

Scoil Nn. Peadar is Pol.

Christmas Newsletter.

December 2010.



Ss. Peter & Paul's – Board of Management

The school Board of Management who work very efficiently and enthusiastically on behalf of the school has undergone many changes in personnel over the last 12 months. Presently the Board consists of Chairman Sean Nyhan, Principal John Hickey, Teachers Representative Eddie Kearney, Parents Representatives John Downey & Breid Greene, Community Representatives Terry Stafford and Mary Morris, and Bishops Representative Mary Forristal. We wish them well in what is a difficult time nationally for Primary Education.

Céad Mile Failte.

The whole school community of Ss. Peter and Paul's warmly welcome Ms. Dymphna O'Dea and Ms. Emma Joyce, who were appointed to the staff during the summer. Dymphna teaches Junior Infants and Emma teacher Seniors. We know that you will both be very happy in Ss. Peter & Paul's.

Liam McCarthy Cup Visit.

There were rapturous scenes of joy and excitement when the McCarthy Cup accompanied by Lar Corbett and Eoin Kelly visited the school recently. Both players and officials were generous in their praise of the warm reception they received in keeping with the friendly atmosphere of the School.

Parent/Teacher Meetings.

Unfortunately due to the inclement weather of late the P/T meetings had to be deferred to a date in the New Year. The boys will have correspondence regarding same early after Christmas.

Education Cut Backs.

It is with regret that we learn of the huge cut backs to education especially at primary level which were announced in the recent budget and 4 year austerity Programme. Learning Support, Resource, English Language Support for non-nationals, Traveller Tuition, Psychological Services, Middle Management and an embargo on the appointment of teachers to permanent positions are all part of this austerity plan. It is planned also to use newly qualified teachers who have not yet emigrated to more fulfilling, rewarding careers as support staff working for the entitlement to claim their unemployment assistance. This is the price Irish children have to pay to compensate for the actions of greedy speculators and reckless bankers.

6th Class.

With Confirmation fast approaching on the 12th March the boys turned out in great numbers over the last 2 Saturday nights to work on the Jesse Tree Project – which tells the story of Jesus Ancestors. They had a very busy first term doing Art work with Paula, leaning German from High School students Liam Donnelly and Robbie Flynn and helping student teacher Mrs Moroney to a fantastic high grade in her teaching practice where she acquitted herself with distinction. Thanks to the generosity of the parents council and Mr. Hickey they are now educating me in the basics of white board technology, projectors and the super information highway.

Fifth Class.

Mr. Rings fifth class have had a busy and interesting first term and their water colour painting aided by local artist Paula is indeed very eye catching. They have recently been awarded certificates in the 'Walk Tall Programme'. This

programme teaches students how to make right and proper life choices and coaches them in the basics of sound decision making. A huge proportion of these boys played prominent roles in the U11 County Football decider where they were narrowly beaten by Thurles. Sincere thanks to Mr. Ring for all his work and commitment to Gaelic Games in the school

Fourth class – Mrs Power.

Mrs. Powers boys were busy reading when I visited and collectively have wormed their way through 400 books as the reading tree on the corridor verifies. They did a project on the moon – a very interesting topic with the school excited and eagerly awaiting the visit in the new year of a renowned Astronomer, not to mention the recent phenomena in the night sky of shooting stars and a Lunar Eclipse.

Fourth Class – Mr Fenlon.

Fourth class had a wonderfully exciting and interesting day with Mr. Fenlon, Mr. Kiely and Mr. Hickey in Doneraile Park recently. With Mr Hickey as tour guide and Mr. Fenlon recording on camera as only he can - the boys greatly enjoyed the day and have many photographic images of their trip. They send best wishes to student teacher Mr. Kiely from Dungarvan and he may have encouraged a few Bob Dylans with his love of the guitar and his willingness to pass on his skills.

Third Class.

Ms. Kearney's 3rd Class had a very exciting Library visit this first term where they met children's authors Jeremy Strong and Sean O Leary. Well done to Janis from LATIVA who was so interested in Jeremy Strong's work that he read all 10 books in one week. The artistic endeavours and corridor displays of these boys are absolutely fabulous. The Christmas Cards, Volcanoes, Light houses and Christmas snow spray scenes particularly caught my eye.

2nd Class.

Miss Marnanes boys are busy preparing for First Holy Communion which takes place on Saturday, May 14th. They had their Enrolment Ceremony on November the 27th. On a recent visit their Crib art work and symmetrical pictures particularly caught my eye. Their Dinosaur project was also very interesting and as these boys and their wonderfully talented teacher are my next door neighbours I am often entertained with some beautiful tunes on their Tin Whistles.

Junior Band.

The Junior Band gave its first recorder recital for their families and classmates in the school hall on December 15th. These boys are really looking forward to moving on to brass and reed instruments after the Christmas break.

Senior Band.

Our Senior Band has had its busiest season ever, commencing with the St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Fair on a snowy Monday morning on November 29th in Raheen House. They also played at the Main Guard as part of the Mayor's Christmas Musical Treats on Saturday, December 11th where they were warmly received by an enthusiastic crowd.

They also raised over €2,500 for charity during three other street performances, despite the inclement weather. 'St. Vincent de Paul Society' and 'Cairde go Deo' were delighted to accept the donations.

Ms. Moran would like to congratulate all the boys on their performance and excellent behaviour on the street. A special word of praise goes to our two soloists Darragh Johnson & Adrian Barry.

Preparations for Cór Fhéile in Cork will begin immediately after Christmas.

First Class – Ms Cooney

Ms. Cooney's class are doing a joint production of 'Elves on Strike' with Ms. Lawlors class. This co-production jointly directed by Ms. Cooney and Ms. Lawlor is a fantastic tribute to the dramatic talents of these seven year old boys.

These boys are always up for any challenge Ms. Cooney assigns them. They astounded me with their scientific knowledge of boats, sycamore leaves, capillary action not to mention their collection board of IDIOMS.

Ms. Lawlors – First Class.

Ms. Lawlors and Ms. Cooney's joint production was staged in the School Hall last Friday for the whole school. It was warmly received and they staged it again on Tuesday, 21st December for the very proud parents.

Ms. Lawlors boys really enjoy their Art and their room is a Kaleidoscope of colour. They made Christmas decorations from clay, enjoyed meeting the Tipp Hurlers and were really excited about moving over to the big school and playing in the big yard.

Ms. Morans Arts Award.

Ms Moran's life long contribution to music in Clonmel was publicly recognised recently when Tipp FM honoured Yvonne with an Arts Award. This Award will be presented to Yvonne at a Gala Ball in Dundrum House Hotel in January.

This award is richly deserved and due recognition of this lady's immense contribution to music not alone in Ss. Peter & Paul's but throughout Clonmel and South Tipperary generally.

Congatulations Yvonne "and so say all of us".

DEIS and Ss. Peter & Paul's.

DEIS: Delivering Equality in Schools is an educational initiative we are really fortunate to have at the present time in view of all the cutbacks in Education.

Thanks to this wonderful initiative our students get a beautiful CARMBOLA HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH daily. The other main advantages are the after school Homework Club, and the appointment of Ms. Roz Browne as Home School Liaison Co-ordinator.

Home School Community Initiative.

Mrs. Browne's Parents Room is a hive of activity this term. The range of activities include Pilates, Sewing, Computers, Cooking, Baking (Skittles taught by parents) in class support by parents with Art Classes and a myriad of other craft works and courses.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the parents to take up new activities and discover dormant talents and latent skills.

There is a whole broader community dimension to this initiative also as Mrs Browne liaises, coordinates and networks with all relevant outside agencies and groups interested in family, educational and children's welfare. She is particularly grateful to Veronica Crowe, Kay Mullaney and Mary Roche for all their help and support. A special word of thanks to Serena Kirkham and Joan Hanton who participated as Tutors this last term.

Junior Infants – Mrs Donnelly.

Junior Infants have had a very busy exciting fun filled first term in school. All the boys have settled in brilliantly and really enjoyed their Halloween fancy dress party.

They have all become members of the Book Club and have had lots of stories read to them. Last Thursday they performed their annual Christmas Concert to a packed Hall. The admiring mummies and daddies were so proud to see the boys on stage. They are busy putting the finishing touches to their Christmas decorations and are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of SANTA!!!!

Junior Infants - Mrs O'Dea

Mrs O'Dea's class have had a very busy first term with many memorable highlights. They have a lovely new room with beautiful new furniture and recently got a new white board with projector and E-beam. They loved dressing up for the school show and acting like "real actors".

"It was fun" said Jack Lawlor. "I enjoyed it" said Samul Abjobi. "I was King" said Cillian Tobin. "Santa is coming soon" said James Etherton.

Parents' Council.

Ss. Peter & Pauls are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated, committed Parents Council supporting the school at this very challenging time. The Council is chaired by Maura Tynan, with secretary Regina Power and Treasurer Helen Ruth. The Board of Management reps are John Downey and Breid Greene. Rose Corbett, Grainne Dillon, Martin Fahey, Peter Hogan, Carmel Kelly, Jim Malone, Julie McGuigan, Marcella Molloy, Noel O'Connell, Nicola O'Donghue, Jennifer O'Dwyer, and Cathriona Walsh are the other hard working class representatives.

This term they have undertaken such valuable work as the Book Rental Scheme, provided Board Games for all classes, decorated the whole school and organised the Calendars.

Thank you from all the staff, parents and boys for transforming the school into a Christmas Wonderland and bringing so much joy to all.

Ms. Joyce – Senior Infants.

Senior Infants have been really busy this last term and really enjoyed dressing up for their Halloween Party.

They are really excited about the visit to the cinema on Wednesday, 22nd December to see “Megamind”. They have done some fabulous art work including hedgehogs, scarecrows and reindeers which adorn the walls of their classroom.

Learning their poems, singing their songs and doing with PE with Karen are some of their favourite school activities.

SNA Support.

We are fortunate to have retained the services of our five SNA’s and thank Monica Harvey, Stella O’Sullivan, Audrey Power, Therese Maunsell and Helen Hawkins for their help and support through out the year

Resource/Learning Support.

Thanks to Mrs Senior, Mr Ryan, Mrs Condon, and Mrs Kearney for their support and professional help during the year.

Office.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to Val who is always obliging and available to help with any task.

Caretaker/Cleaning Staff.

We are fortunate to have Linda, Siobhan and Oliver who ensure the school always looks its best and is always clean, tidy, warm and presentable when we arrive for work daily.

Principal.

Mr Hickey always ensures the school runs smoothly and efficiently and places the welfare of staff, parents and pupils above all other considerations.

Beannachtaí na Nollag
daoibh go Léir.

