

Scoil Nn. Peadar is Pol.

Christmas Newsletter.

December 2014.



Staffing.

Congratulations to Mr Padraig Larkin who was recently appointed to the permanent staff of the school and we all wish Padraig well as he embarks on what will undoubtedly be a long illustrious career. We welcome Darragh Kearney also in a Temporary capacity until June and wish him well in what will be a busy Diploma year.

School Library.

The school library was unofficially opened on Monday, December 8th. What a wonderful achievement from the fundraiser to the stocking in Term 1 and so much credit is deserved by so many people. I'm sure I will be excused if I single out Mrs Condon recently retired who returned with such enthusiasm in a voluntary capacity to cover, catalogue and sort out so many books. Thanks to all the boys and parents for supporting the fundraiser which raised over €7000.

We are now in the process of purchasing a set of tablets with a view to downloading books and reading games for use in the Library. We also plan to purchase a multi-listener system so a group of 6 – 8 pupils can listen to a story on CD while the teacher is working with another group. We are indebted to the hardworking library committee for bringing this project to fruition Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Power, Ms. Cooney, and Ms. Moran deserve great credit for undertaking this massive facility which is a wonderful educational resource.

Thank you High School.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Steenson and High School for accepting all our wonderful Sixth class Students into the High School for their Secondary education. We never saw such happiness, joy and delight as that on display this Tuesday 17th December . It was a brilliant early Xmas present for the boys and richly deserved as this group will be a great asset to any school as they were wonderful Ambassadors for Ss. Peter & Paul's.

Chess Club.

Sincere thanks to Mr Chris Ryan who has started a chess club for boys not involved in sport or music during lunch time. Chris sacrifices his lunch break to ensure that the club is supervised and managed properly for the enjoyment and benefit of pupils during their recreational periods.

Sincere thanks also to all the other teachers who give generously of their breaks, lunchtimes and after school to ensure the students are constructively, healthily and creatively occupied through sports, games, athletics, music, drama and a whole range of extracurricular activities. Your dedicated commitment and devotion to your pupils is greatly appreciated by parents and management.

Science Week.

We had many successful events, trips and activities revolving around the recent Science Week. This excellent initiative brings Science to the classroom and the students are introduced to Science in the world around them.

- Our 4th class travelled to Lismore for a workshop about electricity
- Our 5th class went to Waterford and studied reptiles
- 3rd to 6th classes attended workshops on Lego Robotics – generously sponsored by the P.C.

Athletics.

We has huge success again this year in the field of Athletics. At this stage Ss. Peter & Paul's are to Athletics in Tipperary what Villanova University are to Athletics in the USA. One night recently I turned on the Irish TV channel 191 to see the lads "sweeping the boards" in Thurles where there were 3000 competitors. Back in the local area competition in Marlfield we won both the 3/4th and 5/6th categories with Alan Quigley from 4th and Cathal Deely from 6th bringing home gold medals. Well done to Ms. Kearney for all your work with Athletics.

Band.

- We had several winners in the recent Credit Union Competition.
- The Recorder Band gave their first recital on Wednesday, 10th to a very appreciative audience of family and friends.

- The Senior Band are busy on the streets raising funds for St. Vincent de Paul and Cairde go Deo. They gave a beautiful performance and were well received in Melview Nursing Home on Tuesday morning Dec, 16th

Ms. Lisa O'Brien 'caught the eye' of many of the residents beautifully dressed in her seasonal Mrs Claus outfit professionally designed and tailored by her Mum.

Football.

Well done to Mr. Ring and Mr Larkin for your wonderful efforts with the U13 Footballers this year in reaching the County Semi-finals. Congratulations to Mr Chris Ryan and Darragh Kearney for your wonderful efforts with the U11 this year. One of the teams brought home the Silverware while the others were denied victory by the width of the post. Again sincere thanks to Mr Ring, Mr Ryan, Mr Larkin and Mr Kearney for giving so unselfishly of yourselves and being brilliant sporting role models for the boys. We are so fortunate to have your sporting prowess and again best wishes with the lunch time indoor hurling project.

Health Promotion.

Ms. Hilda O'Neill from the HSE is busy in Ss. Peter & Paul's this term monitoring, assessing and evaluating a Health Promotion Initiative centred around Diet, Nutrition, Exercise and Healthy Living. Well done to Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Kearney who are coordinating this Health Promotion Initiative which is a very important investment in the future health of our students. On the successful completion of this Programme we will receive a Health Promotion Flag.

Wedding Bells.

Congratulations and Best Wishes are extended to our very popular Staff Member Chris Ryan and his fiancée Melissa who are getting married on the Monday before Christmas.

Congratulations.

Sincere congratulations to former pupil and current Board of Management member Don Binchy who was recently appointed a High Court Judge.

Church Event.

First Communion and confirmation preparations are taking place presently and meetings have taken place facilitated by religious coordinator Sr Antoinette Dilworth. Christmas Carol Service takes place in the School Hall on Thursday, December 18th. Sixth Class are busily involved in the Vigil Masses of the 3rd & 4th Weekends of Advent narrating and depicting the Jesse Tree Genealogical history of Jesus.

Fr Crowley celebrated the annual school Mass for the new school year on Wednesday, October 15th. Sincere thanks to Mrs Catherine Kearney and Mr Jimmy Fenlon for all their work with Liturgical preparation. After Mass non perishable food

items were presented to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society in thanksgiving for the Harvest and to show our concern for the less fortunate amongst us.

Parent/Teacher Meetings.

Sincere thanks to all the parents who made the effort to attend the recent Parent/Teacher meetings. These are an invaluable resource in all working together in the best interest of your sons education. Sincere thanks and appreciation to all staff for your professionalism, dedication and commitment to this annual event and for spending long hours preparing for these very necessary get togethers.

Guitar/ Percussion Group.

Two new music groups have started on Mondays with Darragh Johnson, Conor McGuigan and Joe Sheehan teaching guitar while Elliot Fenessy is teaching the percussion group. Well done to all 3 lads – recent past pupils of the school and now greatly involved in carrying on the musical tradition of the school.

Parents Council Wish List.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to our hard working Parents Council who have just finished delivering games, books, CD's etc under their class Wish List initiative. We greatly appreciate all the wonderful extra resources you supply for the education and occupation of the students.

Enrolment.

Our numbers have grown considerably over the last few years and to be guaranteed a place for Infants in 2015 it is imperative that your contact the office immediately.

Welcome to New Staff.

We welcome Lisa O'Brien to the permanent Staff of Ss. Peter & Paul's. Lisa is now working as a Resource Teacher. We also extend a ceád mile failte to Catherine O'Brien who works in the school part-time as a Learning Support Teacher, and to Darragh Kearney a former past pupil who works as a Temporary Teacher in Second Class.

Team Teaching.

Our Maths Programme and undoubtedly the most important curriculum area after language is being delivered using the Team Based Model. Students are grouped according to mathematical ability and taught both by the Class Teacher and Learning Support Teacher in small select groupings where every boy is working at his own rate according to his own ability with huge support and personalised attention that small groupings offer.

AISTEAR – Journey.

Parents of Junior Infant boys will have heard this term used a lot recently. Essentially it is all about the children learning and developing language and vocabulary through play, drama and art.

Junior Librarians.

Congratulations to the fourth class boys in Mr Fenlons room who have undergone extensive training in computer technology applications related to the work of Librarians and involves checking, recording and scanning in our new Library.

Primary Online Database – POD

Parents please make sure you have filled in this very important form which will enable the Department of Education to deliver a better educational service for all our children and will ensure no child is lost in the system. It is vital that they are all returned a.s.a.p. and if you have a problem in filling out the form contact any staff member.

Student Absences.

Please ensure that your son has a note for any day of Absence as these have to be recorded for the Educational Welfare Officer. By Friday, 19th December we will have completed 77 days and as there are only 183 days approx in a School Year it is essential for your sons education that he attends every day possible unless when sick.

School Self-evaluation – School Improvement Plan.

Thanks to all the parents who cooperated in filling in all those surveys sent home last term. These will be all examined and collated and will form the basis and foundation for any new educational initiatives undertaken in the important curricular areas of English & Maths with Literacy and Numeracy being specifically targeted.

H.S.C.L.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Brown and all the parents involved in all the courses in the Parents Room for bridging and linking Home/School in a most positive way. Our Christmas Baking Course for parents has been a huge success with some beautiful cakes produced. The Christmas Wreaths/Logs were truly amazing and I witnessed the finest ever display of parent/student/teacher collaboration culminating in a most creative productive educational experience.

Active School Flag.

The Active School Flag is a Department of Education initiative designed to recognise schools that strive to achieve a Physically educated and Physically active school community with particular emphasis on promoting physical activity. Sincere thanks and appreciation to Deirdre Lawlor and Lisa O'Brien for undertaking this initiative. Their motto is DON'T BE LAZY EXECISE LIKE CRAZY.

Dedication.

This newsletter is dedicated to Simon Smith whose comments the other day on leaving a local nursing home where he was playing music for the residents greatly inspired me. It is typical of the educational empathy and sensitive caring considerate life skills imparted in the school. Simon said "*It felt so good to make so many people happy even if it was only for a few minutes*". I am so proud to be associated with a young man and a school who produce students of such a caring understanding nature.

Junior Infants.

We want to congratulate Ms. Marnane's and Ms. O'Donnell's boys on their wonderful Christmas Nativity Play which was staged on Wednesday for a very proud Hall of mummies, daddies, grandparents, relatives and friends. These boys have achieved so much in such a short space of time – 77 days to be exact. Their songs, poems, rhymes, jingles, acting, stage presence not to mention their confidence was absolutely superb. They have been involved in a new Learning Initiative called "Aistear" in Irish which means Journey in English. Essentially it is all about the children learning and developing language and vocabulary through creative play, drama and art. Sincere appreciation and thanks to Ms. Marnane and Ms. O'Donnell for embracing this new initiative with such enthusiasm as it involved a huge extra work load with lots of pre planning.

Senior Infants.

Mrs O'Dea's and Ms. Lawlor's Senior Infants have been busy this last term and have made wonderful progress with their reading. Every morning when I supervise these boys I am amazed at all the folders and books they have and how enthusiastic they are about their work. They greatly enjoyed making the Table Top Displays of foliage and Holly and were very thankful for the assistance and guidance of "Mrs. Browns Ladies". They also enjoyed making lovely clay decorations for Christmas and really embraced the true meaning of Christmas by contributing generously to the "Shoe Box" appeal. They also asked me to thank the Parents Council for the wonderful selection of new games that they received recently. They are great admirers of former pupil and present High School Transition Year Student Joe Sheehan who during his 'placement' worked very hard with Senior Infants this year.

Ms. Kearney's 1st Class have been busy this term and have greatly enjoyed Maths week and Science week with their favourite experiment being "making a bottle of Coke erupt". They really enjoyed swimming, visiting the new Library, learning and performing Irish/English songs and poems as well as creating many beautiful wall displays on bats, hedgehogs, Autumn, shapes, time, and length. Recently they have "Elfed Themselves" They love writing, are enthusiastic Authors and Illustrators and have started publishing their own story books.

Ms Cooney's 1st Class boys were really first class students when I visited and proudly told me about all the fabulous art/science work they did last term. Their Van Gough painted Sunflowers Starry Nights, Cribs and stockings not to mention their green symmetrical Christmas Tree were very inspiring. They greatly enjoyed "Paddington Bear" at the Cinema. Highlights this term included writing about "Artaban" The Late Wise Man learning the skills of Football from Declan and doing Irish games from Bun go Barr. I learned about their science challenge words and got full explanation on such terms as OPAQUE, condensation, evergreen, deciduous, capillary action, evaporation, synthetic, translucent, transparent, metamorphoses.

Mr Kearney's Junior - 2nd Class have had a very busy first term and their tin whistle playing as well as their beautiful, artistic fish displays have caught the eye and ear. These boys have begun their Communion preparation and are looking forward to First Penance and First Holy Communion in the Spring. They have just read their first class novel Flat Stanley and enjoyed discussing the different dynamics of the book. The Book Club is in full swing and the boys are enjoying reading lots of different material and getting to know many different authors. They have enjoyed learning and performing their Poems and this creative theme has extended to creating fish, spider webs, Skeletons, self portraits and Christmas Decorations.

Ms. Tobin's 2nd Class have already begun preparations for the First Communion beginning with their enrolment service where they gave a wonderful performance of the song "Circle of Friends". For the last 6 weeks they have been have been introduced to the workings of the business world through the Junior Achievement Scheme. They have really enjoyed reading the novel, Flat Stanley, and the first of the projects are beginning to arrive in class telling us about all the places Flat Stanley has visited. The boys embraced the Christmas spirit completing lots of Christmas art, with the help of a little elf visitor!

Mr Ryan's 3rd class have been very busy working on many different projects last term. They are again participating in the Roots of Empathy Programme where they are tracking all the developmental milestones in the life of baby 'Brooke'.

Thanks to Kamil and Ruairí for winning the Supermacs Art Competition and this achievement earned the class a visit to Supermacs where the class got to make their own Pizzas. Among the highlights this term were growing sunflowers, making rain gauges and Christmas Table tops as well learning the skills of Football.

Mr Fenlon's 4th class visited Lismore as part of Science week recently to engage in a workshop all about electricity. Thanks to this very busy 4th class we greatly enjoyed the Nativity Play on Wednesday 17th. This was a Nativity Play with a difference as not alone was the singing superb the costumes awesome, the scenery and background magical thanks to computer aided technology but it was dramatised

and narrated through our own native Irish Language. This was a masterful display of the Irish Language and you were excellent and I hope I will be forgiven for singling out Guido Medina – a Spanish Boy who gave a powerful narration ‘as gaeilge’ of the story and is only learning Irish for 2 years. Well done boys also for all your work with the Library as Junior Librarians.

5th Class. Mr Rings 5th class visited St. Pauls Community School in Waterford City where they saw many exotic animals and learned about them. On their return the boys did projects on the different animals. The boys also greatly enjoyed the Lego Robotics – in particular building and programming many different Lego Projects. Fifth class have just finished their second novel this year “Tom Crean Ice Man” and learned lots about what life was like for Tom in the Antarctic in the early 1900. The lads also enjoyed “Safe Day” where they engaged with the Gardaí, Fire Brigade, Water Safety and many more organisations.

Parents’ Council. A million thanks and seasons greetings to our hardworking, dedicated Parents’ Council for all you did for the school this last term especially in providing the class visualisers, the games and educational toys for all the classrooms, the Book Rental, the Library Project, the Lego Robotics not to mention the Christmas Decorations which turn our School into a magical Christmas Fairyland at this time of year.

B.O.M. Sincere thanks to our dedicated BOM who leave no stone unturned to make sure our School is financed, resourced and provided for to the highest possible standards.

Learning Support/Resource Teachers. Sincere thanks to Mrs Kearney, Mr Ryan, Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Power, Ms. L. O’Brien, Mr Larkin and Ms. C. O’Brien for all your support throughout the year.

SNA’s. Thank you for all your support during the year both inside and outside the classroom.

Caretaking/Cleaning Staff. Again thank you for making our working environment so pleasant and for always ensuring that the school looks so well.

Secretary. Sincere thanks to Val in the office for supporting staff, students and parents so well throughout the year.

Principal. To Yvonne. Thanks you for leading us so efficiently and professionally and for giving of yourself so unselfishly to the Parents, Teachers and Students.

