

February
2013

Scoil Mhuire Primary School Newsletter

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.



AISTEAR programme for Junior and Senior Infants.

In January our theme was based on “Out and About” using methodologies and approaches from “Aistear” - the early childhood curriculum framework. The children were introduced to vocabulary about the park and the outside world. We created sentences using these new words. The children enjoyed ‘role-play’ at the park and having picnics! We read stories about *Percy the Parkkeeper* and completed activities about Percy too. We listened to stories on iPods in the listening area.



Children in Senior Infants visited the outdoor classroom where we used gardening tools to plant our own sunflower seeds. In Art we explored the work of Vincent Van Gogh’s “Sunflowers”. The children became artists and created their own version of this famous painting.

Our theme for February is “Shopping”. In role-play we will visit “The Toy Shop” and use Drama to buy and sell toys as shopkeepers and customers. The children will bring in their own special toy and *Show and Tell* the class. Infants are busy learning about the work St. Brigid did in building churches and spreading God’s word. Children will be using related vocabulary about shopping. We will be exploring the concept of money in Maths - looking at coins and adding money to buy toys in our ‘role-play’ shop!

VERY IMPORTANT 5 minute SURVEY FOR PARENTS of PRE-SCHOOL and PRIMARY school Children NOW ON-LINE. DO IT NOW!

We are urging you to PLEASE complete a **5 minute on-line survey** seeking the views of parents on how they would like to see the schools in Roscommon organised and managed into the future. The survey includes questions on patronage. Parents are also asked to indicate their preference for single sex or mixed gender schools. It is very important that parents complete this survey.

The link to the survey is available on the school web-site www.conventprimaryroscommon.ie

The closing date for the survey is Friday, February 8th. Computers will be available in school to facilitate parents unable to access the internet from their homes. WHY NOT COME TO OUR OPEN EVENING AND USE OUR COMPUTERS TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY!

**Junior Infants 2013
are very welcome**

to our

OPEN EVENING

Thursday, February 7th

6.30p.m.—8.00p.m.

**See what we have to offer your
son/daughter.**

AFTER SCHOOL CHILD-CARE and ACTIVITIES

Our after-school child-care and activities are proving a huge success. The majority of families in the school are availing of the services. After-school child-care for Junior and Senior Infants 2-3p.m. is a session our infants really enjoy with a broad range of play equipment and activities available.

After-school activities (3-5p.m.) for this term up until Easter include Crafts, Ballet, Basketball, Camogie, Chess, Gaelic Football, Golf, Homework, Music, Speech and Drama/Elocution, Volleyball and Irish Dancing. Two of our Chess teams are playing in the Community Games in Ballinameen Community Centre on Friday 8th February. We wish them the best of luck! Go n-eirí an tádh libh!

An overview of what our 1st class children are learning

First class have been learning all about verbs in *Jolly Grammar*. They have learned how to change verbs from present to past tense. In *Jolly Phonics* they have learned how the “magic e” changes the sound of the vowels a, i, o and u within a word.

In Geography the 1st class children have been learning about different types of homes, so linking this to English, they have done oral and written work on different rooms in the house. In a link to Art the children did a fabulous job making models of their own houses and we thank the adults in our school community who helped them with this project.

In Irish the children really enjoyed doing Drama and Poetry based on the topic “An Teilifís”. They also learned lots of new vocabulary.

In Maths the children have been learning about *Place Value* (tens and units). They also enjoyed using concrete materials to explore this concept. For the last two weeks they have been learning about measurement and have been measuring floors, windows, whiteboards, desks and lots more! They have also started learning addition tables.

In February the children will be learning all about subtraction and weight in Maths. In English they will be working on the future tense and nouns and adjectives. They will have fun “ag siopadóireacht (shopping)” as gaeilge

An overview of what our 5th and 6th class children are learning

Our senior classes are very busy at the moment in SESE (Social Environmental and Science Education). They have been studying *Electricity* and *Magnets* in Science and will be looking at *Materials* in February. In History they examined events in the 19th Century and they are looking forward to learning about *The Bronze Age*, *The Stone Age* and *The Aztecs* in the coming weeks. In Geography they looked at *Planet Earth in Space* and in the next few weeks they will be learning about *Brazil*.

In English 5th and 6th class have been working hard on writing poetry and they are all entering an essay competition in February. 6th class will be representing the school in a *Debating Competition* on the 7th February also. In Gaeilge we have been learning all about our homes and in February we will be learning about the weather (An Aimsir) as ghaeilge. In Maths 6th class have been examining percentages and time and in the next few week will look at *Area*, *Chance and Money*. 5th class have been looking at division of decimals, length, time, money and area.

An overview of what our 3rd and 4th class children are learning

In Gaeilge, topics covered were 'Sa Bhaile' and 'An Aimsir' in February. In English Ms. Crean's class are continuing with Peer Tutoring while Ms. McAleer's class enjoyed writing funky copycat poems of 'On the Ning Nang Nong'- written by Spike Milligan. Ms. Fallon's class are enjoying the class novel-'The Sheep-Pig' and are also working on their explanation texts.

In Maths, fourth class are working hard on long multiplication problems, Ms McAleer's class are working on problem solving strategies and Ms Crean's class are exploring 2D and 3D shapes. SESE (Social, Environmental and Science) topics include: in Science- light and sound; in Geography - Donegal and Environmental Awareness; and in History- Games and toys of the past and The Famine.



SCOIL MHUIRE LAUNCHES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Our school was privileged to be the venue to launch Catholic Schools Week for the nation on Monday, 21st January. This is the first time that Catholic Schools Week was launched in a school west of the River Shannon. Six schools in the town came together to celebrate the occasion in prayer and reflection- Abbey Boys N.S., CBS, Gaelscoil de hÍde, Roscommon Community College, Mean Scoil Muire gan Smál and Scoil Mhuire Convent Primary.

Among the many esteemed guests who attended the event were Bishop Christopher Jones, Bishop Brendan Kelly, Bishop Leo O' Reilly, Fr. Michael Drumm and Monsignor Jim Cassin. The guest speaker was Dr. Daire Keogh, President of St. Patrick's Teacher Training College, Drumcondra.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2013 is "Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News. Catholic Schools Week began on Sunday, January 27th and ends on February 3rd.

An overview of what our 2nd class children are learning

Second class have been learning all about digital time, area and working on problem solving within the Maths curriculum. For the month of February they will focus on subtraction which will involve subtraction of whole numbers and problem solving involving subtraction. Addition and Subtraction tables are recalled on a weekly basis.

In English 2nd class have been focusing on story writing and following steps to prepare them to become story writers. They have been reading and answering questions based on varied comprehensions and stories. They spoke with adults regarding the things that were very important to them and they related their information back to the class through guided discussion and questions. They have learned about the irregular verb "to be", the regular past tense and irregular past tense verbs. They have now started to practise writing joined letters "a, c, and ac" together using joined writing and for the month of February focus will be placed on e, i, n, de, di, ei. A lot of practice is needed in this area to ensure pupils learn the correct letter formations.

During the month of February pupils will discuss the significance of Lent, St. Bridget's Day and Spring-time and we may even make some pancakes on Pancake Tuesday! In Irish (Gaeilge) we have looked at the topic "An Teilifís". The pupils love to tell their "nuacht—news" and prepare poems and drama as gaeilge for show on the "Teilifís". The pupils are also learning to read and write sentences in Irish. They are reading short Irish passages and recognising verbs from the past tense. During the month of February the pupils will focus on the topic of "An Aimsir (The Weather)". We are also very busy preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which takes place on March 14th in our local Sacred Heart church. First Communion will take place on May 18th.



Mrs. Feeley with 3 GENERATIONS OF PUPILS

Left to right: Michaela Davy with her Grandad Tommy Nevin (92 years).

Centre to right: Tom Mullen (91 years) with his grand-daughter Ruth Mc Dermott and his daughter Anne-Marie Mc Dermott. Both Mr. Nevin and Mr. Mullen started school in Scoil Mhuire in 1924.

CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS DAY IN THE SCHOOL

As part of Catholic Schools Week, on Wednesday, 30th January, our Grandparents were invited to the school to visit the classrooms of their grandchildren. Just under 100 Granny and Grandads attended. A short prayer service organised by our senior pupils thanked God for our grandparents and we remembered in prayer the many grandparents who could not be there to celebrate the special day with us. Our school choir sang for our grandparents while they enjoyed some light refreshments. This was a very happy occasion with grandparents and children beaming with pride!

SCOIL MHUIRE TEACHERS EMBRACE NEW LEARNING INITIATIVE

Scoil Mhuire Convent Primary School in conjunction with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) has launched a new and exciting project for its teachers. They have established a Collaborative Learning Initiative within the school for the purposes of enhancing their pupils' learning experience. Widely regarded as very progressive, this approach entails the use of action research as a means of maximising learning opportunities within the classroom.

This project will see the teachers engage with a wide range of experts including Professor Howard Stevenson, University of Nottingham. He is supervisor to a number of Irish teachers pursuing a doctorate in Education. The children were surprised when Professor Stevenson told them that Mrs. Feeley was a student of his. "Remember you don't stop learning just because you're an adult!"



Back row left to right: Frances Mitchell (Assistant Principal); Amy Mc Aleer (3rd/4th class teacher); Mary-Clare Maher (Resource teacher); Andrea Higgins (National University of Ireland, Galway); Orla Finnegan (PDST); Patricia Morris (Deputy Principal); Úna Feeley (Principal); Caitríona Duignan (Resource teacher); Niamh Fallon (4th class teacher); Catherine Martin (Director, Carrick-on-Shannon Education Centre); Canon Eugene Mc Loughlin (Chairperson of the Board of Management); Máire Ní Mháirtín (DES Inspector); Caroline Dolan (teacher); Cáit Harlow (Chairperson of the Parents Association).

Front row left to right: Dr. Fiona King (PDST); Ciara O' Donnell (PDST); Sandra Crean (3rd class teacher); Joan O' Shea (Senior Infant teacher); Aisling Greene (Senior Infant teacher); Nicola Shaughnessy (Senior Infant teacher); Professor Howard Stevenson (Nottingham University).

REMINDERS

ST. BRIGID'S DAY: February 1st

OPEN DAY: Thursday 7th

CLOSING DATE FOR PARENTS SURVEY on school website: Friday 8th February

MID-TERM BREAK: School closed Thursday 14th and Friday 15th February.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: March 14th

