

Scoil Mhuire National School

Christmas Newsletter



Principal's Message

19th December 2014

As the first full term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. As clichéd as it may seem, this truly has been a very busy term, as you will discover for yourself further on in the class news.

At the beginning of November our much anticipated new website www.schullns.com went live. It was funded by our very generous and hard-working Parents' Association and for that we are very grateful. It's a very attractive, informative and interactive site so if you haven't yet visited make sure to do so and please return as often as possible for regular news and updates. And if that isn't enough to keep you in touch with us, you can also like our Facebook page, Scoil Mhuire National School or follow us on Twitter, @schullns.

On the sporting front, our football team excelled in exceeding all expectations in claiming victory in the INTO Mini 7's County Football Final. More details can be read further on but huge credit must go to the 10 players involved who not only showed great athletic ability and skill but more importantly tremendous

determination and strength of character to etch out the win by just a solitary point. Similarly, huge credit must go to their coaches Mr. Cronin and Ms. Cleary who masterminded this great victory for Scoil Mhuire NS.

Christmas for children is a time for fun and laughter and also undoubtedly a time for receiving presents! However we are very proud of the children here at Scoil Mhuire NS who showed great empathy and compassion in *giving* presents by donating their Team Hope Ireland Shoe boxes to children less fortunate than themselves. These boxes were filled with simple Christmas gifts by the children and they were then transported to some of the poorest countries in the world, just in time for Christmas.

Our Christmas Concert dominated our timetable last week. Weeks of practice by all classes culminated in brilliant and entertaining performances last Thursday and Friday for the children and parents respectively. An eclectic mix of the arts were on display; drama, music, poetry, song, and everyone it seems enjoyed the

special occasion that it was.

Other notable highlights this last term were;

Tree of light Ceremony organised by the Parents' Association.

Carol singing on Main Street last week

Our participation in a beautiful Carol Service in St. Mary's Church last Sunday conducted by Ms. O'Sullivan

A visit to Schull Hospital on Monday to sing carols, give sweets and chat to the residents

A Seisiún Ceol after school every Wednesday led by Ms. Jones and a number of other teachers

The production of a 2015 Scoil Mhuire NS Calendar, of which a very limited number of copies remain.

Thanks to everyone once again for your continued support and encouragement and in particular those parents who helped out in any way throughout this last term.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!

Dates for your calendar

- * School closes Friday 19th Dec at Noon.
- * Re-opens Monday 5th January.
- * Spring mid-terms Thurs 19th & Friday 20th February 2015

PA Notes:

The lighting of the Parents Association Tree of Light was a perfect start to the Christmas season made possible by the help and donations from Schull and District Community Council, Bunratty Inn, Brian O'Callaghan, and Tomas Lannin. Mr & Mrs Claus and the Parents' Association Thanks to Shauna O'Driscoll for turning on the lights and to the Choir for singing Carols.

Thanks to all families involved in the recent Toy and Cake sale. Always a popular event and a great earner for the School.

Junior Infants

Happy Christmas everybody from all the Junior Infants! We have had a whirlwind few weeks preparing for the Christmas show, which was a great success. Everybody was brilliant on the day and we can all be really proud of ourselves!

Our classroom has been a hive of activity since we came back to school after Halloween.

We established a restaurant called the Kids' Café, and we all worked as a team to make menus, wait tables,

cook food, sit in the restaurant, pay the bill, and make platefuls of delicious food from márlayum!

We also opened a toy shop! We took turns to work in the toy shop and made toys for the shop from lego and straws. We also made our very own toilet roll toys and musical shakers (which came in very useful during our Christmas show!).

In the lead up to Christmas, we built and painted Santa's sleigh, wrapped presents to put in the sleigh and made Christmas tree decorations from clay as well as paper

chain decorations for the classroom.

We also used fabric and fibre to make snowmen and painted and assembled a beautiful Christmas scene!

So after all that, we are all looking forward to a little rest now over Christmas, at least until Christmas morning that is.....

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Senior Infants

Master Chefs at the ready! Senior Infants were busy stirring and mixing and cooking up a storm as they made their very own Christmas Puddings "currants and raisins and sugar and spice, orange peel, lemon peel, everything nice..."

All mixed together and as is traditional, a special Christmas wish was made when we were stirring up our puddings.

We hope you all enjoy them on Christmas Day. Bon Appetit!

Christmas Crib Competition: Another tradition in our class is that each child with the help of family if he/she so wishes, creates a crib – using whatever materials they wish. Creativity here is very much encouraged!

All of these cribs are now on display throughout the school and convey the images of the very first Christmas. In this competition, everyone is a winner. Well done to all!

Sponsored Silence for the Elderly and Housebound:

Pupils in Senior Infants took part in a Sponsored Silence and the money raised was used to buy gifts for the elderly and housebound of our Parish. Thanks to your generosity, each person received a box of sweets, a Christmas stocking filled with a Christmas Mug and a light-up snowman. These were delivered by Fr. Alan on his First Friday visits.

We wish them all a very special Christmas!

Simon Community:

At Christmas, we remember others. In support of what the Simon Community do for the homeless, we all brought in one non-perishable item for a food hamper which we delivered to the Cork Simon Community.

Channel Seven News Report!

Senior Infants had lots of fun preparing for our Christmas show, the story of the first

Christmas. This was performed on Friday 12th December and all the actors and actresses performed brilliantly in the play, which told the story through the ages of reporters who were working for the news team on Channel 7 News! Watch out Hollywood! Lots of budding stars here!

Senior Infants Nature Notes!

We are all watching the signs of winter all around us and can begin to notice the spring bulbs peeping up in our School Garden. We have all planted some bulbs ranging from snowdrops and daffodils to tulips and bluebells. We look forward to the spring show of beautiful blooms.

Hot Chocolate and Cookies:

Senior Infants enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies on Monday morning last – a nice start to Christmas week in school and a treat for doing so well in the Christmas Concert!

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir!

First Class

1st Class have been very busy this term! We have learned all about 2d and 3d shapes, the lifecycle of a butterfly and about what our grandparents played with when they were younger. We made lovely

art in the class also, such as Christmas stockings and we designed our own winter clothes. We sang beautifully at the Christmas concert and all our hard work paid off. We

are all very excited for Christmas also.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

Second Class

We have been as busy as Santa's Elves in 2nd Class this term, doing lots of reading and writing. Wonderful winter stories have been written and the classroom is bedecked with Christmas art, crackers and stockings. We had great fun making spinach soup and brown scones and celebrating our garden harvest with a thanksgiving feast. We read "Matilda" together in class and enjoyed it tremendously. It's great

to have a school with no "Miss Trunchbull" – just happy children and teachers! We also read "The Giraffe The Pelly and Me"; we are real Roald Dahl fans!

Paul and Ella Mai are our class representatives for our newly formed Green Schools Committee and we look forward to getting to work on our Travel Flag in the new year.

Our play "Santa's Worst Nightmare" by the chil-

dren in 2nd class, was a great experience and everyone really enjoyed the performance, actors and audience alike!

We have planted some spring bulbs in the garden and have gingerbread people to make and then bring on Christmas!

Nollaig Shona do gach duine from all in 2nd Class.

Third Class

We have been very busy in 3rd Class over the past few weeks getting ready for our Christmas concert. We performed songs and a poem and a tune on the tin whistle. The excitement grew when the stage was put up in the GPR last week. We were counting down the days to the big performance! The day finally arrived and we were excited and nervous at the same time. We played two tin whistle tunes with the 2nd Class. Our concert went very well and we loved watching all the other

classes perform. 3rd Class have also been learning lots of interesting facts about reindeer. Did you know that reindeer are the only species of deer where both male and female have antlers? Reindeer are also known as Caribou in some countries. We made 'Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer' using toilet rolls and twigs. We think they look great!

We decorated our classroom with a crib and a Christmas tree and some

lovely sparkly snowflakes. Esmée O'Brien and Ryan Whelton are the 3rd class representatives on the Green Schools Committee. We wish them the very best of luck for the year.

We are really looking forward to our holidays and we would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!

Fourth & Fifth Class

What a busy first term for Fourth & Fifth class! We have had lots of colourful work all around our classroom including mosaics, weaving (fabric & paper), our interpretation of "The Scream", cartoon bugs and many more. We learned a lot about The Ancient Greek and Romans and Italy through our projects which are displayed in our classroom. We are continuing to do Tinwhistle with Ms French and are now playing Christmas carols and we are also continuing football training with Pat Nolan. We also practiced extremely hard for the Christmas concert – The X-Mas Factor and put on a wonderful performance for other classes and all our par-

ents! The young cast, in our brightly coloured Christmas outfits, was a sight to behold, while the enjoyment we felt as we performed for the mummies and daddies, was tangible.

The boys and girls of Fourth & Fifth class have also been very busy preparing for Christmas! We have created our own snowflake mobiles and snowmen to decorate the classroom, lots of Christmas art on the walls and hanging from the ceiling. We have composed an imaginative and inspiring collection of poems and stories on the theme of Christmas. If you are lucky enough to pop into our classroom over the next

few days you will see snowflakes are falling, snowmen are all around, there are glitter Christmas trees and plenty more.

To finish up the term we did some baking in our classroom. We all worked together, including Mr. O'Callaghan and each brought in some ingredients that would go into making our gingerbread men. Once they had been baked, we decorated our Christmas Gingerbread men with coloured icing and lots and lots of sweets. We are looking forward to the Christmas holidays after a hard-working but enjoyable term!

**Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain
Faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir!**

Sixth Class

Mini 7's:

Congratulations to the Scoil Mhuire N.S. Boys' Mini Sevens team who are the Carbery/Muskerry Champions for 2014!

Having emerged victorious in both Bantry and Clonakilty recently, the Scoil Mhuire team travelled to the regional finals in Newcestown with great confidence. The Schull boys were pitted against Clondrohid in the semi-final and raced off to a comfortable lead after five minutes. Clondrohid however dominated the rest of the first half forcing the Schull boys to up the ante for the second half. This they did in style

and won out comfortably on a scoreline of 4-6 to 1-0.

Newcestown meanwhile had to rely on a last minute goal to overcome Muskerry side Cloghroe. Enjoying home advantage for the final, they were always going to be hard to beat. Scoil Mhuire boys were determined to equal the feat of the Scoil Mhuire Girls of last year and return as champions.

Thanks to very strong performances from Michéal O'Donovan and Luka Bowen up-front and Lewis O'Regan in defence, Schull edged ahead for the entire game. Leading by 2 points and with time almost up, Newcestown made one last gasp attack and a rocket from

one of their forwards was thundering towards the top corner of the net only to be denied by a heroic block down by Schull Paddy O'Driscoll. The ball was cleared and the final whistle sounded much to the delight of the Scoil Mhuire team. Maith sibh a bhua-chailf.

Scoil Mhuire N.S. Schull, Co. Cork
Mini 7's Panel:

Daragh Bowen, Luka Bowen, Jacob Coughlan, Ryan McSweeney, Michéal O'Donovan, Donnchadh O'Regan, Lewis O'Regan, Conor Brosnan, Daragh O'Driscoll and Paddy O'Driscoll.

Other School news...

Green Flag for Travel

An Taisce has been working on the national Green-Schools Travel Programme which focuses on promoting sustainable travel on the school run, since September 2008. Scoil Mhuire are currently taking part in this programme, implementing a sustainable travel action plan in our school. An endeavour to achieve our fourth Green Flag for Travel is ongoing at present and at the end of the next school year we hope to be awarded the Green Flag for Travel. This will be our fourth Green flag. The ultimate aim of the Green Schools Travel Programme

is to encourage students, parents and teachers to walk, cycle, Park 'n' Stride, use public transport or carpool instead of using the private car on the school run. We will be asking all to become involved in achieving this flag.

Carol Service:

Well done to all who took part in the Christmas Carol Service in St. Mary's Church on December 14th. The live crib of children dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, Mary & Joseph took part in this ceremony and we also sang Away in a Manger and The First Noel.

Carol Singing and Hospital Visit:

The pupils of Scoil Mhuire N.S. were able to brighten up many lo-

cals on the afternoon of 8th December when they went Carol singing after school. These Carollers sang a great repertoire that included some of the old time favourites like Silent Night, Jingle Bells etc., These children along with their teacher then went to Schull Hospital on December 15th and having bought presents with money raised during Carol Singing, they gave each patient a gift. They introduced themselves to the patients and asked them about Christmas Customs they enjoyed. They sang, entertained and chatted to the elderly of our community on Monday afternoon. Young and old sang together and both thoroughly enjoyed this special occasion.