.



22 IPADS AND FIVE IPOD TOUCHES IN USE BY ALL CHILDREN FROM INFANTS TO SIXTH CLASSES.

The newest technology – 22 iPads and 5 iPods have been introduced into all classrooms in Scoil Mhuire with wireless internet access. Why? Using an iPad excites children and motivates them to learn in an enjoyable way. The iPad is a tool for teaching and learning and it can double up as a piano keyboard, make music, help with letter formation, paint and draw, read out loud, translate speech into text, reinforce maths concepts, make comics, navigate the world etc. With iPods, children can take photos and video clips. Their use in classrooms is at the very early stages. The iPad is an additional methodology to support and enhance teaching and learning. With effective planning and clear learning objectives the iPad is a very effective tool. In the future all textbooks will be available on the iPad. There will be no need for heavy school bags, textbooks or photocopiers.

Ms. Sandra Crean, class teacher, is responsible for purchasing, co-ordinating and maintaining all the Information and Communication technologies (ICTs) in the school which includes 18 interactive whiteboards with data projectors and laptops, 25 computers in the computer room and the newly acquired iPads and iPods. Ms. Crean has spent a lot of her personal time seeking the best and most economical deals for the school, choosing suitable applications and software and downloading and purchasing software and hardware. It is thanks to Ms. Crean's knowledge and willingness to give of her personal time that our children have access to the most modern technology available.

ALL-IRELAND SUCCESS

Congratulations to our Volleyball team who reached the All-Ireland semi-finals in University College Limerick, having beaten teams from Cavan, Longford, Westmeath, Galway, Mayo and Donegal. Sincere thank you to Aidín Ní Dhonncha for preparing the girls for this event.

Congratulations to James Connolly (1st class) who represented County Roscommon in the Community Games Art Competition and was awarded a silver All-Ireland medal. Congratulations to Katie Johnson (3rd class) who was awarded a bronze all-Ireland medal for handwriting. Congratulations to Shannon Quigley and Laura Hynes who represented County Roscommon in running in the All-Ireland Cross Country finals where their team was awarded 8th place. Jenni Kilduff and Tara Dolan will represent County Roscommon in swimming in the All-Ireland later this month. Go n-eirí an tádh libh.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF ALL OUR PUPILS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNITY GAMES at local, county and national level. A special thank you to Declan Hynes (parent) for organising the Community Games in the town.



TWO TEAMS FROM SCOIL MHUIRE TIE FOR 3RD PLACE IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON TABLE QUIZ.

Congratulations to Ruth Mc Dermott, Ruth Mc Neill, Jane Horan, Genevieve Harlow, Simone Mc Neill, Lisa Mullins, Aife Feeley and Sinéad Harrington. Thank you to Roisin Dunne for the work she does with our school quiz teams.

WEDDING: Congratulations to Ms. Caitriona Duignan who gets married this weekend. We wish Ms. Duignan and Alan a very happy future together.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

I want to thank each member of the Parents Association committee for all the work they do in supporting our school. I want to thank sincerely Paula Connaughton, chairperson, who finishes her term as her son, Kevin, moves to the Abbey N.S. Paula's father Michael Mulry also served on the Board of Management in the school. We thank both Paula and Mr. Mulry for the support they have given to the school spanning over three decades.

EUROPEAN FAMILY FUN DAY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2011

On behalf of the Parents Association I want to invite all our families to Family Fun Day on June 18th. **I want to also invite families of new entrants to this event.** This has been a wonderful occasion for the last two years in the school. Activities are organised by the Parents Association. Families are asked to bring a picnic and a rug. Music, tea/coffee, refreshments and entertainment will be provided free of charge.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management will finish its four year term in October. A new Board of Management will be formed for the years 2011-2015. The Board of Management includes two elected parent representatives (Mary Feeley, Liam Corcoran), two community representatives (Dr. Wawrzynek, Cahal Mahon), two Bishop appointees (Mercedes Lyons, Fr. Eugene Mc Loughlin) and two teacher representatives (Úna Feeley, Patricia Morris). The Board of Management plays a very important role in managing the school. It makes decisions on building, enrolment, resources, budgeting, planning, staffing etc. The Board of Management meets five times in the year. Parents are asked to seriously consider putting their names forward for election for the new Board of Management. Challenging times lie ahead for Scoil Mhuire. The Board of Management with parents and the wider community needs to clearly define what we want for our children as we move into the 21st century. What skills do we want our children to have? What do we want them to value? How do we look after all our children, ensuring the very best and the highest standards for all, including those with special needs, in a time when funding and resources are being cut. A sincere thank you to all board members for their sound advice and support over the last four years.

FLEADH CEOL COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2011

A big thank you to Patricia Morris, Nicola Shaughnessy and Louise Casey for all the work they do in promoting music in the school. The following were our prize winners: Instrumental Trio 1st place - Ava Giblin, Isobelle Cullen, Bróna Cassidy: Singing 3rd place - Sinéad Kelly, Bróna Cassidy: Violin U.12, 1st place - Annie McNally: Accordion U.12, 3rd place - Aífe Feeley: Flute U.12, 1st place - Rachel Corcoran: Concertina U.12, 3rd place- Leonie Mc Namara: Violin U.10, 3rd place - Mary Elizabeth Connolly: Piano Accordion u.12, 1st place - Sinéad Kelly, 3rd place - Rachel Tarmey.



SPORTS DAY, 14TH JUNE: Thank you to Cathy O' Connor and parents for organising this event. A fun day with no competition, maximum participation and plenty of action is guaranteed for all.

ARTS DAYS, 8TH/9TH JUNE: Thank you to Joan O' Shea and Kate Crehan for organising this event. There will be many activities on offer for the children including jewellery making, T-shirt making, mask-making, cookery, puppet making etc. €5 per family is being asked to cover materials.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Thank you to Caroline Acton and Caitriona Duignan for co-ordinating activities this year. Thank you to all staff who stay until 5.00p.m. to provide such a wide range of activities for the children including Homework club, Basketball, Camogie, Gaelic, Soccer, Violin, Accordion, Flute, Piano keyboard, Polish, Ballet and Speech and Drama.

BEREAVEMENTS: We remember in our prayers Fionán Raftery (Niamh Raftery's father), Albert Healy (Alberta Healy's father) and Donal Donohue (Mercedes Lyons's father) who died recently. We ask God to take care of their families and be with them always especially when they are feeling lonely.

Prayer at the end of the school year.

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each and every child in our school community. Be by our sides as we work towards success for all our children in all situations, irrespective of circumstance. Give us the strength to support each other, through good times and bad. Guide us as we make decisions that impact on our future. Lead us every day to do what is right - always.

