

**MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER**

**No. 8**

**31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012**

**Mid-Term Break**

Don't forget that the school will be closed from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, inclusive, for Mid-Term break.

**Open Day**

The school will be holding an open day on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This will give parents and other visitors an opportunity to visit the school and get an idea of what happens in the classrooms during the school day. We hope you will be able to visit us on the day. Further details will be made available shortly.

**Credit Union Table Quiz**

The Annual Credit Union Table Quiz will take place in the school hall on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30 p.m. There will be 2 sections in the quiz, Under 11 and Under 13. We will be arranging and organising teams within the school. It is always an enjoyable night for the boys, and the Credit Union are excellent hosts!

**Maynooth Community Games**

Art and Handwriting Competition will take place in the school on this Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 3p.m. Age Groups: U8, 10, 12, 14, 16 Entry Fee: €2

**Morning Club**

The morning club is a pre-school facility for parents who may wish to drop off their children early. It runs from 8am to 9.10am (when supervision commences on the playground). The cost is €20 per week or €5 per day with a reduction available for siblings. Please contact the school for further information.

**Hearing Tests**

During the first week after the Christmas Holidays, all pupils from Senior Infants to 3<sup>rd</sup> class (who were present and who had signed consent forms) had their hearing tested. A number of children who may have hearing deficiencies were identified and their parents have been contacted in relation to this. There will be one other follow-up visit by the HSE in the hopes of examining those not tested during the main visit.

**Board of Management**

The Board of Management held a meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. Among the items discussed were:

*School Finance Matters* – including the Board's wishes to support the staff in relation to implementing the National Literacy & Numeracy Strategy. The staff are to be consulted in relation to resource needs. (ICT resources to be considered in relation to this.)

*Maintenance Matters*- including damage as a result of a break-in on 5<sup>th</sup> January, replacement flooring in a number of classrooms (thanks to a donation of carpet tiles from a parent). Discussion re staff/public/disabled access toilet facilities – further consideration needed.

*Child Protection* - a review of current Child Protection provision was undertaken and the Child Protection Policy is being amended to reflect recommendations by the Department of Education & Skills. To be finalised at next Board Meeting. (The school's child protection policy is available from the school on request.)

*Catholic Ethos* - including Catholic Schools Week; resources to support this.

*Various correspondence* - including DES Circulars in relation to Special Needs Assistants.

The next Board of Management meeting will take place 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

**Library Visit**

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January the pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> class went to the library. We saw army men and the gardaí. One of the gardaí was holding a bag of money and army men were surrounding him. When we got to the library we read lots of books. Then our teacher Ms. Tierney read us a book called Matilda – it was great. After that we had to leave and we went back to school.

By *Harvey McNevin & David Power*

**Fire Safety Officer**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January the 3<sup>rd</sup> classes had a visitor and his name was Kevin Conroy. He was a member of the Fire Brigade. He taught us about what to do when there is a fire. First alert everyone in the house. Then get them out and tell them not to go back in. Next call the Fire Brigade. Do not go back in until a fireman says it's ok to do so. If you are trapped in the house, get into a safe room, put a blanket at the door base, then open the window and call for help!

By Michael Smyth (Ms. Kelly's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class)



### **PTA Fundraiser – Coin Trail Challenge**

**Student Challenge:** To find and collect as many euro currency coins as you can, between now and February 8<sup>th</sup>. Pick up loose coins from around the house, or off the footpath. Put away small change from your pocket money. Collect coins whenever you can – but avoid wallets and purses! And, remember, the value of the coin doesn't matter – it's the length that counts.

Bring your jar of coins into your class by Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, each class will bring their collective Coin Stash to the PE hall. They will lay each coin out on the floor in a line, and see how far their class Coin Trail can stretch. The class with the longest trail **WINS**

**The Prize:** A Class Party and Homework Pass.

### **Good luck and may the best class win**

*The coins collected will be used by the PTA to fund the purchase of a new electronic piano for the school choir and other student activities*

### **Choir Club**

Within a few short weeks the Choir Club has developed into the musical equivalent of a 'well-oiled machine'. Each Monday afternoon, between 3 and 4pm, they enjoy themselves as Mrs. Dunne leads them through a great variety of fun songs. Could they be Maynooth BNS's very own version of Glee (without the dancing)? Time will tell. New members welcome (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils).

### **Chess Club**

We are currently looking at the school schedule in the hopes of identifying a slot for a chess club that will not clash with other after-school activities. Meanwhile, chess enthusiasts are welcome to visit/join the children's' chess club which is held in the Presentation Girls' school on Monday nights at 7.30pm.

## ***Sacraments of Confirmation 2012***

### **Confirmation Retreats in St. Patrick's College Maynooth**

Last week the 6<sup>th</sup> Class boys travelled to St. Patrick's College for what has now become the annual 6<sup>th</sup> Class Retreat. Through the leadership of Fr. Liam, Fr. David and their class teachers, the boys participated in a day of prayer, reflection and also some fun activities, which helps prepare them for this special occasion in their lives. A huge thank you to Fr. Liam for organising this special day for the boys.

### **Ceremony of Light**

The Ceremony of Light for the boys who will be making their Confirmation this year, will take place in St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. This parish based ceremony for pupils for the boys' and girls' schools, will commence at 7.30p.m. We would ask that all families would endeavour to be seated in the church by 7.20p.m. please.

### **Ceremony of Confirmation**

Ceremony of Confirmation will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 11am. We are delighted to confirm that Bishop Raymond Field will be confirming the boys.

### **Diary Rates**

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> February:	Ceremony of Light 7.30pm
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> February:	Confirmation 11am
13 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> February:	Mid-Term Break – School Closed
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> February:	Open Day
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> February:	First Confession 7.30pm
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> March:	Board of Management Meeting
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> March:	Public Holiday – School Closed