

IMLITIR NA NOLLAG.

Nollaig '08.

Fr. Colm.

We were sorry to have lost Fr. Colm to Tramore over the Summer. He did trojan work in the school, parish and town for 8 years since his arrival in 2000. As a mark of the esteem in which he was held by the school a presentation of a picture of his beloved Clonmel was presented to him at a very enjoyable function in the school in October.

We wish him well in his new appointment and send best wishes for a speedy recovery from his recent illness. On a personal basis two words come to mind when I see or hear Fr. Colm – Genuine, Sincere.

Fr. Brendan Crowley.

We welcome new P.P Fr. Crowley. Those of us old enough to remember Fr. Brendan's last period in Clonmel will recall the ground breaking work he did in establishing St. Olivers Parish around 1983. Not alone did he set up the Parish but was centrally involved in setting up St. Olivers School on Heywood Rd. We wish him well in his new appointment and look forward to working with him in Ss. Peter and Paul's.

Janitorial Staff.

We thank our Janitorial staff of Oliver, Linda, Mary & Maura for the excellent manner in which they look after the school. They ensure that we work in clean, comfortable, pleasant surroundings and always go about their work in a pleasant, cheerful, helpful manner. Visitors to the school frequently comment on how well you maintain the grounds and building. Well done!!!!

Parents Council.

It would be remiss of me as I pen the Christmas newsletter not to mention the unbelievable Christmas atmosphere created all over the school by the Parents Council. The centre piece is, of course, the beautiful Crib in the foyer. Decorations, trees and toy shops have transformed the school into a scene half way between Lapland, Fairyland and Bethlehem.

Thank you again Parents Council on behalf of all the pupils/teachers and parents for all your work throughout the year, not forgetting, Book Rental, Graduation Night, Sports Day, Fund Raising and provision of resources.

New Projects 2009.

The Prayer Room is going to be transformed in the New Year. Mr. Hickey will be running an artistic design competition among all young budding architects to help him come up with a suitable setting for accommodating the new tabernacle.

Out of doors the 'boxes' and 'frames' are in place for the creation of the new organic vegetable/food garden. At last students will be able to experience the growing and production of food in a 'hands on manner'. This idea is catching on in a huge way in cities where Councils/Corporations rent 'allotments' in local authority lands for veg/potatoes growing.

Student Teachers.

It was heartening to see the many happy, smiling, enthusiastic faces of new young student teachers around the school last term. All will tell you that in the corridors of Training Colleges the topic of conversation amongst local students seeking placement is to try and get Ss. Peter & Paul's. Supervisors & students all agree that the atmosphere, pupils and working environment in Ss. Peter & Paul's makes for a very enjoyable, rewarding training experience. It is a mutually enriching experience for us all.

Multicultural Christmas Party.

Thanks to all who helped with the organisation and running of this party which has now become an eagerly awaited annual event. It was very heartening to see the integration and social interaction of all the different cultures. Our own boys had a wonderful time and won many prizes.

Parent/Teacher Meetings.

These very important meetings have now taken place and were a wonderful success again this year. The feedback was once more very positive and I think all agree that the timing is excellent. Teachers have pupils long enough to assess and evaluate their progress, make recommendations and there is still a good deal of time left for pupils to make new year's resolutions and turn a new leaf, if that is what is required.

Home Work Club.

This new and novel development is going from strength to strength.. It is amazing to see the positive attitudes it has instilled and fostered in what might otherwise be a difficult, unpleasant experience. No doubt the summer trip, Christmas parties and evening snacks have made homework more of a joy and less of a chore.

Carambola Lunches.

Thanks to this Limerick based company many boys are now eating healthier and have become more health conscious about the nutritional value of food. I can see signs that this worthwhile project will be even more of a success as the younger you start with such initiatives – the more apparent are the long term benefits and the easier it is to embrace lifestyle changes in dietary habits.

You're a STAR.

Ms. Cooney's boys are just in the middle of their 10 week swimming course along with Mrs. Power's. Saturday May 16th is their big day – First Holy Communion. I was very impressed by their Art work – Seasonal decorations, Holy Wreaths and maths integrated with Fabric/Fibre adorned the walls. Percussion instruments, integrating craft and science were also on display.

They have just completed their first major project on the subject of Irish Wild Life and I love browsing through it during Lunch Time supervision

Our Spiritual Team.

We thank Canon Power our Senior school Chaplain who does so much work in the school both in an administrative and spiritual sense.

The sixth class boys are always amazed at his energy, enthusiasm and interest in them so frequent are his visits. They love his stories, his modern approach to life, his knowledge of football and are enthralled when he goes to the map of the world and points out the places he has visited. No matter where the boys have travelled our cosmopolitan Chaplain will always ask, 'did you see this site, or were you in such a place'?

Once more their eyes will light up as they recognize from Canon Powers photographic description, detailed recollections and accurate accounts that like the great explorers and adventurers he got there first.

Svyatoslav.

This fifth class boy from Ukraine in former Russia is an example to all of us – such is the manner in which he has embraced Irish life and culture. He plays on both the school hurling & football teams. Not content with this he joined his local GAA Club, Clonmel Óg – where he will receive a special presentation on awards night for his outstanding display this year on the U12 Hurling team. Svyatoslav you are an example to all your contemporaries.

Mrs Kearney – L.S.T.

Congratulations to the very popular Mrs Kearney who has just been appointed the new L.S.T. We wish her well in her new position and no doubt she will leave her mark in this very important area of Education. She brings many years of experience to the position.

Resource Education.

We say a big thank you to our Resource teachers Mrs. Senior, Mrs Condon & Mr Ryan. We appreciate the tremendous support and service they provide for parents, pupils and classroom teachers.

We are very fortunate in having such dedicated, qualified personnel in this specialist department whose commitment to the educational welfare and holistic development of the students is way beyond and above the call of duty.

Mrs. Power/Ms. Cooney's – 2nd class.

The boys of the two second classes are busy preparing for and looking forward to their Holy Communion enrolment Ceremony on Sunday. They asked me to say a big thank you to Sr. Helen who is helping with Holy Communion preparation this year.

Mrs Powers's boys were absolutely brilliant during Ms. Kearney's 5 week teaching practice in second class. I know Ms. Kearney really enjoyed her training under the expert guidance and direction of Mrs. Power and her wonderful second class boys. They tell me that the 'local trail' project and the Irish Puppet "Sean" were the things they enjoyed most. Thanks to Sharon and Bridie who have helped during recent art classes making seasonal stars.

Home/School Community Liaison Scheme.

Mrs Roz Browne has been appointed Home/School Community Liaison Co-ordinator to Ss. Peter & Paul's Primary School. The purpose of her job is to promote co-operation between home, school and community. She will be working with the parents, teachers and community groups in the town. The aim is to enable young people to reach their full potential. With all of the above in mind many classes and course (some of which have already begun) will be taking place in the parents room (located in the infant school) this coming year. Any suggestions you as parents may have or topics on types of courses you might like to have organised are more than welcome.

The following are courses you might like to attend. As numbers are limited please return any forms your child may have a.s.a.p. – check bottom of schoolbags!!!

Art & Crafts
Anti bullying

Meditation
Help with Irish Homework
Healthy Living
Tricks to Encourage Child to Read.

We wish Roz well in her new appointment and know that with the amount of experience she has gathered over the years in specialised education, adult learning and community initiatives she will make a huge success of her new position.

6th Class.

6th class have just had their Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony. Currently they are engaged in the Jesse Tree Project in church each Saturday night. They have just been to the Secondary Schools for the open days/nights and are very busy deciding where to go in 2009. Subject choice is another big consideration for the lads and one that needs a lot of consideration especially in light of present global economic events, and future employment opportunities.

Thanks to transition year students for their very enjoyable introduction to German through music, song & drama.

These boys have really been busy the last few months and many are making huge strides with their preparation for Rockwell Scholarship Exam.

Mr Darmody's & Mr Ring's – 5th Classes.

Visit of Michael Smith (author Ice Man) – The two 5th classes visited the Library on October 13th. They were enthralled by the accounts of Tom Creans Voyage and stories told by Author Michael Smith. What a way to foster a love of reading.

Boys from both classes participated in Under 13 football championships. They acquitted themselves with distinction and were only beaten marginally by the eventual winners of the competition.

Mr Darmody's class enjoyed an outing to Doneraile Park where they were treated to a tour conducted by Mr. Hickey. Mr. Hickey is an acknowledged expert and authority on the flora & fauna of the Park which he dearly loves.

The boys took part also in the County Cross Country in Thurles and the South Cross Country in Marlfield. Damon Gregory – a name to watch out for in the future - won the trophy for the best athlete in 5th & 6th.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ring is busy organising indoor winter hurling at lunch time in the school hall.

This class also produced some beautiful seasonal art work. This beautiful, colourful display features the 12 days of Xmas and a life size nativity scene. Local Stag member Audrey Power is very impressed I'm sure by all the artistic talents of these young men.

Ms. Lawlor's - Senior Infants.

Ms. Lawlor's Senior Infants performed on Thursday last for the parents. They performed the nativity and the mummies, daddies, grannies and friends were hugely impressed by their show. Everybody agreed that the costumes, colour, singing, acting and performances were absolutely brilliant.

I'm sure the recording of this production will be re-run several times for friends, relations over the Christmas periods. In relation to these productions I heard the following appropriate comment which to me sums it all up. "The magic of Christmas and the true Christian Message is best captured by the childhood innocence on the faces of little children".

Well done again Ms. Lawlor and Niamh. You and your boys remind us of the true Christmas Message which is not commercial or materialistic.

Ms. Moran's English Language Class.

Ms. Moran continues to do wonderful work with these highly motivated students. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly they make progress. After just a short few months they are fluent and communicating comfortably. The key to learning a language seems to be using it on a daily basis. Hearing it all around you, proper motivation, a positive attitude and good teaching are other important factors. There are parallels here for Irish language teaching.

Local Facilities.

We must be one of the most fortunate schools in Ireland to have many outstanding facilities located literally across the road from the school.

We have a modern museum offering constant exhibitions. Next door is the newly refurbished swimming pool. Across the road from these are located the Band Hall and the Library. Clonmel Library is one of the most inviting, bright, spacious and comfortable buildings in Ireland. The Librarians are friendly, accommodating and helpful at all times and it is always a pleasure to visit. Displays, exhibitions and visiting authors are another exciting aspect of Clonmel Library.

Mr Littleton's – First Class.

I visited these boys during their Art Class where they were busy putting the finishing touches to their Christmas Cards.

They told me they were both happy and a little sad at the moment. They were all happy and excited about Christmas and the annual visit of Santa Claus with all the

toys. However, good boys that they are, they were a little sad thinking of their new teacher Mr. Littleton who is recovering from illness at the moment. Little Karl Hogan summed it up best when he said: "He wishes Mr. Littleton a very Happy Christmas and will give him this years Christmas present next Christmas. He hopes he will never be sick again". The boys all sent get well cards to teacher recently and he appreciated them so much that he asked me to bring him their photographed calendar so as that he could see them every day.

Mrs Donnelly's – Junior Infants Drama.

Junior and Senior Infants are performing their Christmas plays to packed appreciative audiences at the moment. The Junior Infants are a credit to Mrs Donnelly and performed a huge range of poems and songs that they have learned since September.

The costumes were superb, the singing was excellent and Barney stole the show with his powerful rendition of "You Look Wonderful Tonight".

It is incredible and amazing how young boys arrive in September quiet shy, fearful and apprehensive about big school. A short 3 months later they swagger onto the stage with dramatic confidence and presence befitting old stage hands.

Mrs Donnelly you have done superb work with this group and together with Helen they are a credit to you. It is amazing what those boys have achieved since September.

Mr Fenlon's – 4th Class.

Mr Fenlons 4th class have been very busy doing loads of interesting projects which are mounted on display boards all over the school.

In Art they learned all about the famous artists, Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent van Gough, Rembrandt, and Paul Cezanne. They also did a project on the Islands of Ireland. They also have a lovely display on the life of Br. McCudda and all about his time on Inisfallen Island in Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Using clay they made fossils, Celtic Crosses and studied ogham writing. The new projector is proving to be a very enjoyable learning aid and the boys have embraced the 'technical genius' of the master.

Conor O Sullivan won the medal for best athlete in 3rd/4th class.

Mrs Darmody's – 3rd class.

Writers Week Essay Competition Winnters.

Congratulations to Conor Murphy and Joe Gunne who won prizes in the above competition run by the Library Writers week.

The boys have just completed their 10 weeks Swimming Course. As part of Fire Safety week they mounted a very artistic, educational display which was very appropriate and timely ahead of Halloween. I particularly remember the following slogan.

“Fire is a great servant but a bad master”.

Remember this especially at Christmas with lights, candles, fireguards etc.

They also reminded us of the importance of science and the importance it plays in our lives and shaping our world.

Science Slogans.

All imaginative ideas thought up by our “Bright Sparks” to whet your appetite.

‘Science is the light of the Universe’

‘Science is all that “matters”.

‘Geology Rocks’.

Science & Maths – Two of a kind.

Physics, Chemistry, Biology – Natures Trilogy.

Science is kind to the mind not Blind.

Well done to Mrs.Darmody for all her work with science and especially for the annual science day exhibitions, which are extremely popular with pupils, parents and public.

School Band.

Our school band under the baton of the gifted Ms. Moran continues to go from strength to strength.

Junior Band members are usually accepted in 3rd class. They learn basic music theory and how to play the recorder. This year versatile 6th class student Darren Fehilly is senior tutor to this group of aspiring young musicians.

Senior Band has approximately 40 musicians playing a variety of wind instruments such as Trombone, Baritone, Tenor Sax, alto Sax, Trumpet, Clarinet and Flute. Percussion is taken on for Cór Fheile and other Competitions.

The highlights for the boys are busking for charity at Christmas, Cór Fheile in Cork Opera House, the Christmas Concert, the Infant Open Day and visiting nursing homes to play for the elderly.

Congratulations to all our boys who have been promoted to Banna Chluain Meala especially Michael Murphy, 6th class Banna’s newest recruit.

Special thanks to Edward Morrissey who helps with Senior Bands every Tuesday. Congratulations to Jamie Millea, who is now in UCC studying music.

School Athletics/Visit of Olympian.

Special thanks to Mr. Darmody for all his work with Athletics in the school over many many years. Long before educational gurus realized the importance of PE and SPHE Mr Darmody was busy fostering the old Roman truth of **Mens sana in corpore sano – A healthy mind in a healthy body.**

Thank you also for organising the visit of Thomas Chamney our local Olympian who is not alone an outstanding ambassador for Athletics but a wonderful role model for young people. Could Damon and Conor return one day with that all elusive medal.

Sport Tutors.

Again sincere thanks to all our teachers, tutors and instructors who organise games, sports and competitions for our students both inside and outside of school.

Games and sport are often the essential stabilising ingredient that make academic education appetising and appealing for those less academically inclined. Sports and games are not only desirable from a health point of view but build teamwork, social skills, confidence and self esteem. We owe so much as parents to all those who unselfishly occupy our children while we shop, play golf and complain that our children have nothing to do.

Cinema Visit.

The boys are eagerly looking forward to their annual Christmas Cinema visit which takes place on Monday, December 22nd. We are fortunate to have the beautiful Omniplex on our doorstep.

S.N.A.'s

We acknowledge the great support and contribution of our S.N.A.'s Stella, Monica, Audrey, Therese, Helen, Niamh, Breda & Monique. Individually and collectively they make a massive contribution to the school and the very fortunate pupils they mentor.

External Tutors.

We also appreciate the major contribution of Paddy Burke, Noel Russel, Karen Morrissey and John Cummins, Peter Taylor and Diarmuid O Keeffe for all their work with the boys.

Administration Staff.

Sincere thanks also to Breda in the shop who is always ready to oblige and accommodate any request we may have.

In Valerie we have a highly, efficient Secretary who goes about her work in a courteous, pleasant, capable manner. Valerie has served under 4 different Principals and her unique insight into the workings of the school makes her an indispensable administrator.

Principal Mr Hickey.

We thank Mr. Hickey for all his support and help over the past year. A gifted, meticulous, methodical administrator, we appreciate the calm manner with which he resolves problems and embraces solutions.

He is a rock of support to us all and his greatest gift is the Christian kindness, care, consideration and understanding that permeates all his relationships with students, staff, parents and community.