

Ss. Peter & Paul's C.B.S.

Christmas Newsletter 2009.

Senior Infant Nativity Play.

Congratulations to Ms. Deirdre Lawlor, Breda Fahy and all the boys in Senior Infants for their fabulous dramatisation of the Nativity Play. Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels, Donkey, Innkeepers, Little Boy and Wiseman were all brilliant.

Junior Infant Play.

Once again Mrs Fiona Donnelly, Monica and the Junior Infant boys staged a fantastic production of all their songs, rhymes, poems and work undertaken since September. Their costumes were fabulous and the acting superb. What a job Mrs Donnelly has done with these boys since September.

First Class.

Ms. Cooney's class is so popular that 8 new boys arrived in September and have really integrated well. They did very colourful Art displays featuring monsters – starry nights and Autumn Leaves. Conal Ryan told me that in his study of Artist Vincent van Gough he only sold one painting during his life but after his death his works really took off. I am indebted to Conal for broadening my artistic education.

First class also treated us to another major production last week, titled the Late Wise Man. The singing, acting and costumes were fabulous.

New Staff Members.

The whole school community of Ss. Peter and Paul's extend a "Cead Míle Fáilte" to three new teachers who have just taken up positions in our school. We welcome Michelle Marnane, Aisling Kearney and Leona Parsons to the staff. We are all reinvigorated by your youthful enthusiasm, professional approach and dedicated commitment. You will definitely enhance the work of a team renowned for the excellence, diversity and range of educational experience it provides for the pupils of Ss. Peter & Paul's.

Sixth Class – Room 9.

Ms. Aisling Kearny's sixth class have been busy this last term. They did some excellent work for the Jesse Tree Advent Project and undertook some very creative Art/Craft work which is displayed outside their classroom. They completed their enrolment ceremony for Confirmation recently and have just begun a local history project on Ss. Peter & Paul's Church to coincide with the Bicentenary celebration of the Church in 2010. As I write the project is nearing completion and is well worth seeing on the display board outside Room 9.

Parents Council.

Sincere thanks to this very hard working, dedicated group who have this term undertaken a mammoth project to provide interactive computerised white boards for many classrooms. The project is nearing completion and will greatly enhance the learning process and educational experience for all students fortunate enough to have the system in their class. Also big thanks for the Vouchers given to every class for the Xmas raffle.

Multicultural Christmas Party.

Once again thanks to school chairman Canon Power, H.S.L.C. Roz Browne and the Parents Council for undertaking this very worthwhile project again this year in very difficult economic times. The project - in its new setting of the school hall was an outstanding success. The music, food, Santas Visit, cakes, teas, and dancing were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mayor Dinny Dunne and local T.D. Mattie McGrath for honouring us with their presence and their kind words.

Second Class.

Ms. Marnanes second class is a kaleidoscope of colourful Art Work and creative displays. These boys are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion and have just completed their enrolment ceremony. I was really impressed by their Cotton Bud Prints – but their Nativity Montage/Frieze at the back of the class is a “must see”. Well done Ms. Marnane, Audrey and Boys.

Cinema Visit.

The traditional Christmas Cinema visit for the school took place last Monday. Thanks to Mrs Browne for organizing the 2 movies which were greatly enjoyed by all the pupils.

C.B.S. Band.

The school band has had a very busy first term. Some of our members accompanied the choir for Fr. Colm's Mass in the hall.

We had great success in the Credit Union Talent Competition. Four band members: Matthew Caulfield, Christopher Britton, Joe Sheehan & Luke Condon took part and all won prizes. Matthew has the honour of being awarded the first every Tony Brosnan Cup for best individual performance.

Our Junior Band members gave their first recorder recital on December 10th to the delight of their families & friends.

Our carols on the street were a huge success, despite the cold weather!! We raised over €2850.00 which was gratefully accepted by St. Vincent de Paul & Cairde go Deo.

Fifth Class.

Ms. Parsons fifth class did a project on Chromatography which is a forensic science used in the examination of liquids and substances found at crime scenes. They did some baking in the Art Room and the results were delicious. They also undertook an Advent Project in Religion, a History Trail around the school and the study of Glaciers. Their individual profiles written on their favourite football Jerseys make very interesting reading.

Athletics.

Congratulations to Mark Stokes and Damon Gregory who continue to fly the flag for Athletics in the school and achieved exceptional results in the recent Cross Country Championships.

Third Class – Room 10.

Mrs Powers third class have been busy stitching decorations to take home as Christmas gifts. Alex Landers and the boys did a project on tomatoes and astounded me with the many varieties of tomatoes in existence.

Meanwhile “speedy” the class snail is providing many valuable opportunities for class study. Finally congratulations to Nathan O’Reilly who won a lovely book from Clonmel Library at Halloween.

Third Class – Room 12.

Mrs Darmody’s third class did some very interesting Science Experiments last term. Did you know that Biometrics refers to technologies and techniques that are used to analyse human characteristics such as finger prints, voice patterns, footprints and hand measurement. Using fingerprints for identification is called Dactyloscopy. The boys also constructed a Wind Energy Turbine which is on display in the hall near the Staffroom. Renewable energy is the way of the future these boys told me. They also took part in the Junior Achievement awards sponsored by Boston Scientific and studied 3 modules consisting of Farming, Town Planning & Business. Special thanks to Mr John Cheevers for facilitating the project.

Mr Fenlons - 4th Class

Thanks to Mr Fenlon’s I.T. expertise and the generous sponsorship of the hard working Parents Council we now have 7 interactive white boards in many classes. Mark Stokes, Luke Tynan and Cian O Dwyer explained the process to me. If you want to study the Pyramids of Egypt for example you do the following steps a. Google Pyramids on the Internet, step b. a projector projects the information onto the whiteboard, step c. the interactive pen acts similarly to the functions of a mouse on your P.C.

Cian O Dwyer from fourth class assisted his Dad during the installation process. All Mr. Fenon’s boys have already acquired the skill of working with the Interactive White Board. The Information Super Highway has opened before them in a very novel, interesting and educational way.

Tribute to Fr. Colm by Barry O'Shea and Mr Kearney's Sixth Class.

The one person in the world that I greatly admire, respect, love and cherish is Fr. Colm. Sincerity, inspiration, kindness, faith, hard working, loyalty, consideration and total selflessness are some of the words that could be used to describe this unique man.

Born in Waterford to an ordinary happy family he tragically lost his beloved mother who was his best friend at the age of sixteen. He showed early signs of his loving nature and love for others when he left his supermarket job to care for his sick and dying mother.

He grew very close to God during his mothers illness and after her death life took a dramatic turn in direction when he decided to become a priest. Years of dedicated committed study and perseverance saw him ordained in the milestone year of 2000 and the new millennium. This kind sincere inspirational man of God arrived in Clonmel in 2000. He devoted his life to our school, church, parish, hospital the sick the elderly and the community. Masses, funerals, weddings, baptisms, communions, confirmations, faith friends, confessions, the last rites and being with the dying in their last hours was part of his weeks work.

One day I heard he was sick and was moving to Tramore. Fr. Colm made my Communion Day special and an unforgettable day in my life. I remember his smiling face as he put the ashes on my forehead, I remember and treasure my photographs with him on Communion Day. I remember my First Confession and he telling me "That's ok God loves you too".

I remember him visiting Cúirt an Rí blessing all the new houses and the residents. I remember his warm personality, his distinctive smile and his trademark 'thumbs up'.

I am desperately sad that Fr. Colm will not be here for my Confirmation. He made a connection with all young people and this was seen by the many heartbroken tributes and messages of love for him posted on the Internet. News of his death cast a dark cloud of despair over Clonmel. I attended his funeral in Tramore and it struck me that like JESUS he died in his prime. I heard it said that I should not pray **for** Fr. Colm but instead pray **to him**.

Colm the Dove brought love from above.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.