

**Scoil Nn. Peadar is Pol.
Newsletter.
June 2014.**

Green flag.

One of the highlights of our school year was undoubtedly the awarding of the much coveted Green Flag to Ss. Peter and Pauls for our commitment to the Environmental Project "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". This project was the brain child of our BOM chairperson Ms. Siobhan Ambrose and was enthusiastically supported by new principal Ms. Moran. A dedicated committee was put in place headed up by Ms. Marnane, Mr. Larkin and grounds-person Michael Power. A monitoring committee of pupils from all classes ensured the strict guidelines were adhered to, and the result was the proud raising of the flag on Friday 13th June. It was lovely to see Mrs Condon doing the honours and we all enjoyed the day with perfect weather, band music from the garden, photographs by John Kelly and interviews courtesy of Tipp FM. The day finished with gorgeous edibles in the Staffroom for pupils, parents, guests and teachers.

Art Exhibition.

Another new initiative this term was the outstanding exhibition of students Art Work in the Hall facilitated by a professional Art Exhibitor from Donegal. Each child was given special Art paper and guideline topics from which to create their masterpieces. They were then professionally framed and exhibited on special Art Mountings. Parents came to view and were astounded at the creative talents of the students as indeed this writer was. In total 280 paintings were on display and a special feature of the exhibition was the children viewing, discussing, evaluating, appreciating and commenting on each others work. Special thanks to Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Power, our celebrity Artists, the Parents Council and Uncle Mikes Pet shop for sponsoring the prizes.

Queens Island Victoria Male Choir from Belfast.

One of the highlights for the school last term was our band being invited to play with the above mentioned choir at Old St. Mary's Church. This was a wonderful display of cross cultural appreciation and understanding. The Belfast Choir originated in Harland Wolf Shipyards in East Belfast in 1912. They had a major involvement in World War 2 (39-45) as the BBC used them daily to sing over the airwaves. They were astounded by the professionalism of our band so much that they issued an invitation to our Band to perform in Belfast, possibly in the Autumn.

St. Patricks Day 2014.

Again another new initiative this year with the school a sea of green, white and gold to mark in a very colourful way the feast day of our national saint. Teachers were reminded of their gaeltacht days and it was wonderful to see a Ceile Mór in the Hall facilitated by dancing teacher Veronica Moynihan. We congratulate parents and pupils for the creative costumes

that would have done justice in the big parades of 5th Avenue in New York. Special thanks to photographer Joe Kenny for climbing on the roof to photograph the gigantic human shamrock in the yard.

Yard Games.

The Infant yard has undergone some inspiring creative painting recently thanks to a Home School Community Liaison Project organised by Roz Browne. Local Artist Ronnie Fitzgerald painted games for the infant classes ably assisted by some of our dedicated parents, grounds-person Michael Power and assistant Secretary Carol O Shea.

Order of Malta Visit.

Thanks to Jim Daly, Joe O'Donoghue and Con Murphy we are now much more skilled informed and educated in dealing with life's daily medical emergencies. A very informative talk and demonstration was presented to staff and pupils on such topics a CPR, nosebleeds, choking, cuts, bumps, bleeding etc. The Junior Classes got to visit the Ambulances and hear the nee na nee na. If there is anyone out there who would sponsor donate or provide a much needed Defibrillator for the school that someday might save a life, we would be delighted to hear from them.

Fun for All Day.

According to surveys we are one the most inactive sedentary nations in Europe and many of us eat more than the ideal quantity of saturated fatty food. With this in mind and in the hope of promoting a healthy lifestyle among our pupils a -non-competitive fun for all day was organised in April. Both yards, fields, hall and some classrooms were used for this unique inaugural event. 10 stations were set up facilitated by teachers and coaches to streamline activities. Obstacle courses skipping, dancing, human fuzball, tug of war and circuits were some of the events enjoyed by the pupils. Thanks to Mrs Condon for proposing this unique initiative and to the teachers "who energetically embraced the concept and whizzed about the place to make it all such an enjoyable day for everybody. Special thanks to Ms. Kearney, Ms. Marnane, Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Larkin and Mr. Murphy for displaying such youthful exuberance on the day.

I hear the train a coming.

Another new initiative this year was the visit of a train to the school yard thanks to Kamils Dad and Grandad. Pupils from Infants to 3rd class got the thrill and experience of a ride on the train all around the school yard.

Cór Fheile in Cork.

Again this annual event was an outstanding success this year. The emphasis is on performance and enjoyment of music rather than competition but if there was adjudication I have no doubt Ss. Peter and Pauls would win, such is the excellence of their performances. Schools from all over Munster but especially from “music rich Cork” perform at this wonderful event and our school are always eagerly awaited and appreciated. The trip to McDonalds is always enjoyed. Special thanks to Peter Taylor, Aoife and Ms. Moran for all your work with band and choir.

Drumming.

A Waterford Teachers Centre Project in promoting drumming in schools was availed of the school last term. One day a van load of drums arrived and soon good vibrations could be felt all over the building and even out in the school yard where Mr. Fenlon, Mrs. Kearney kept beat with pupils in scenes resembling an African Tribe on a war footing.

Three Tenors Concert – Park Hotel.

Over Easter Ss. Peter & Pauls school Choir acted as support to the 3 Tenors in the Clonmel Park Hotel. A great night was had by all and well done to all involved.

Science, Science and more Science.

It is very exciting to see Science in the school going from strength to strength especially supported by outside companies such as Abbott, Boston and Merck. Clonmel is a hub for the medical and Pharmaceutical Industries at the moment and their interest and support for our Science Curriculum is indeed greatly appreciated. Early in the year Abbott came to our school one evening and challenged parents, teachers and pupils with mind teasing brain boggling experiments and activities. Many thanks to all the Personnel from Abbott who worked so enthusiastically with the lads. A great night was had by all culminating in delicious refreshments.

Later 5th class went to St. Pauls School in Waterford for another action packed day of Science activities. 6th class as part of the Junior Achievement project have just completed a fantastic programme of Science under the able guidance of Boston Scientist Liam Mullane. Topics covered included the Bone Structure of the Body, the Heart, Chromatography, DNA, making Periscopes, Bacteria, Immunisation and the Circulation Highway.

Discover Primary Science Award.

Congrats to Mrs. Orla Tobin and all involved in achieving this prestigious award. Orla collated all the material and made a digital presentation of activities. I always say science and maths –equals a job and good employment prospects for life..

The Sacrament/Prayer Services.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Catherine Kearney and Mr Fenlon for all the work they did in organising Religious Events and Prayer Services during the year. Our religious Theme this year was “Shine the Light of Jesus” and I’m delighted to say that we lived up to this theme in a very meaningful way by our Christian witness in 2013/14.

Well done and congratulations to Mrs. Tobin’s 2nd class who received 2 Sacraments this year. First Penance and then First Holy communion.

Mr Kearney’s 6th class made their Confirmation on Saturday 29th march and as a sign of his great admiration for our parish Bishop William Lee forgot his retirement and recent illness to celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy spirit with us. Retreat facilitator Sr. Antoinette was deeply inspiring and was very much admired and respected by the boys on our Retreat Day in Glencomeragh Centre.

Our final Mass of the year for Mrs. Condon’s retirement and the 6th class boys graduation was very special indeed. Peter & Pauls is indeed very proud of its Christian catholic ethos and the wonderful atmosphere of respect, tolerance and acceptance which is evident on a daily basis in school, stems from this Ethos.

School Garden

Special thanks to Mr Ryan and Michael Power for all their work with the school garden. The raised beds of vegetables and potatoes are truly amazing this year. It is wonderful for the boys to truly see how our food is produced and to watch it grow. Sadly many young people think the origin of our vegetables and fruit is the local supermarket. This valuable enriching learning experience is facilitated by Mr Ryan and there is no crop or vegetable that he does not know how to grow.

Surely the greatest education on earth is to be able to live off the fruits of the Earth and to understand the inter relationship between the Earth and food production. Well done to Mr. Ryan for bringing us back to our ‘roots’ and teaching us the most basic yet the most important of human skills namely the sustenance of human life.

Infant Open Day.

On May 13/14th we welcomed our new infants and their parents to our Junior School to view the building, see the facilities and meet with teachers and Principal Ms. Moran.

Aistear.

There is a new educational initiative beginning this year for our Junior Infants. It is called Aistear and essentially means the first part of the morning is learning through play. We need to acquire some specific toys including a Kitchen, Garage, and Farm. If you believe you have a suitable item (in good condition) that you would be willing to donate please contact the school office.

Athletics.

Tuesday, May 20th was a Red Letter Day for our schools Athletic team when they swept the boards at the local Athletics competitions held in Clonmel Town Grounds. Twenty four pupils competed in four events – 100 metres, 300 metres, relay race and ball throwing. There were many excellent individual performances but the emphasis was on the TEAM and there was great joy in the school when all the boys returned with the overall award accompanied by their very happy coach Ms. Kearney.

Sports Day 2014.

After a very enjoyable 'fun day' our annual sports day took place in the grounds of the school and the High School. Sincere thanks to all teachers and our hardworking parents council who jointly make this event one of the highlights of the school calendar every year.

Bealtaine Concert.

As part of the Bealtaine Festival a Concert was held in the museum in May to which our Band/Choir were invited. Again everybody enjoyed this wonderful experience and one of the highlights was our choir performing with the local group the Gordonaires.

New School Library – Computer Centre.

A new state of the art school library will be built and stocked over the summer and next academic year. This Library together with the purchase of new generation Laptops to facilitate E learning will be our major project for 2014/15.

A local business company have expressed an interest in helping us financially with this very exciting project. I would further extend an invitation to families whose boys went to Ss.

Peter & Paul's or maybe individuals who have prospered in the world of business and commerce to become associated with the school as a patron or benefactor. In return I would like to see explored the idea of a Hall of Fame or Memory Wall or patron Area where a plaque or engraving could be erected to acknowledge and remember such outstanding generosity to the old Alma Mater.

Bernard Dunne visit.

There was great excitement in the school recently when former World Boxing Champion and current Dublin Football supremo Bernard Dunne visited as an Ambassador for the Lunch supply company Carambola. Bernard received a guard of Honour and was clapped and cheered into the hall to the strains of the theme music from Rocky. He spoke about life, opportunity, goals, setbacks, facing challenges, setting targets, fuelling the body with proper diet and nutrition and never ever abuse the body with drugs, nicotine, alcohol or substances. The mantra was if you drop the juggling ball pick it up and start again. He gave a very inspiring motivational talk to 6th class who were truly in awe of this man from an ordinary working class home in West Dublin. Bernard who rose to conquer the world – was knocked out – dusted himself down and then went on after his boxing career to achieve things he never dreamed possible. A lesson there for us all.

Tours Tours and more Tours.

Junior Infants went to Parsons Green with Ms. Marnane and Ms. O'Donnell on the hottest day of the year. Hats and sunscreen were the order of the day while pony rides, boat rides and all the animals were the highlights.

Mrs O'Deas and Mr Larkins Senior Infants went to Stradbally Farm. The day began with inflatable games. The fire engine and the animals were a big attraction with the boys. The chips, sausages and chicken nuggets were enjoyed by all the lads. The bus passed Mahon Falls and the Coumshingaun Lake in the Comeraghs. It was really spectacular on one of the sunniest days of the year. Mr Ryan Senior also had a wonderful day reliving his childhood

First/Second. Mr. Kearney's and Mrs Tobins classes went to the Lets God Activity Camp in Waterford on different days. The day began with pupils being strapped into a Zorbee Ball and rolled down a Hill at high speed. The BMX, Go Karts also featured prominently as did the Giant Slide, Human Football Table, Disco Dome, Wrecking Ball and Uni Hockey.

First Class – Ms. Cooney's first class went to Cross Monkey in Cork and later to Glengarra Woods. Ball Pool, Slides, Bally Play and many other activities kept all occupied and entertained for hours. Lunch was eaten beside the stream in Glengarra Wood followed by a walk in the woods. On return to school young limbs were tired but memories lasting a life time were created.

Third Class. – Mr Ryan Jun accompanied by Mr Ryan Sen and Mrs Brown bought Third Class to Killkenny to visit Dunmore Cave and later to the Discovery Park in Castlecomer. The pupils really enjoyed their trip underground and had a fantastic time in the park.

Fourth Class – Mr. Fenlons class visited Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre on what was the hottest day of the year with sweltering temperatures approaching 30°. The pupils did canoeing and Kayaking on Lough Gur before returning to Kilfinane Centre for orienteering and indoor wall climbing. Everybody really enjoyed this physically challenging tour.

Fifth Class - Mr Ring's class went to JFK Park in New Ross and the National Park in Wexford. This was a free trip – a special reward for winning 'the Best Behaviour in the yard competition'. The emphasis was on History from the Stone Age to the Normans. History comes alive in the Heritage Centre. This is an ideal place for a family day out during the Summer combined with a trip on the Car Ferry from Ballyhack to Passage East.

Mr. Rings other school tour took place to UL where great sport and fun was had.

Sixth Class Tour – Mr Kearney's 'marathon' Tour to Dublin departed on a very wet Tuesday morning the 10th June at 5.30 a.m. By the time the bus arrived in Dublin at 7.30 blue skies were visible over the Wicklow/Dublin mountains on a day when weather alerts and weather warnings were issued. The sun came out as we breakfasted in the Kylemore opposite the Spire following a LUAS ride to Abbey St. There was the Open Top bus Tours of all the major sites with live commentary followed by tours of Kilmainham, the Dáil, Museums, and Croke Park which were greatly enjoyed by all. Quasar, Bowling and shopping in Dundrum rounded off the perfect day as we descended Ardgeeha Hill at 11 p.m.

Graduation Ceremony takes place on Tuesday June 14 with a star guest of honour who is a distinguished former pupil. The Parents' Council have a wonderful night of entertainment, food and goodies organised for the boys who richly deserve their Graduation Certs. Read their profiles which contain some very interesting and revealing view points.

Hurling/ Football.

We wish to acknowledge the sterling service and commitment of our 4 young men to the promotion of games in the school over the last 12 moths. Our trainers, coaches and managers namely Mr Ring, Mr Ryan, Mr Larkin and Mr Murphy sacrificed many a lunch break in the cause of promoting our national games. While silverware eluded us this year the foundations have been laid for a very successful season next year where no effort will be spared to get back to our customary winning ways.

Thanks to Therese Maunsell.

Everybody in Ss. Peter and Pauls were saddened to hear recently that we are losing the services of Therese after 9 years dedicated and committed service as an SNA. Therese gave outstanding service over the years in many classrooms with many different teachers supporting and assisting a great number of students.

We will miss your smiling face and warm friendly personality around the school not to mention the valuable support you gave to staff and student alike. Life will be duller without you on the staff. We hope you understand how much we valued the immense contribution you made to the school. If it is any consolation Therese you made a huge difference to so many vulnerable children and you had a major positive influence on so many young students that you touched with your caring kind nature.

We wish you well in your future career Therese.

Support Staff.

One of the things I am most proud of over a lifetime in teaching was to have initiated a project last summer to bring 3 new staff to the school namely Grounds man Michael Power, Classroom Assistant Paul Perry and Assistant Secretary Carol O'Shea. Never has such a project or initiative been so successful. Sadly for all of us the project was not permanent but all in the school will miss you greatly such was the contribution all 3 of you made to life in here. It was a joy to work with all of you and your next employers will indeed be fortunate to have such people of your ability on their team. Though your stay by its very nature was short and temporary, rejoice in the fact that you made a very special impression on us all and did the school some service.

Goodbye Mrs. Condon.

Catherine Condon who is retiring from Ss. Peter & Pauls after 33 years sterling service will be sadly missed by all the pupils, parents, staff and management of the school. Catherine was the consummate professional diligent, committed and dedicated to educational perfection and excellence in her beloved teaching profession. Her daily teaching and work was imparted with total **respect** for her pupils, the learning took place in a calm/caring atmosphere of **respect** and inevitably she received **respect** back in abundance from her students.

Catherine is a person of great humanity with a wonderful warm personality who displays a whole range of outstanding qualities and attributes that endear her to all fortunate enough to make her acquaintance. Love, kindness, sincerity, compassion, gentleness, caring and serenity are some of the qualities that spring to mind when you think of Catherine and she

radiates them in daily abundance. A calm, thoughtful, relaxed person of great dignity and strength she brought a calmness, confidence and reassurance to all encounters, meetings and gatherings. She has this unique ability to make you feel calm assured and in control.

She also has a great ability to cut through bureaucratic waffle and jargon and displays a remarkable steely determination when pursuing resources for her pupils. She planned meticulously and methodically and her files were organised with such precision that minute details in pursuit of her goals and targets with Department Officials could be retrieved at her fingertips. Catherine excelled at her brief which in later years was organising learning support and resource teaching. She liaised with all the multidisciplinary agencies and departments in Health and Education and was continuously to the fore in our quest for extra support services and resources for those needing them most. The welfare of students was of paramount importance to Catherine and she pursued the Department with all her energies when she knew supplementary resources were required by the most deserving students. She achieved huge advances and benefits, for learning support and resource education at a time of unprecedented austerity and financial cutbacks. It was a joy to watch Catherine in full flight – assembling her files like ammunition for the next battle and then to see the warm smile of satisfaction as she won resources and supports for the deserving students that they were really entitled to anyway, but the procedural battles had to be fought.

As a friend she was loyal, caring, supportive and discreet and always to the forefront when a friend was in need. In those difficult life challenging moments we all encounter from time to time Catherine would be selfless. As a colleague she was hugely supportive and a great mentor to us all – especially the younger teachers who valued her advice greatly. She gave of this advice freely and without ever making the recipient feel other than an equal for having sought the advice in the first place. She is one of the few people who go through life without ever upsetting, hurting or angering another person or losing a friend. She is part of a rare group who never have anything negative said about them.

We wish her well in her richly deserved retirement and marvel at how youthful, energetic and healthy she is as she opens the latest chapter in her very fulfilled life. Her departure will leave a void that no one person can fill. On a positive note she is leaving a school where resource education and learning support are stronger, healthier and better resourced as a result of her life long efforts.

Finally in thanking Catherine many of us are mindful of the fact that we owe our jobs, careers and positions to this remarkable lady who tirelessly and selflessly worked to increase staffing levels to help the most deserving students and who succeeded in keeping the school to the forefront in times of great economic difficulty.

Slán a Cháit - We will miss you!! - Your old friend of triocha se bhliain.

Principal Ms. Moran.

Congratulations to Ms. Moran and well done as you complete the last days of your first year as principal of Ss. Peter & Pauls. You have embraced all the challenges and demands of the new position with an ease, understanding and authority that belies the relatively short period you are in your new role.

It has been a seamless transition and under your stewardship the school continues to grow and develop to meet the challenges of a new Educational Era. Everybody is happy that the special atmosphere unique to Ss. Peter and Pauls has been preserved and continued and that our 'spirit and soul' will be further strengthened replenished and shared by any new additions to the staff.

Mile Bhuíochas.