

**Scoil Nn. Peadar is Pol.
Summer Newsletter.
June 2013**

Slán a Sheán – Goodbye John.

After 35 years of dedicated committed service to education – 18 spent in Ss. Peter and Pauls John Hickey has decided to retire. John was the consummate professional in everything he did and undertook. A deeply caring, religious, spiritual person John devoted the first half of his life to education through the medium of self-sacrifice and religious vocation.

I got to know John when he arrived in Ss. Peter and Paul's in 1995 to take the place of another gifted Cork man Seamus Stritch. Within 12 months he was appointed Principal of Ss. Peter & Paul's in 1996 succeeding the legendary Tommy Norris, the local boy from Cross St. who was appointed our first lay Principal in 1987. John spent half his teaching life in Ss. Peter & Paul's having previously distinguished himself in Dublin, Dungarvan and Thurles. He left an indelible mark where ever he went.

Remembering John's contribution to the school is easy. He was an educational reformer, a visionary and innovator who embraced change easily and it could be said he was ahead and abreast of all change such was his enlightened educational philosophy and outlook. At a time of great change and reconfiguration of the curriculum he was ahead of his contemporaries and was the first to have policies in place and programmes up and running to meet the new challenges and targets.

He really excelled in the area of social change to the educational curriculum and in the whole area of child welfare and protection he was miles ahead of the rest. At a seminar once to introduce new policy formation it was said he had 100 policies filed away while his colleagues were struggling to assemble the first basic ones. He was to the forefront in acknowledging the importance of the parents role in education. He greatly valued technology in enriching the educational experience.

A man of great faith – he credited life's daily journey and achievements to God and the Holy Spirit imbued every event, occasion and lesson he participated in. He believed in a holistic educational experience for the children through sport, drama, games, art, music and he loved introducing the children to the world of nature and creation. This would be done through the many trips to the school garden, parks, woods and especially his beloved Doneraile National Park. If music was the food of his soul then Hurling and the Irish language enriched his heart and mind. Technology fascinated him as evidenced by all the equipment in classrooms, reception area, computer room and offices etc. A D.I.Y. enthusiast he could just as easily have been a successful builder, developer, entrepreneur or financier.

Ethos and Mission Statement were terms he embraced easily and used regularly. He was a caring, kind, positive disciplinarian and his discipline was always based on justice, fairness and respect. To this end I don't believe I ever heard a pupil speaking ill of him.

He was a team player – who cherished a positive, open attitude with his staff and was a gifted communicator which led to a great working atmosphere in the school. At social and important occasions he could speak with great clarity and eloquence. John leaves behind a great school – a happy united staff and confident boys who are always encouraged to express themselves and find fulfilment in their lives by being the best they can be.

He saw the school as the hub of the community, the focal point of all activities - a living place day and night. To this end and tapping in to this available resource he was able to equip and fund the wonderful facilities we enjoy today. He never refused a request for funding for equipment or any educational resource he deemed would enhance learning.

As a Principal he would sympathise and emphasise with those in trouble, pain or grief. He would be the first to listen and offer a supporting hand in times of personal trouble. His Christian and Spiritual outlook built on kindness, generosity and understanding always put the person and child at the centre of everything.

Thank you and goodbye – You did the school some service.

Class of 2012 Graduation.

We say slán to the 2 classes of 2012 and wish them god's blessing on their lifes journey as they leave us this week. Graduation takes place on Thursday, 27th June and the guest of honour and main speaker on the evening is one of Clonmel's most illustrious and renowned performers of national and international acclaim. A clue would be that this mystery person is an ideal choice in a year of great musical celebration for our highly regarded school band. It will as usual be an action packed night, full of entertainment, celebration, delicious food and drinks.

We will sadly miss this group of talented high achievers who excelled in all areas of the curriculum - sporting, cultural, musical, scientific, creative and academic. I said on many occasions that they were great ambassadors and worthy representatives of Ss. Peter & Pauls wherever they went and above all they were worthy role models for our younger classes.

School Holidays for 2013/14.

August:	<u>School re-opening</u> on Thursday, August 29th
October:	<u>Midterm</u> - Halloween – Monday, October 28th to Friday, November 1st
December:	<u>Christmas Holidays</u> - Closing on Friday, December 20th
January:	<u>School re-opening</u> on Monday, Jan 6th
February:	<u>Midterm</u> - Monday, 17th to Friday 21st February
March:	<u>St. Patrick's Day</u> : Monday, 17th March
April:	<u>Easter Holidays</u> - Closing on Friday, April 11th Re-open on Monday, 28th April
May:	<u>Bank Holiday</u> : Monday, May 5th
May/June:	Closed on Friday, 30th May (Provisional)

Bank Holiday: Monday, June 2nd

Close for hols: Friday, 27th June.

New School Timetable.

Class: 9.00 – 11.00
Break: 11.00 – 11.15
Class: 11.15 – 12.30
Lunch: 12.30 - 1.15

Class Infants: 1.15 – 2.00

Class Big School: 1.15 – 3.00 (except 1st class will finish at 2 p.m. each Friday).

School Garden.

A big thanks you to Mr. Ryan and his many young gardeners who in the last few weeks have totally transformed the raised beds into areas teeming with sprouting seedlings, vegetables, root crops and potatoes.

The food producing area at the front of the school is further embellished by the painting and planting around the statue and the colourful window boxes along the skills. The landscaping along the banks of the Junior School further enhances the school environment and the daffodils were greatly admired during spring.

Communion and Confirmation Boys.

We congratulate our First Communion and Confirmation boys who received the sacraments during the last term. The manner in which both sets of boys conducted themselves and embellished the ceremonies with music, hymns and prayer was commented on by many people far and wide.

Academic Results/Scholarship.

Sincere Congratulations to Fergal de Faoite on winning a scholarship to Rockwell College. This highly prestigious feat is sought by many but achieved by very few. Well done to Fergal and congratulations to him and his proud parents Mick & Breid as well as his proud teacher Ms. Kearney.

By now all national standardised Drumcondra tests will have been administered, corrected, collated and graphed. Early indications are absolutely amazing as the school is performing well above the national average in Literacy and Numeracy. Many boys are scoring the maximum results. Well done to all the boys who did so well and congratulations to all our dedicated, hardworking teachers who brought you to this level of academic excellence.

Enrolments.

As a consequence of the rounded educational experience available in Ss. Peter & Paul's and as a result of the outstanding academic results being achieved our numbers are continuing to grow rapidly. This is reflected in large numbers seeking to enrol in our

'state of the Art' Infant Academy as well as boys coming into other classes throughout the school.

Links with Industry and Business.

Ss. Peter & Paul has developed strong links over the last few years with local industries and businesses. This has resulted in personnel from Bostin Scientific, Merk Sharpe & Dohme and Abbott coming to our school to teach certain business and science classes under the Junior Achievement initiative and science promotion schemes.

Games, Sports and Athletics.

Well done to the many boys who year after year continue to bring honour to Ss. Peter and Paul's through Hurling, Football and Athletics.

Well done to Mr. Ring for bringing two county football titles to the school in the U11 grade. Well done to Ms. Kearney for her outstanding results in the cross country in Thurles and also in Clonmel.

The U11 Hurlers were narrowly defeated in their final in Thurles. Unfortunately they were hit by injuries to key players on the day. Again a big thanks to Mr. Ring, Mr. Chris Ryan and Paddy Burke.

We are also greatly indebted to Ms. Deirdre Lawlor who coached and managed football and hurling teams in all age groups over the last number of years. Deirdre is to be greatly admired for sacrificing many a lunch break and evening to train teams and attend games.

Paddy Burke.

Sincere thanks to Paddy Burke for all his great work with Gaelic Games in Ss. Peter & Paul's for over 20 years. Paddy is retiring this year and his many friends and pupils in the school send him best wishes and a big thanks for all he has done for the school. Paddy's knowledge of the games especially hurling is renowned and for a Kilkenny man he was equally impressive as a football coach. Paddy worked closely with John Hickey who is also retiring this year.

We send both our good wishes for the future.

20th Anniversary School Band Celebrations.

Heartiest congratulations to Ms. Yvonne Moran who has just completed 20 wonderful years of tutoring and mentoring young musicians in the school.

Who will forget the 2 days of musical joy with Banna Chluain Meala and the Army Band. These great occasions will live long in the memory of all those who were fortunate enough to have been present to experience such a musical feast.

We also had a fantastic night with Band/Choir in old St. Mary's as well as in City Hall for Cór Fheile na Scoile.

We send a fond farewell to our 6th class band members – Luke Condon, Craig Ng, Mati Bogousz, Michael Geoghegan, Alex O’Loughlin, Dillon English, Daniels Krastins, Sebastian Racki, Derry Phelan, Harry Drohan, David O’Keeffe, Conor Deely, Sam O’Mahony, Izaak Hannon, Eilott Fennessy, Neil Hahessy, Michael Lescov, James O’Donnell, Sutthiphong Chaikut and Mikolaj Kordus. A great big thank you also to Anthony Wall and Charlie Millea who have completed their terms as tutors and as always to Peter Taylor for all his work with the band.

Céad Mile Failte.

Céad Mile Failte to Ms. Jennifer O’Donnell who will join the staff of Ss. Peter and Paul’s on a permanent basis from September 2014. The whole school community warmly welcomes Jennifer to the staff and already her warm pleasant personality together with her professional enthusiasm and energy has endeared her to all. We wish Jennifer many happy fulfilled years in the school.

Education Cut Backs.

It is with regret that we learn this week of the huge cut backs to education especially the area of Special Education. This area hits the weakest and most vulnerable in our schools. One day the Government has a Referendum on childrens rights and a few months later without batting an eye lid they hit and cut the services to the most vulnerable needy children in our society.

School Sports Day

Once more the school Sports Day was an outstanding success and the events this year were run off in record time under a blue sun drenched sky and on the best day of summer so far.

Junior Infant Sports in the Highschool on Thursday, 27th June. All the boys are excited and looking forward to this great event.

School Tours.

By now all classes will have gone on their annual school tours. This eagerly awaited treat is greatly appreciated by parents and pupils alike. There is always something special about going on tour with your friends, carefree and independent of mum and dad with no one to bother you but teacher.

Junior Infants went to Parsons Green

Senior Infants went to Stradbally Farm

First Class went to Monkey Maze Glanmire & had a picnic in Glengarra Woods

Second Class went to Let’s Go Activity Centre in Waterford

Third Class visited the Herritage Park in Wexford

Fourth Class visited the activity centre in Kilfinnane

Fifth Class went to the UL Activity Centre in Limerick

Sixth Class had the usual marathon tour to Dublin.

Contact Numbers and Addresses.

On the first day of new term will you please ensure that the school has at least three up-to-date contact numbers in the event of the school having to contact you for any reason. Also an up-to-date address is required.

Attendance.

Every day missed in school by a child is an educational opportunity lost. Parents should keep children at home only under exceptional circumstances e.g. sickness, bereavement. Otherwise parents are obliged under the law to ensure that their children attend school.

School Website.

The school thanks Jimmy Fenlon 4th class teacher for the extensive work he does on our Website. The website is up and running for a number of years and covers all aspects of school life and school policies. Find out more at www.peterandpaulschool.net

H.S.C.L.

Mrs Browne has launched a new initiative for school attendance. Pupils who have full attendance during the school year receive a Gold Certificate while pupils who miss just one day receive a Silver Certificate. Other initiatives undertaken are computer classes, Pilates, cooking, baking, Irish/English Language classes, Numeracy/literacy classes, Christmas Decorations, Art – further details from the Parents Room.

School Lunches.

Part of the wonderful service available at Ss. Peter & Paul's is the availability of a free school lunch daily for you boy with healthy drinks, snacks, sandwiches, treats etc. Imagine the stress free nature of not having to worry about making lunches and having the materials to do so. Our healthy lunches are provided by CARAMBOLA – www.carambola.ie

Acknowledgements.

Mr. Kearney in his capacity as Acting Principal over the last few months would like to sincerely thank all those who supported him in his management of the school.

Thanks to our wonderful pupils - the best boys you will find anywhere.

Thanks to our brilliant staff for your dedication and commitment to education in Ss.

Peter & Paul's and for the time you give to the whole array of extra curriculum activities.

Thanks to our wonderful S.N.A.'s for the support you give to pupils and teachers alike.

Thanks to Oliver, Linda & Siobhan who maintain the school and grounds so well.

Thanks to our hard working Parents' Council who support the school and pupils in all school activities.

Thanks to our parents and families who are responsible for the most mannerly, respectful and happy children we have in our school.

Thanks to our Board of Management and especially Chairperson Siobhán Ambrose who works hard behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the school.

Finally a big thanks to Val in the office with whom I had a wonderful working relationship particularly over the last few months and who keeps the whole school together.

Enjoy the Holidays and hope you all have a well deserved rest.

Eddie Kearney.