

MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 5

28th November, 2011

Christmas Holidays

School closes for Christmas Holidays on Thursday 22nd December at 12.00 noon. (It may have been published as Friday 23rd previously – please amend your calendar if necessary.)

Class Photographs

The class photographs are currently on display in the entrance lobby in the school. Order forms have already been sent home with the boys. Please note that all order forms should be returned no later than this Friday, 2nd December.

Walking to School

It has been mentioned to us that some children from junior classes may be walking to school unaccompanied. We **strongly recommend** that children younger than 3rd/4th class do not walk to school unless accompanied by an adult. They may be too young and immature to deal with any personal safety issue that might arise and their road safety awareness is not dependable.

Christmas Cards

As you know our PTA organised the printing of personalised Christmas cards this year. By now you will have received the sample card with accompanying order form. If you would like to order cards you must have the completed order form and payment returned to the school **not later than Thursday 1st December.**

Mini Scientists

On 9th November we had a visit from the Intel Judges, to review the Mini-Scientist Projects undertaken by pupils from the 5th classes. The projects on display were:

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| Volcano: <i>Brian Gallagher</i> | Mr. Murphy's 5 th |
| Illumination of Water: <i>Steven Oyinlola, Christian Corrigan</i> | Mr. Murphy's 5 th |
| Eco Gym: <i>Shane O'Donnell, Eoin Richardson, Ciaran Krah</i> | Ms. Flynn's 5 th |
| Solar Energy Phone Charger: <i>Conor Ganly, Thomas Jones, Cathal Quinn</i> | Ms. Flynn's 5 th |
| Lemon Battery: <i>Nicolai Bagrin, Darragh Nolan</i> | Ms. Flynn's 5 th |
| Lava Lamp: <i>Sean Ledwidge, Dara Gleeson</i> | Ms. Flynn's 5 th |
| Lemon Powered Motor: <i>Tim Andrejev, Daniel Cullen</i> | Ms. Flynn's 5 th |
| The Science of Hair: <i>James Carroll, Conor Duff, Ronan Walsh</i> | Ms. Flynn's 5 th |

The judges were highly complementary and commended the variety and sophistication of the projects. They awarded the results as follows:

1st Place – Eco Gym

Shane O'Donnell, Eoin Richardson, Ciaran Krah

2nd Place – Solar Energy Phone Charger

Conor Ganly, Thomas Jones, Cathal Quinn

The best of luck to these boys whose two projects are representing the school at the Finals of this competition, which takes place on this Friday 2nd December.

Hurling Final

On Thursday, November 10th, our U-11 hurlers travelled to Clane GAA to take on Naas in the Cumann na mBunscoil final. The game was played in ideal hurling conditions and from the start the team showed great heart, desire and determination against their more fancied opponents. In the end the late goals meant the team had to succumb to a more skilful and balanced Naas side. Nonetheless, our boys did the school very proud. The backs were outstanding, blocking and hooking as if their lives depended on it. Our midfield and forwards battled bravely to the finish but did find scores and possession hard to come by. As their coach, I would like to thank all the panel for their efforts during the year and the parents for all their help and support.

Mr. Fenton

Football Final

The U-11 Football team contested the Final on a cool day in Moorefield. A very strong Naas team, who had heavily beaten us in the group stages, were our opposition. It was apparent that the boys were determined not to let this happen again as they started the match brilliantly. They were first to every ball, showing great skill and bravery in everything they did. Highlights of this first half were an excellent Alex Kelly goal, a heroic full back display from Conor Lynch and the long distance point of the season from Conor Duff. Maynooth led by a point at half time.

The second half saw a much more organised and determined Naas team take the field. They got an excellent start scoring two early goals. This effectively put the game out of our reach. However, the boys should be immensely proud of their efforts in this game and in the entire U-11 campaign. Senior football starts after Christmas. Well done lads!

Mr. Creevey, Mr. McGeedy

Aquarium

After a period 'in storage' to allow for refurbishment and school improvement work over the past 5/6 months, the aquarium has been relocated onto the newly built plinth close to its original location. It has already become a magnet for the younger pupils and all 'small visitors' to the school. It does need to have the bamboo shoots replaced, some new plants and also the fish stocks need to be replenished. We hope to have this completed over the next few weeks.

Cake Sale

We will be holding our Annual Cake Sale on Friday 9th December. This has proven to be an extremely popular event with the boys...I can't imagine why!!! We hope you will consider doing some baking for this important school fundraiser. A flyer will issue on this event next week.

P.S. Just in case you think the adults were being left out...they're not. The P.T.A. will be running a coffee shop on that day also (in the pre-fab adjacent to the playground).

Morning Club

The new Morning Club commenced at the beginning of November. This facility offers supervision of children from 8am – 9.10am, for parents who need to leave early for work. The cost is €20 per week, or €5 per day, payable in advance. (Reduction for siblings.) Any queries to: Ms. Finn, Ms. Tierney, Ms. Dunning, Ms. McMahon.

Winter Weather

Just a few reminders in relation to winter (weather)

- Please ensure your son has a coat/jacket coming to school (his name marked clearly on it) with a hood or hat.
- On mornings when it is raining, entry is through the Moyglare Road (Parish Office) entrance ONLY.

Folens Christmas Annuals

The Folens Christmas Annuals will become available over the next couple of weeks. We highly recommend these publications for their fun, creative, interesting and educational content. This year, in recognition of the existing financial pressures, Folens have reduced the cost by 20% to €4 per annual. Order slips will be given to the boys in early December.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

A very successful two days of Parent Teacher meetings were held on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. These provide a very important opportunity for teachers and parents to communicate about a child's education progress and any other relevant issues. If for some reason you were not able to attend last week's meetings, you should try to create an opportunity to meet with your son's teacher.

Christmas Plays

We have a number of Christmas and Nativity Plays taking place this year. If you have a son in Junior Infants, Senior Infants or 1st Class, then be sure to mark the dates below in your diary/book your time off/whatever you need to do – to be available on:

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|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Thursday 15 th December: | 1 st Class - Christmas with the Aliens | 2.00pm |
| Tuesday 20 th December: | Senior Infants - Shine Star Shine | 1.15pm |
| Thursday 22 nd December: | Junior Infants Nativity Play | 11am |

Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to the Pupils of the Week nominated on last Friday 25th November, listed below:

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|----------------|--|
| Junior Infants | Alexander Broome, Cian O'Donovan |
| Senior Infants | Rian Martin, Liam O'Connor |
| First Class | Conall Meehan, Daniel Broome |
| Second Class | Michael Geoghegan, Fiachra Brennan |
| Third Class | Cathal O'Donovan, Jack Hensey, Cillian Kearney |
| Fourth Class | Darragh Doddy, Jacub Pytlak |
| Fifth Class | Charlie McMyler, James Carroll |
| Sixth Class | Daniel Barisnikovs, Daire Whelan |

Every Friday, the Class teacher nominates the Pupil of the Week, who will receive a Certificate and have his photo displayed on the Presentation Screens in the school that day and during the following week. An up-to-date list of Pupils of the Week can also be viewed on the school website homepage www.maynoothbns.ie.

New Board of Management

We are happy to confirm that our next Board of Management has been fully constituted. Its term of office commences on this Thursday 1st December 2011. We wish the new Board members well during their four year term.

New Board Members

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|--|---------------------|
| Tom Ashe (Chairperson), Fr. David Halpin | Patron Nominees |
| Aidan O'Hora, Hilary Qualter | Parent Nominees |
| Owen Creevey | Teacher Nominee |
| Peter Coakley | Principal |
| Senan Griffin, Susan O'Regan | Community Nominees: |

Diary Dates

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 30 th November | Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony 7.30pm |
| Friday 2 nd December | Intel Mini Scientist Finals |
| Tuesday 6 th December | PTA Meeting |
| Friday 9 th December | Cake Sale |
| Monday 12 th December | First Meeting of New Board of Management |
| Thursday 15 th December | 1 st Class – Christmas with the Aliens |
| Tuesday 20 th December | Snr Infants – Shine Star Shine |
| Thursday 22 nd December | Jnr Infants – Nativity Play |
| Thursday 22 nd December | Close for Christmas Holidays 12pm |