

*Bua do gach
éinne, 's
Cothrom na
Féinne*

February 2011

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.

OPEN DAY and ENROLMENT for September 2011 is on Tuesday 15th February, 6.30 - 8.00p.m. in the school. All in our school community are invited to attend. Application forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website at www.conventprimaryroscommon.ie. Closing date for applications is the 31st March.

REFURBISHMENT AND NEW BUILDING - come and see the changes!

Over €160,000 has been spent on refurbishing our school since the flood in June 2010. Due to the prompt response of parents to our text, appealing for help, we saved thousands of euro worth of equipment. Fortunately Allianz Insurance covered all costs.

We opened our new 'Circle Time' room this September and the children are enjoying the ball bath and many other activities in this room. Our three classroom extension to replace the pre-fabs has started. The old toilet block has been demolished and we look forward to moving into this extension in September 2011. If you would like to see the plans for the new building, they are available in the office.

Confirmation/ First Communion and Confessions: First Confessions will be held in the school on **Monday 14th March**. Confirmation is being celebrated on the 7th May 2011 and Communion on the 14th May 2011.

A short prayer: We ask God to be with all our families as they face the challenging times ahead. Even in the greatest hardships, no one can take away the control we have over our own attitude. Remember, *'Life is 10% of what happens to us and 90% of how we react to it'*. Every one of us has the power to choose how we react to people and events. *Attitude is everything'*! Schools are positive places because they are blessed with children. We ask God to help us help all in our school community to react to the challenges ahead, with the right attitude. Our children cannot be burdened with our worries.

Retirements: We wish Mrs. Margaret Mannion and Mrs. Margaret Coll a healthy and happy retirement. Both ladies set very high standards in teaching and learning and worked diligently to ensure the children in their classes learned to their full potential in a safe, happy environment. We thank them especially for the care, loyalty, integrity, joy and love they brought to our children and school every day.

Babies and Weddings! Congratulations to Mrs. Kathryn Heneghan, Mrs. Deirdre Mc Dermott, Mrs. Caroline Acton who have all been blessed with new babies recently. Congratulations also to Mrs. Caroline Gannon and Mrs. Alicia Mannion who got married over the Christmas holidays.



Teachers Ms. Mc Aleer and Ms. Ní Dhonncha showing the right attitude!

Volleyball: Our two volleyball teams are through to the all-Ireland final having been placed 1st and 3rd in the regional finals in Mullingar on Tuesday 25th January. Thank you Ms. Ní Ní Dhonncha for training the girls.

Credit Union Quiz: Well done to all who took part in the Roscommon Credit Union Quiz. Two Scoil Mhuire teams tied for 3rd place. Thank you to Roisín Dunne, parent and teachers who helped prepare the children for the event.

Extra-Curricular activities: Parents Robbie Dolan and Alastair Kerr have started giving lessons in chess to children on Thursday afternoons. Brian Feeley has also volunteered to help teach the game. This is a new development in the school and we thank parents for their generosity.

After-school activities for this term include Homework club, Speech and Drama, Ball skills (infants), Soccer (1st/2nd), Gaelic, Camogie, Basketball, Polish, Guitar, Ballet and Coláiste na bhFiann (Irish Club).



Thank you to all teachers involved in running these activities particularly Caitríona Duignan who has co-ordinated the organisation of these activities since September 2010. A special thank you to Ms. Burgoyne who makes hot chocolate and drinks for the children staying on until 5p.m.

Croke Park Agreement: All staff meetings in Scoil Mhuire will now take place outside school hours. This means that children will have full days in school except on the last day before Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. The Board of Management at its recent meeting acknowledged the many hours outside the traditional school day, that staff in Scoil Mhuire have always done in planning lessons and facilitating after school activities. Thirty six of these hours have now to become part of a formal arrangement. Staff and management have agreed that teachers will be time-tabled to plan 3-4 on Mondays (infant teachers), Tuesdays 1st/2nd) and Thursdays (3rd - 6th) with a staff meeting on the last Wednesday of every month.



Our 1st class boys' leaf design on the picnic table donated by the Parents Association

European Language Label 2010-2011: Scoil Mhuire received this award for its project titled "Valuing Bilingualism in our school through the creation of Dual Language Texts". The school was commended for the innovative methodologies it uses in teaching a second language. The award ceremony was held in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth in October 2010. Thank you to Lorraine Connaughton for spearheading this project. If you wish you may read our books on the school website. They are in Irish/English, Portugese/English, Chechen/English, Russian/English and Polish/English.

Cor Fhéile Átha Luain: The school choir and school band are preparing for the Cor Fhéile in Áth Luain when they will be performing in the Dean Crowe Theatre, Athlone in March. Thank you to Ms. Morris, Ms. Shaughnessy, Ms. Greee, Ms. Raftery and Ms. Casey for preparing the children for this event.

Thank you to all parents who attended our dance and musical performance in December. An enjoyable hour of entertainment was had by all. In total €1,972.29 was raised, thanks to parents who donated spot prizes and bought tickets. Thank you to staff and the Parents Association who as always were there to help out in any way they could.