

December  
2012

# Scoil Mhuire Primary School Newsletter

[www.conventprimaryroscommon.ie](http://www.conventprimaryroscommon.ie)



*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.*

**Úna Feeley and staff wishes all in our school community a happy and holy Christmas. It is our privilege and joy to spend so much time with your wonderful children every day. Your support to our school is much appreciated. We look forward to working with you in 2013.**



**Our Junior and Senior Infant children look forward to Baby Jesus entering our crib on **Friday, 21st December**, when we close for Christmas holidays at **12.45p.m.****

## **The Present**

The poor little boy was as sad as could be.

He had no present for under the tree.

"Oh, my Mammy and Daddy work so hard for me,  
I have nothing to give them to thank them you  
see."

But, later, alone, on his small little bed,  
he took bright coloured paper and long bits of  
thread.

And he tied up a parcel with nothing inside, and he  
crept down the stairs when the parcel was tied.

When he woke the next day, he went down to the  
tree,

he saw Mammy and Daddy as glad as could be,  
"We got perfume, a tie and a clock for the shelf,  
but your present is special, you made it yourself.  
And your bright little parcel, all tied up and small,  
was filled up with love, the best present of all.

*Christy Kenneally*

## **Survey on Patronage/Management of Schools**

*Scoil Mhuire* and the *Abbey Boys' N.S.* are Catholic primary schools, under the patronage of the Bishop of Elphin. *Gaelscoileanna/* schools that have Irish as a first language are under the patronage of *An Foras Pátrúnachta*. Parents of pre-school and primary school children in Roscommon town will be asked to indicate if they would like a wider choice of patronage in the town. *Educate Together* and the *VEC* have applied to manage one of the primary schools in Roscommon. A survey seeking parents views on patronage of their local schools has now been postponed from November 2012 to January/February 2013.

Parents who want their children to continue to be educated in the system as is, will be asked to indicate whether they would prefer their children to be in single sex or mixed gender schools. We will let you know when this important survey goes on-line. We are encouraging all parents to complete the survey.



Our School Quiz team who won 1st prize locally and 2nd prize in the Roscommon/Mayo Library Quiz.

Thank you to Mary O' Meara (Parent) and Aífe Campbell (teacher) for working with the team.

### **MATHS CLASS FOR PARENTS**

A very enthusiastic group of parents met every Wednesday evening in November for Maths classes which were held from 7p.m.—9p.m. The aim of the course was to look at the various strands in the Maths curriculum and to give tips and ideas for helping children at home. The course focused on promoting a positive attitude to Maths, developing confidence and identifying Maths in the environment around us. Many thanks to the parents for their enthusiasm and support which made the course most enjoyable for all.

The Board of Management wants to thank in particular Kate Creahn (6th class teacher) for agreeing to facilitate this course.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2013**

The national launch of Catholic Schools Week 2013 will take place in Roscommon on Monday 21st January 2013. The Catholic schools in the town will come together to celebrate in prayer and reflection as the Catholic community in Ireland look forward to Catholic Schools Week which will begin the following Sunday.

Scoil Mhuire has been chosen as the venue to launch Catholic Schools Week. RTÉ will broadcast the event. More information is available on [www.catholicbishops.ie/catholicschoolsweek](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/catholicschoolsweek).

### **MUSIC in SCOIL MHUIRE**

Over 30 children took part in Scór na bPaistí this year. The quiz team, instrumental group and individual singers were all awarded 2nd place and our dancing group came 1st.

Our Musical Evening spearheaded by Ms. Shaughnessy was a huge success. All our children shone. Individuals performed pieces by Bach, Haydn and Chopin. Thank you to their teachers - Ms. Morris, Ms. Shaughnessy, Ms. Killeen, Ms. Greene, Ms. Carey and Ms. Campbell. Thank you Ms. Crean for conducting the children as they participated in the Carol Service on Sunday. Well done everybody.

### **SCIENCE WEEK 2013**

Science Week ran from 11th - 18th November. This year's theme "Everyday Experimenting" aimed to show, how all of us carry out daily experiments in our ordinary lives - sometimes without even realising it. The children in the school enjoyed preparing experiments and showing them to their school mates. Thank you to Caitríona Duignan for co-ordinating events. Our 2nd classes went to a show called "Animal Magic" in the Quad Centre. They saw many birds and animals including lizards, owls, a skunk and snakes. A sincere thank you to staff and students in Scoil Muire Gan Smál secondary school who organised fun activities for the children in Science. Our girls were very excited about all they learned.

A sincere thank you to all class teachers who embraced Science Week with such enthusiasm.



Our 1st class boys and girls take a break from soccer to pose for this photo!

### **PIRLS AND TIMSS 2011 RESULTS PUBLISHED LAST WEEK**

Our school was one of 151 schools selected in Ireland to take part in the PIRLS and TIMSS studies - large international comparative studies of achievement that assess, respectively the reading, mathematics and science skills of primary school pupils. A total of 300,000 ten-year olds from 63 countries took part.

Ireland was placed 10th of 63 countries in Reading, 17th in mathematics and 22nd in Science. The highest performing countries in mathematics were Singapore, Korea and Hong Kong. Scoil Mhuire is delighted with the achievements of our children, with the school overall scoring significantly above average. The results reflect the hard work done by teachers in the school.

The most valuable resource in a school is its teachers. Research shows that the class teacher is the most influential factor on a child's learning in school. We are blessed in Scoil Mhuire to have a team of gifted, hard-working teachers and we thank God for each and every one of them.

### **CHESS: SCOIL MHUIRE PLAYS BALLYMURRAY in a 'friendly' tournament.**

A sincere thank you to parents, Alastair Kerr and Robbie Dolan who have been teaching Chess to children after school on a voluntary basis. When Ballymurray N.S. visited us, 32 children played chess against each other. All players received selection boxes and a wonderful time was had by all.

### **Favourite 5th class activities since September '12**

For our Halloween party, we had a Fashion Show showing off our creative costumes. While learning about Italy we designed our own Venetian masks. We did projects on the history of Roscommon town and presented them to the class. We made our own species of polar animals and made actual polar animals out of clay. In Science we studied the organs of the body, namely the heart. In class we got to see Ms. Ní Dhoncha dissect a real lamb's heart. It was exciting and very interesting. We all had a chance to hold the heart! We went on a trip to Tulsk and learned about old Irish legends, made delicious oat cakes and saw amazing pieces of art work and sculptures.

*By Sinéad Kelly and Emily Horan.*

### **Sixth Class learn Science in Secondary School**

In the school's new lab we took our seats. Ms. Faragher was teaching the class. We learned to pick up a coin when it's submerged in water, without touching the water, using a large glass, a candle and a lighter. When you light a candle and place a glass over it, the carbon dioxide released from the candle will extinguish the candle and create a vacuum which the water fills. With the water filling the vacuum, the coin can be picked up without the person touching water!

For the "Burning Handkerchief" experiment we mixed an equal capacity of water and alcohol into a bowl and then added salt. Ms. Faragher swirled the handkerchief in the mixture and then raised a lighter to it. Due to the salt, a gigantic flame arose but the handkerchief did not burn because the alcohol acted as a protector, as alcohol burns off at 78°C and water burns off at 100°C. The flame extinguished when the alcohol burned out. We also tried the experiment with money!

After two other experiments including a brief demonstration of static electricity using an interesting machine, we journeyed back to our school, grins on our faces.

*By Alannah Healy*



**FUTURE DESIGNS CONSTRUCTED BY OUR INFANTS!**



#### **AISTEAR - The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework**

Our children are enjoying learning through a variety of play activities. This month our theme is "Christmas". The children are developing oral language and reading skills through structured and planned play sessions, linking curriculum subjects together.

The children are actively involved in their own learning. Other activities this month include creative art area, construction using wooden blocks and having great fun in "Santa's workshop" in our role-play area. For more information visit [www.ncca.ie/aisteartoolkit](http://www.ncca.ie/aisteartoolkit) tip sheets and videos for parents.

#### **AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND 2-3p.m. CHILDCARE return MONDAY 7th JANUARY, 2013.**

Due to the success of our after-school activities and "infant child-care" we now have to introduce a policy of "first come, first served". Letters and envelopes will be going out on Monday 7th January. Activities for next term include Irish Dancing (a non-competitive class for Junior—1st classes run by Ms. Greene), Golf, Basketball, Camogie, Volleyball, Drama/Elocution, Gaelic Football, Accordion/Flute, Mixed Crafts, Irish Club and Ballet. A sincere thank you to all teachers involved in organising these activities in particular Ms. Acton ably assisted by Ms. Duignan.

#### **Message from the Parents Association**

On behalf of Scoil Mhuire Parents Association I would like to wish all Parents, Guardians, Children, Staff and the whole school community a very Happy Christmas and very Best Wishes for 2013.

The Parents Association is a very positive and constructive way to become more involved in our children's school lives. Our first meeting of the new year is on **Wednesday 23rd January at 8.30p.m.** All parents are very welcome - we'd love to meet you there! **Cáit Harlow: Chairperson.**

***Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise dhaoibh go léir!***