

Christmas Newsletter.

December 2007

NEW SCHOOL INITIATIVES.

School lunches.

Since September Ss. Peter and Paul's have had beautiful, healthy, nutritious school lunches delivered on a daily basis. The company doing the lunches is Limerick based and called CARAMBOLA, meaning a STAR FRUIT found in South America.

The company employs 78 people, has 13 vans on the road, supplies schools in 16 counties and has a daily output of 20,000 lunches. The 'feed back' is very positive and many is the mum and dad who have been very grateful for the benefit of the school lunch when they awoke to find that they forgot that sliced pan the night before.

Homework club - Another new excellent initiative and a wonderful facility for the boys availing of it. There are approximately 24 boys in the Homework Club, and they are excellently looked after by Mrs Browne, Mrs Donnelly and Miss Lawlor. As special treat they all went to the Chinese Restaurant for a Christmas meal last Thursday, December 13th. Sincere thanks to Mrs Browne who worked very hard with Mr. Hickey and the Department of Education in setting up this excellent facility.

School/Home Liaison - We welcome Mr. William Quigley to Ss. Peter & Paul's. Willie has recently been appointed as school/home coordinator and is available to parents in the New School, Room 1 on Mondays and Fridays. Already many courses have been organised for parents and currently a computer course is running in the computer Room every Friday morning with many more courses scheduled for the New Year.

Mr. Quigley in association with Mr Rings first class ran a very successful Maths project called "Maths for Fun". This exciting new project involved 8 parents working with first class pupils on Maths games. The object of the exercise was to demystify maths and show that problem solving can be challenging, rewarding and fun instead of being frustrating and intimidating.

While Mr. Rings boys are busy playing with their toys over the Christmas I'm mad envious that teacher will be enjoying some adrenalin pumping adventure sports of a seasonal nature. We wish him well as he enjoys the fun and frolics on the piste before retiring safely and snugly to his log cabin on the foot slopes at nightfall. Enjoy Mike!!!!

Ms. Cooneys – 1st Class.

Congratulations.

Everybody in Ss. Peter & Paul's and the extended school community send heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Cooney and her husband Michael for a lifetime of happiness together. Some of the more experienced ladies on the staff

contend that the best way to a mans heart and bank account is through his tummy so Kay make sure that first Christmas turkey, ham, pudding etc. is as the recipe suggests.

Ms. Cooneys class had the popular Ms. Mairead Hickey from New Inn as student teacher for 5 weeks recently. Ms. Hickeys work was highly commended and we congratulate her on her results.

The boys have some beautiful photo exhibits of their Nature Trail Work. These exhibits show the boys doing bark rubbings, leaf collections and soil sampling.

In Drama the boys studied the stories of King Leonard & the Snow Queen and Ms. Hickey utilised some fantastic puppets to complement the story.

They also enjoy their weekly hurling sessions with county Minor Coach Noel Russell.

Cara and Bola the stars on the school lurches visited from Limerick and the nutritionist was impressed with the healthy eating habits of the boys and their abhorrence of Junk Food

details of their production and creation recounted many a times.

Mrs Kearney's – 2nd class.

These boys have just had their Holy Communion Enrolment Ceremony and are busily preparing for their First Holy Communion in May.

They are always a very busy, active and energetic group with P.E., Hurling, Football and Art being enjoyed by all.

The boys visited us recently with their Christmas Cribs and these wonderful exhibits were truly impressive. I heard them singing their Christmas Carols also and again I was suitably impressed.

They send best wishes to Football Coach Paddy and wish everybody a Happy Christmas especially Karen, Noel and art teacher Emma. Their Christmas Stars snowmen and winter scenes are really beautiful.

Nollaig Shona dhaobih go léir o Rang 2.

Mr Rings – First class.

Mr Rings first class have had a very busy year so far. They have noticed big changes in school since last year. They are now taking part in art classes every Monday with their teacher Emma and are having great fun. They are also playing hurling with Noel every Wednesday and are making great progress. They also met Tipperary hurling Star Shane McGrath last week and got great inspiration from his visit. Earlier in the year they took part in Maths for Fun with some of their Mans and Dads, having great fun and developing their maths skills at the same time. They

were delighted to meet Santa Clause this Tuesday and are very excited about him coming for Christmas. They are looking forward to the rest of First class in 2008.

Mr. Quigley can be reached at Room 1 New School where he will provide you with any information, support or help regarding outside services, support agencies and resources that may be of benefit to parents and pupils alike.

Welcome to Staff.

We welcome Ms. Niamh Condon to Ss. Peter & Paul's and wish her well in her new role as classroom S.N.A.

6th Class.

Sixth Class have been very busy this term applying for places in secondary school, enrolling for Confirmation, doing the Jesse Tree Programme in the church and helping Canon Power, Mrs Donovan and the parish with the Annual Christmas Social for International Newcomers.

Sincere thanks to all the sixth class boys who helped with the fund raising, supplying all the wonderful presents and spot prizes and for doing the advertisement posters in the different languages. We are all looking forward to Saturday, March 8th when the boys will make their confirmation.

They are really enjoying their weekly Art Lessons with art Teacher Robert.

5th Class.

The highlight of first term for 5thClass was having Máiread Lonergan – a student teacher from Ardfinnan who spent 5 weeks in Room 14 prior to Halloween. Mairead really impressed these boys so much that they wrote her a 'PAEAN' (song of praise) when she was leaving.

They visited the Mainguard as part of their local history and learned all about this wonderful heritage building which adorns the main street of our town.

They enjoyed a great day learning all about trees in Doneraile Forest Park. Mr. Hickey led the tour of the Park and a lot of boys found it breath sapping keeping up with this very fast local Arborologist.

In school athletics it was again a very successful year with 3rd and 4th winning the county title in Thurles. At local level the school retained the Paddy Mullins Shield in Marfield.

Congratulations to Mark O'Reilly who is the 5th/6th class champion for 07/08 and Damon Gregory won the title in 3rd and 4th.

Mr Fenlons – 4th Class.

Mr. Fenlons fourth class have had a very busy first term with visits to Wexford Heritage Park, The Dunbrody Ship and Milk Hill. The class have some beautiful project work on display near the front stairs. The class did the National Heritage Park Project and pooled their resources with Mrs. Powers class in a joint display on "Milk Hill". The boys have been busy designing Xmas cards for Fr. Colm and the Parish Shop. These will be sent to all parishioners for Christmas.

Congratulations to all the boys in fourth class who won medals at the Thurles and Marlfield Athletics meetings.

The boys in 4th class love their Art Classes with new art teacher Emma.

Christmas Decorations.

Once more the Parents Council and Mary O Keeffe have excelled themselves with the wonderful Christmas Scenes they have erected all over the school.

They have transformed the school into a magical, wonderful fairyland of winter scenes, Christmas images and of course the crib reminding us of where it all began in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. A special feature this year is the presence of Santa in these boys and as a result of this many boys are now choosing music as a subject in 2nd level school.

International Students.

We send Christmas greetings to all our International Students. Currently we have boys from Poland, Brazil, Hungary, Malaysia, Slovenia, Lithuania, South Africa, Latvia, Ukraine and India.

Many of the boys will be returning to their home countries for Christmas. We wish them a happy holiday and look forward to seeing them again in January.

It is truly amazing the amount of English these boys have learned in a short time and no doubt their grandparents and relations will be very impressed by what Ms. Moran has achieved with them, when they fly to different parts of the world as modern Wild Geese.

Senior Infants.

I have just returned from a first staging and viewing of the Christmas Nativity Play by Ms. Lawlors class and they were absolutely fantastic. Clearly a massive amount of work went into producing this show and what a performance from Ms. Lawlor and her boys. I was most impressed with their singing, acting, stage presence and their costumes were out of Broadway. It was a truly fabulous performance and nothing less than I expected from a group with such natural self confidence and positive exuberance. There is a treat in store for all the Mums, Dads, relations and friends and they will no doubt greatly enjoy the show.

The lads have been busy all December making Christmas Decorations and logs. They asked me to thank the Parents' Council for all their help with the logs and materials. Spraying the logs with snow and making Rudolph with lollipop sticks were some of the highlights for them. No doubt these decorations will adorn many a home for Christmas and the

The Milk Hill project is a joint effort with Mr. Fenlons class and is displayed on the front stairs. The boys also designed a Christmas Card for Fr. Colm. The design features the 3 Wise men and will be sent to every household in the Parish for Christmas. Mrs Power and the boys send Christmas greetings to Audrey and thank her for all her hard work.

Senior Band News.

The Senior Band have been very busy performing xmas carols on the street of the town in aid of St. Vincent de Paul Society and Caidre go Deo.

The boys were out and about on three occasions and played for the official opening of the ROTARY REMEEMBRANCE TREE at Superquinn on Wednesday, 19th December. The boys also performed at the school carol service on Thursday morning.

Special thanks to Jamie Millea, past pupil and leaving certificate student for all his work with the boys during the term.

Thanks to Mr. Hickey, Helen Hawkins, Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs Browne, Ms. Lawlor & Mr. Ryan who supervised the boys during the performance on the street (in the freezing cold!!).

Preparations for Cór Fheile will begin after Xmas.

Junior Band.

The Junior Band give their first recital for parents in the school hall on Monday, December 17th. The boys played a number of recorder tunes and the concert also featured the boys on Percussion Instruments'.

Thanks to Darren Fehilly, Fifth Class for his help with the Junior Band boys. Special thanks also to Jordan Sheehan who played a solo on the tin whistle.

These boys will be starting work on brass and reed instrument after Xmas. Thanks to Ms. Moran for instilling a love of music

Claus all the way from the North Pole on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 17 to 19th incl. Parents please show your appreciation of what your council does by visiting the school and enjoying with the boys what they have created. You will not be disappointed and the likes is not available anywhere.

Christmas.

The school has really embraced the true meaning and spirit of Christmas. Special thanks to the Grogan brothers Eanna in 5th and Colum in 2nd who organised the

schools response to Vincent de Paul this Christmas. Congratulations boys and all your friends and helpers for your outstanding work on behalf of this noble cause.

Mrs Darmodys – Third Class.

The third class boys really enjoyed their visit to University of Limerick (UL) as part of National Science Week. They learned about energy efficiency and climate change through experimentation and games.

On a recent trip to the Library they met author and story teller Neil de Burca from Galway who has travelled the world telling stories and encouraging creative, imaginative responses from school children.

The lads were greatly impressed by Tipp Hurler Shane McGrath who visited the school recently and launched a new Programme called “Fun-Do” to encourage childrens active participation in healthy exercise through sport.

In Art class the boys are constructing a winter scene and have built a 3D winter city.

If you pass the notice board it is worth taking a look at their project on RECYCLING. Key words to save the environment are Reuse, Reduce and Recycle.

New Board of Management.

We welcome and extend every good wish to our new B.O.M. as they embark on their period of governance over the next 4 years. The members of the new B.O.M. are: Chairman – Canon Power, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Darmody, Mr. Eamonn Lonergan, Mr. Terry Stafford, Mrs. Julie McGuigan, Mrs. Louise Horgan and Mrs. Mary Forristal.

School Website.

Thanks to Mr. James Fenlon our in house I.T. expert. There are many fine photographs interspersed through valuable information on the school website. Perhaps you might peruse it at your leisure over the holiday period.

www.sspeterandpaulschool.net

Parents Council.

A new parents council has been installed recently. Your representatives are; chairperson – Mary O Keeffe, Secretary – Regina Power, Vice Chairperson – Jennifer O Dwyer, Jt. Treasurers – Martin Fahey and Marcella Molloy, B.O.M. Reps – Terry Stafford & Julie McGuigan and committee – Bernie Donegan, Elaine Downey, Lillian Duffy, Breid Greene, John O’Leary, Helen Ruth and Maura Tynan.

Junior Infants.

Junior Infants have had a very busy and exciting first term in school. The work that they do and the progress they make under Mrs. Donnelly is nothing short of remarkable.

On a recent visit I was struck by the beautiful books they made. These will make a wonderful keepsake especially as they contain early photographs, hand and foot prints, favourite things and what they will be when they grow up!!!!

The room and art work has a distinctive cheery Christmas theme and I particularly enjoyed the Santas, Reindeers and Crib. They have a book club and they are busy reading Christmas stories at present.

On Tuesday, 18th they performed their Christmas concert – 15 weeks after arriving at the front door full of fears, anxieties and little concerns. The packed hall of proud Mums, Dads and grandparents not to mention minders, babysitters and siblings were overawed and mesmerised by the performance of the boys. The Concert featured many of the songs, poems learned since last September and concluded with a medley of Christmas Songs.

The boys were thrilled to meet Santa last Monday and confidently approached the bearded one with their many orders and requests. It brought home the real significance of Christmas and the work the Parents' Council does. It was worth everything to see the sense of wonder and joy on the boys faces as Mrs. Clause intervened with Santa on their behalf. They each spoke to Santa individually and each received a present.

Mrs Powers 4th Class.

Mrs Powers 4th class had a very busy first term and have been involved in many outdoor activities notably a trip to Milk Hill in the Comeraghs where they observed first hand a fulacht fiadh (a sort of stone age barbecue). They also went to Ferrycarraig National Heritage park and went to New Ross to see the Dunbrody Famine Ship. At Ferrycarrig they saw a RATH or Ringfort and a Crannóg.

On their return to school they busily set to work on some project work in association with Mr. Fenlons class. Three brilliant works adorn the stairwell. The Milk Hill project is a joint effort with Mr. Fenlons class and is displayed on the front stairs. The boys also designed a Christmas Card for Fr. Colm. The design features the 3 Wise men and will be sent to every household in the Parish for Christmas. Mrs Power and the boys send Christmas greetings to Audrey and thank her for all her hard work.

Thanks to Resource Staff Mrs. Senior, Mrs. Condon and Mr. Ryan for all their support through 2007. Thanks to Mrs. Browne in Learning Support for all her help and well done again on the wonderful initiative of the Homework Club.

Special thanks to Breda & Valerie in the shop and office and without whom the school would not function so smoothly.

Thanks to Oliver our very hardworking Caretaker.

We wish the best to our Janitorial staff of Linda, Mary & Maura who ensure beautiful, clean, tidy working conditions.

Where would we be without our wonderful S.N.A.s Monica, Stella, Therese, Audrey, Monique & Niamh who are of tremendous support to pupils and teachers alike.

Thanks to our outside staff of coaches, instructors and artists who do a fantastic job, Paddy Burke, Noel Russell, Karen Morrissey, Emma and Robert.

Happy Christmas to our Parents' Council and B.O.M. who ensure we want for nothing in Ss. Peter and Paul's.

Seasons greetings to our very caring, kind, considerate and supportive Principal Mr. Hickey with whom it is a pleasure to work and who is a most understanding boss.

Gods Blessing at Christmas and always on the work of our School Chaplains, Canon Power and Fr. Colm who do so much for the boys in school.