

March 2013

# Happy St. Patrick's Day!



*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.*



**DEBATING:** Scoil Mhuire was delighted to be runner-up in the recent English debating competition run by Carrick-on-Shannon Education Centre. Jenni Kilduff, Captain (holding the cup) won **“Best Speaker”** overall, in the competition. Well done girls! We would like to thank class teachers Ms. Kate Crehan and Ms. Alicia Henry for preparing our 6th class girls for the competition. A sincere thank you to Jimmy Hoban, community representative on the school Board of Management and Aife Farnon (parent), for generously giving of their time to advise the girls. We also want to thank the Director of the Education Centre, Ms. Catherine Martin, who provides ongoing professional development support for our staff.

## OVERVIEW OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

### Junior and Senior Infants

Our theme for March is Pastimes/Sport. In role play the children will play different sports and they will use/learn vocabulary relating to hobbies and games. The children are preparing for St. Patrick's Day and Easter and enjoyed making a surprise for Mothers Day! We will be drawing or painting Spring pictures in Art. In Maths Junior Infants are learning how to order 1st—5th while Senior Infants are doing the story of 10 and learning about time. We are also learning lots of Irish.

### 1st and 2nd classes

1st class will be learning all about number, capacity and 3D shapes while 2nd class will be focusing on money, weight and place value. In Irish our new topic is “Seachtain na Gaeilge” (Irish Week) “Caitheamh Aimsire” (hobbies). We are looking forward to learning all about St. Patrick, Easter and enjoyed preparing something special for Mother's Day. In Social Scientific and Environmental Education (SESE) our focus will be stories and games in the past, Spring, the Magpie and the Rabbit. 1st class are having lots of fun learning to play the tin-whistle while 2nd class are very busy preparing for their **First Confession** which takes place on the **14th March** in the Sacred Heart Church.

**WE THANK GOD FOR ALL MOTHERS** in our school community; for all the times they have made lunches, cooked meals, kept uniforms in order, looked after sick children, helped with homework, listened, chauffeured children to activities and answered the why, why, whys even when very tired.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE:

4th—12th March.

**Dress-up for St. Patrick's Day:** All our pupils are invited to wear something green, white or gold or a combination of all colours on Friday 14th March, for St. Patrick's Day .

### First Confessions for 2nd class:

Friday, 14th March at 7p.m.

**Confirmation:** Saturday, 20th April.

**May holidays for week:** Monday 6th

May-Friday 10th May school closed.

**1st Communion:** Saturday, 18th May.

### PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS:

Parents are reminded that if they have any concerns about their child's progress they are very welcome to make an appointment to speak with the class teacher. While we have our formal parent-teacher meetings in November, **PARENTS ARE VERY WELCOME** throughout the year to come and speak to us. If you are thinking about coming in please do so. Arrange a time with the class teacher that will suit you both.

### EASTER RAFFLE:

The Parents Association has organised an Easter raffle to raise funds for the school. Each class has the opportunity to win an Easter Egg. To be in with a chance to win, a ticket costs €1. Your support for this raffle is very much appreciated.

**EASTER PARADE:** This year we hope to make a colourful contribution to the Roscommon Easter Parade with our **Sambra Drums**, drummers and dancers. **WE REALLY NEED PARENTS TO HELP** us prepare for this special occasion by making simple, colourful costumes and teaching our children to drum. I appeal to the **Brazilian Community** to share with us what they know about Samba drumming. **If you can help please text 0868919499. A meeting will be held at 3pm, Thurs. 14th March, in the school.**

## SCOIL MHUIRE CHESS TEAM WIN COUNTY ROSCOMMON COMMUNITY GAMES



### CHESS TEAM COUNTY

**CHAMPIONS:** We are very proud of our Chess team who won all their games outright, at the recent Community Games event in Ballinameen Community Centre. This is the first time that a Roscommon team will feature on the Plaque. A sincere thank you to parents Alistair Kerr and Robbie Dolan, who volunteered to train the girls after school on Tuesdays.

**Parents are very important to us in supporting the work of the school. If you would like to help us, and have a talent that would help the children in our school, please let your child's class teacher know.**

### EXCITING PROJECT IN MATHS:

Scoil Mhuire is one of a small number of schools that has been short-listed to pilot a project titled "JUMP MATHS". JUMP MATHS has been devised and developed by Dr. John Mighton a Canadian mathematician, who now runs his initiative across many schools in Canada and the USA. He is credited with creating a quiet revolution in the teaching of maths in Canada and was awarded an OBE for his work. He has written books on maths teaching and practice, "The end of ignorance" and "The myth of ability". The core principle of JUMP is helping children succeed at and enjoy learning math. Information about JUMP can be found at [www.jumpmath.org](http://www.jumpmath.org). This JUMP initiative is being funded by Ericsson the largest private sector employer in the Midlands and is being supported by local Midlands development agency Atlantic Corridor, who specialise in providing international links for business and education initiatives in the Midlands. **This is a unique opportunity for Scoil Mhuire to bring international best practice in Maths teaching to our school.**

**VOLLEYBALL:** Our Volley ball team played really well recently in the Regional Finals, beating teams from Longford, Rochfortbridge, Cavan and Duniry N.S. in Galway. They lost to St. Attracta's, Galway by only 3 points. Thank you to all the girls for representing our school so well and thank you to Ms. Ní Dhonncha who trained the girls for this special event.

**ATHLETICS:** Thank you to Declan Hynes (Parent) who helped with training our Athletes for the County Schools event. Our 3rd/4th and 5th/6th class teams were awarded 2nd place. Well done everybody.

**SWIMMING:** Congratulations to Keela Farnon who represented our school in the All-Ireland schools competition in Galway on Sunday 10th March. We are very proud of you Keela. What an achievement!

### OVERVIEW OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

#### 3rd and 4th classes

During Gaeilge (Irish) we are discussing "Seachtain na Gaeilge", "Aimsir" (Weather) and are moving onto "Ar Scoil" (At school). Fourth class are working on Division and will move onto Decimals and Weight. Third class are focused on "Shape and Space". The teachers had a hard time deciding on the entries for the INTO handwriting competition as the 3rd and 4th classes have been working hard on their handwriting and the standard is extremely high. Best of look to our entrants. Bonjour! The girls are learning about France in March. The Celts will be studied in History and we will experiment with different Materials in Science.

#### 5th and 6th classes

This month we are going to be covering the theme "Ar Scoil" in Irish. In Maths 5th class are covering "Area", "Directed numbers" and in 5th "The Circle". In 6th class the topics we will be covering are "Directed numbers", "Variables" and "Percentages". The children are busy at the moment finishing their projects on "The Stone Age", "The Bronze Age", "The Aztecs" and "Brazil". In March we will be discussing "Irish Myths and Legends", and we will be going on a field trip to Loughnaneane Park to investigate the flora and fauna of the park. This month the children have been outside participating in long distance and short distance running and relays. Next month we will be looking at jumping and throwing skills. In Art we will be constructing heritage sites from ancient Ireland. 5th and 6th have also been involved in the INTO hand-writing competition. Sixth class have been involved in debating competitions.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day to all families in Scoil Mhuire. Le gach dea-ghnúi ó Úna Feeley and Staff*