

Scoil Nn. Peadar is Pol.

Christmas Newsletter.

December 2011.



Welcome to the new B.O.M.

The whole school community extends a Céad Mile Failte to the new incoming B.O.M. and wish them well in their duty of governing the school for the next 4 years. Ss. Peter and Pauls are delighted to have Ms. Siobhán Ambrose as the new Chairperson of the Board. The Board consists of: Chairperson – Siobhán Ambrose, School Principal – John Hickey, Teachers Rep – Eddie Kearney, Parish Rep – Canon Brendan Crowley, Community Reps – Donald Binchy & Anne Deady, and Parents Reps – Trina Walsh & Seamus Quigley. At the first meeting of the B.O.M. Mr. Eddie Kearney, was ratified as the new Deputy Principal.

Parents' Council.

The school is absolutely looking wonderful at the moment. It is a children's Christmas wonderland thanks to the hard working Parents' Council.

Our Parents' Council do so much invaluable work throughout the year – Book Rental – Bag Pack – Graduation Night – Sports day – Church Gate Collection – Easter Raffle – Cake Sale – Table Quiz – Book Sale – Wish List and Class Calendars. The hardworking Council are Rose Corbett, Grainne Dillon, Martin Fahey, Brid Greene, Peter Hogan, Carmel Kelly, Brenda Leo, Jim Malone, Julie McGuigan, Marcella Molloy, Noel O Connell, Jennifer O Dwyer, Seamus Quigley, Maura Tynan, and Cathriona Walsh.

Important Dates for you 2012 Diary.

January: School re-opening - on Monday 9th January 2012.

February: Mid-Term – closed from Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2012 incl.

March: St. Patrick's Day – School closed - Monday, 19th March
Confirmation: Saturday, 24th March in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church
Easter Holidays – Closing on Friday, 30th March 2012.

April: School re-opening: Monday, 16th April 2012.

May: Bank Holiday - School closed – Monday, May 7th 2012.
First Holy Communion – Saturday, 26th May

June: Bank Holiday – School closed – Monday, June 4th 2012.
Summer Holidays – Closing on Friday, 29th June 2012.

Contact Number/Addresses.

To keep our data base updated and in the event of the school having to contact you urgently for any reason e.g. child sick etc. would you please ensure that your current mobile number is registered with the school office as well as your current address. Any changes in either number or home address should be immediately notified to the Office.

School Band.

In the middle of the coldest weather this winter and with money so scarce due to the worst recession /depression our town and country has ever experienced the School Band collected over €2000 for local charities Caride go Deo and Ss. Vincent de Paul. Well done to Ms Moran and the Band boys. The object of the exercise is to help those less fortunate than ourselves and to bring the joy of music to the streets and give us all some festive cheer and lift our flagging spirits.

Junior Band.

The Junior Band gave a fabulous recital for parents, friends and families on last Thursday, December 15th. The band boys also visited Raheen House Hotel to entertain guests at the Ss. Vincent de Paul Coffee Morning.

The success of the band in raising large sums of money for local charities is testimony to the esteem in which they are held and the admiration local people have for the hard work Ms Moran puts into music in Ss. Peter & Pauls.

Enrolments.

The number of pupils being enrolled in the school continues to grow. This is due to the professional expertise of the Infant Department as evidenced by the wonderful drama production they performed in the school hall for Parents, friends and families on Tuesday, December 20th. If you wish to enrol a child for Junior Infants commencing Sept 2012 it is advisable to do so as soon as possible as places are limited.

Mobile Phones.

We would advise all parents that because of the dangers of Cyber Bullying, accessing inappropriate material and exposing fellow pupils to unwelcome attention, mobile phones are not allowed under any circumstances. As insensitive material can be transmitted readily to social networking sites we trust that you will understand our concerns in this regard.

Computer Room.

The school has recently installed 12 new Laptops and we now have a state of the art facility to further assist in your sons education. Each classroom has its own interactive whiteboard, computer, internet access, television and DVD.

A big screen TV in the reception area gives us pictorial highlights from all school events. The Computer room boasts a cinema like screen projection system and sound system.

This is all due to the work of Parents' Council, B.O.M. and Mr. Hickey's interest in making available the latest cutting edge technology to assist and complement the learning process.

School Website.

The school is particularly grateful to Mr Fenlon who looks after the school website and constantly updates it. You will find all aspects of school life photographs and school policies on the site at www.peterandpaulschool.net

Retirement of Catherine Senior.

After 37 of dedicated committed service to Ss. Peter & Paul's Catherine has decided to retire and take a well deserved rest.

Catherine was the consummate professional in everything she did and undertook. I first encountered Catherine 34 years ago. At that time she was part of the much acclaimed infant department that consisted of such stalwarts as Frances Carew and Maura Lynch her life long friends. When I got to know this formidable lady they had just moved into the new infant school and it was readily agreed that a visit to Catherine's room for a young aspiring Infant Teacher was more beneficial than years in any training college.

Catherine taught abroad in the Middle East for a few years which further added to her skills base, knowledge and understanding of international educational systems.

With the advent of the new curriculum and at a time when we valued our children more than the bondholders Ireland began to care about its children with special needs in Learning. Catherine was at the forefront and vanguard of Resource education and immersed herself fully and totally into acquiring the knowledge and skills which made her the recognised authority in this field.

She studied for a Masters in Special Ed and her dedicated work in this field resulted in an Honours Degree in an area that was now developing into one of her "passions in life".

Catherine's greatest skill was in dealing with a myriad of government departments, and multi disciplinary agencies involved in child welfare – be it physical – emotional –social - psychological - educational or family.

At her farewell Mass it was very touching to see "her boys" perform many aspects of the Ceremony which all attending agree was one of the most beautiful ceremonies ever experienced in Ss. Peter and Paul's. At her farewell function many glowing tributes were paid to Catherine for her outstanding work in Special Education. It was lovely for Catherine's family especially her mother to hear Mr. Hickey speak so eloquently about Catherine's life, long service and work in Ss. Peter & Paul's.

As I listened to a radio show about cutbacks in special education resulting from the recent budget it struck me that Catherine was leaving at a good time. Seeing the young, innocent, vulnerable children with special needs suffer at the expense of the bondholders would have caused Catherine so much pain and heartbreak. It would have been difficult for Catherine to see the progress and gains of recent years thrown away to balance the books rather than balance the educational needs of our children.

Slán agus Beannach a Cháit, you did the school some service.

Classroom Snippets.

Mrs Donnelly's & Ms. Lawlor's Junior Infants staged a joint Christmas production titled "My First School Concert". This musical, dramatic extravaganza featured songs, poems, rhymes and jingles that the boys learned since starting school in SEPTEMBER. They also produced the Nativity Play for an appreciative school audience on Monday, 19th. On Tuesday they put on their Concert for adoring mums, dads, grandparents, family and friends. Big thanks to Mr. Fenlon from all the boys for producing the D.V.D. of their Concert. Mrs. Donnelly, Ms. Lawlor and boys 'your show was superb and the costumes, make-up, props and stage materials were just magic.

They also enjoyed their Halloween party and congratulations to David McSweeney, Joey Borwn and Nikolas Jastrzebski who won prizes in the Intercultural Art Competition.

Mrs. O Dea's Senior Infants were very busy when I called and were eagerly looking forward to their Cinema trip on Wed, 21st to see Arthur Christmas. They enjoyed painting portraits and are reading their way through several books at present. They tell me that the highlight of each day is playing in the special Infant yard at break time as well as playing with their toys before school.

Ms. Cooney's first class were feeling sorry for me now that I'm so old and Santa does not come to me anymore. Colourful art work, robots and construction projects were beautifully displayed.

Cathal Brennan described making a beautiful Santa Sleigh out of a butter box and egg carton. Eoin Condon made a beautiful spider while Conor Guiry's ROBOT construction was amazing. More work playing in the big boy's yard and doing projects is what the boys find most different about first class.

In **Ms. Maranes** second class I met the famous Henry Buttimer aka Oliver in the recent St. Mary's Choral Society production "Oliver Twist". These boys were sure busy first term with Holy Communion Enrolment Ceremony family Mass, Swimming and learning the Tin Whistle.

In **Mrs Power's** 3rd class I learned all about their latest project on BEES. This very worth while project was promoted by South Tipp Bee Keepers Association. Bees are a fascinating study and a lot of our plants, flowers, trees, vegetable and food depends on their activity and involvement to survive come to life and bear fruit.

Swimming, P.E. and Gymnastics are enjoyed by the boys as are decorative stitching and reading. Congratulations to David Barry Library Winner as well as Michael Dillon and Patryk

Kowalski in the Bee Competition. Shane Greene from Abbot is working with the class in Architectural Planning as part of the Junior Achievement Competition. Zoning in an urban context is the study. I wonder did we zone too much in the Celtic Tiger Days.

Mr Fenlons 4th class were busy preparing a Nativity Play as Gaeilge when I called to visit. In my long career I have never witnessed such a brave undertaking and I compliment Mr. Fenlon and his class on this wonderful cultural initiative. Mr Fenlon – our recognised computer/I.T. expert has introduced his class to such wonderful skills as power point production, Microsoft Publishing – word search skills and Word Processing. Football, Swimming and gymnastics are greatly enjoyed by the boys as are art and music.

Jacob told me they greatly enjoy reading the class novel “Stanley” as well as studying the Vikings. Ed McIntosh is the class expert on pets – has bought a Budgie and will advise anybody on Pet selection and pet care for Christmas.

Mr Ring’s 5th class inherited a love of History from the MASTER and are reading “Guns of Easter” at the moment which is all about 1916 whose centenary commemoration is only 4 years away. They were also reading “17 Martin St.” a book about World War 2 and its effects and consequences for Ireland during what was known as the “Emergency”. Ask your grandparents about rationing of tea, sugar, cigarettes etc during the war years.

These boys were hugely involved with U11 and U13 Football teams. They are doing a project on Italy and studying the Norman period also. Star of the class this term was Nathan O Reilly’s rendition of Ss. Peter & Paul’s RAP performed on Tipp FM before the County Final.

Ms. Kearney’s 5th class immensely enjoyed learning about World War 1 and World War 2. The beautifully compiled project work is prominently displayed along the corridor and is a fitting reminder of the awful brutality of war. Some of the pictorial images from that period are a stark reminder of mans inhumanity to his fellow man. The projects on the European Countries are a “must read must view” for anybody planning a European break and are better than Holiday Brochures.

The boys are busy reading a novel titled “Benny and Omar” which they strongly recommend. Compiling a class library and a great interest in Irish Creative Writing are also keeping these boys busy when not engaging in their no. 1 activities of Hurling & Football.

Mr Kearney’s 6th class boys have read 2 novels – “Boy in Striped Pyjamas” and “The Ghost of the Titanic”. Both books were complemented and further consolidated by watching the films which are highly recommended.

Thanks to local librarian Anne Marie Mullins we got an invitation to visit the library and have a discussion workshop with Titanic Author Nicola Pierce. Meeting the real life author of a book that in 2012 will be hugely relevant was both very insightful and fascinating. It has inspired some boys to begin writing their own books and autobiographies.

A big thank you to all who helped with Jesse Tree life Story of Jesus over the last 2 weekends especially Audrey and Ms. Donnelly who came to my assistance when needed. The Titanic Art display is the brain child of SNA Audrey. A big thank you is due to Helen, Roz and the parents in H.S.C.L. for the help with Christmas Art.

For further information on the Titanic contact class expert on this subject Jordan Sheehan. Congratulations to John Barney for his work on the class crib and other artistic projects throughout the 1st term. A big thank you to Ciara O Sullivan for all her help and support.

Football – Sincere thanks to all involved with football this term. We appreciate the work and efforts of Paddy Burke, Deirdre Lawlor, Aisling Kearney, Michael Ring and John Hickey in the promotion of Gaelic games in our school. We commiserate with all associated in the sad loss of the County Final to Templemore. The boys were devastated and heartbroken on the day but no doubt will regroup in the New Year and will be a major force in the Hurling Championship.

Home School Community Liaison Programme – We thank Mrs Roz Browne for all the wonderful activities she undertakes in the Parents' Room and outside centres. The following courses were hugely successful during Term 1. **Monday** - Pilates in the Hall. **Tuesday** – Language Classes in the Parents Room. **Wednesday** – Crafts in the Art Room. **Thursday** – Maths in the Computer Room. **Friday** – Baking.

Roz thanks all parents associated with this wonderful programme. Educational experts acknowledge that the best educational system is where home, school and community complement and interact with each other. Thanks also to Roz for organising the Homework club – an indispensable educational service. The boys say a big thank you for organising the Christmas outing to the Chinese in Irishtown

Special Teachers – We acknowledge and appreciate the wonderful support of our colleagues Mrs. Senior, Mrs. Condon, Mrs. Kearney, Mrs. Browne, Ms. Moran, Mr. Ryan, and Ms. O Sullivan in providing us with class support throughout the year.

We are extremely fortunate at this time to have the services of a very committed team of SNA's. We thank Monica, Stella, Audrey, Therese, and Helen for all their support.

We are also thankful to Oliver, Linda and Siobhán for ensuring a comfortable, clean working environment for us every day.

We thank Val for her courtesy, help, support, patience and understanding to us at all times.

We thank our substitutes and temporary teachers especially Leona Parsons and Aisling Kearney and hope it is not be too long before our economic circumstances change to provide these bright young, committed people with permanent positions.

Finally, we thank Mr. Hickey for his Christian vision and understanding which permeates every school day with care, consideration and kindness and is the reason you encounter a happy staff with equally happy, friendly students when you visit our school.

Beannachtaí na Nollag daoibh go Léir.

