

MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Number 6

9th December, 2014

Old Mobile Phones

Just in case you are planning to upgrade your own phone, or give a new phone to a family member this Christmas, don't forget that the school is collecting mobile phones. We are collaborating with Irish Autism Action and, as well as supporting a worthy cause, we will also receive ICT equipment for the school. If you have any phones to donate, please send them in through your son to his class teacher, or you may also hand them directly to the school office.



Cake Sale – the Aftermath!

The cake sale, which took place on Friday last, was a huge success again this year. Sincere thanks to the very large number of families who contributed so much baking and who also supported the sale on the day.



- Thanks also to Ms. Kelly's 6th class boys who "manned" the sale on the day in such an efficient and professional manner.
- Our ever industrious PTA volunteers ran a coffee shop on Friday morning and the word is that if they continued this enterprise, it would be a serious threat to other such premises in the town! *Go raibh maith agaibh.*
- *Míle buíochas freisin* to the school staff who helped with the preparation and organisation of the cake sale.
- A special thank you to the large number who entered the "Baker of the Year" competition. This has become a particularly special part of the event. This year's award winners are listed below.

Baker of the Year Award

1st Prize - Roshan Bijo John – 4th Class Mr. Davis

Runners Up Awards

Alfred Nicholls – 2nd Class Ms. Murphy

Bradley Jenkins – 5th Class Ms. Meehan

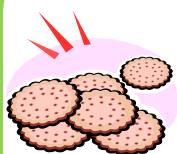
Andrew Reynolds – 1st Class Ms. Toolan

Jack Kennedy Canning – Senior Infants Ms. Patten

Thomas & Marcus Lejnieks – 1st and 4th Class Ms. Rafter/Mr. Davis

Davitt Brady – 1st Class Ms. Toolan

Conor Doyle – 2nd Class Ms. Murphy

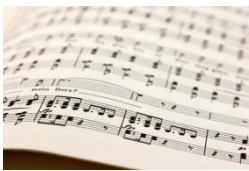


- The ticket sales for the raffle which is held in conjunction with the Cake Sale commenced last Monday, the draw for prizes will take place this Thursday at Assembly. Tickets will be available up to 11 a.m. on Thursday.

The total of funds raised will not be available until after the raffle proceeds have been finalised – this will be notified in the next newsletter.



As well as being an important element of our fundraising to support school activities, this event is a very popular and enjoyable event for the boys and we greatly appreciate all who are involved and supported it. The final word of thanks goes to Ms. Rebecca Flynn, the "Organiser-in-Chief" whose planning and organisation of every last detail ensures the success of Cake Sale Day. Well done!



The Three Tenors Accompany School Choir

Some people, who attended the Parish Fundraising event of St. Mary's Church on Saturday 6th December may have thought it was the other way round – but we know that the Choirs of St. Mary's Boys' N.S. and Presentation Girls' N.S. stole the show. The 3 Tenors weren't bad either!

Congratulations to Ms. Gráinne Dunne and all of the boys in the school choir, who performed so beautifully at this special event. The combined school choirs performed on their own and with the 3 Tenors during the 2½ hour concert. Those present will treasure memories of the singing for some time to come.

Ms. Dunne and the choir now turn their attention to their next big event – the Peace Proms. They will travel to the National Basketball Arena for joint rehearsals on Tuesday 16th December, with the main event taking place in the RDS on Saturday 31st January, 2015.

Fighting Words – Family Workshop



Last week, in an initiative between Fighting Words writing workshop co-ordinators and Froebel/Maynooth University, the workshops came to Maynooth. Our school was offered one 2 hour workshop. Following a draw between the 2nd and 3rd classes, Mr. Downes 3rd class were the lucky group selected to attend.

When a location to base the mobile unit for the week became a problem, our Board of Management stepped forward and offered a space at the edge of the school playground. So appreciative of this were the Fighting Words organiser, they made a very special offer to the school – A Family Writing workshop with Roddy Doyle himself. Places were offered among the other 3rd and 2nd classes and on Tuesday 2nd December, 47 adults and children experienced a wonderful 90 minute writing workshop with Roddy.

Much of the evening was spent inventing very convincing characters and exciting plots with more twists than a curly fry on a roller coaster in Disneyland – the result being the wonderful creation of “That's Nacho Girlfriend” a story of love, revenge and friendship between a Nacho and a Lizard – a definite must read!!!

(This will be published on the school website shortly.)



Carol Singing

Every year, some of our children engage in Carol Singing to raise funds for the Maynooth branch of St. Vincent de Paul – St. Patrick's Conference.

This year Mr. Davis is co-ordinating a group of staff members and 4th class boys and they will be singing at Tesco's on Wednesday 17th December from 3-4.30 p.m. The boys need to wear their uniform and a Santa hat.

If you are free, do come along and support/enjoy the festive atmosphere – and don't forget your Santa Hat!



Special Visitor??

There is a rumour that Santa will be in the Maynooth area on Friday 12th December and we are hoping that he will call in to see us on Friday morning. It might help in persuading him to visit, if all the boys are in bed early on Thursday night!

Nativity Plays

We have two Christmas and Nativity Plays taking place this year in St. Mary's Church. If you have a son in Junior Infants or Senior Infants then be sure to mark



the dates below in your diary/book your time off - whatever you need to do - to be available on:

Senior Infants – Thursday 11th December @ 1.00 p.m.

Junior Infants – Friday 19th December @ 11.00 a.m.

[Note: Parents attending on either day may take their children home directly from the Church]



Swimming

Swimming lessons for the boys in 5th and 6th class recently finished as they had completed their term of 10 classes. It will be the turn of 3rd and 4th classes next term. Details will be circulated early in the New Year.

Retreat – 6th Class

On Wednesday 3rd December, our class went to St. Patrick's College on a retreat day in preparation for our Confirmation. We left school at 9.20 a.m. and headed to the main gate of St. Patrick's College. We met Fr. Liam at Renahan Hall beside Pugin Hall. We started off with a murder mystery. The mystery was about Mr. Leydon who was shot and stabbed. We worked very well together and our ideas were very realistic. We were called the C.S.I. (Confirmation Student Investigators).

Fr. Liam gave each of us a piece of card which was unique in its own way. We wrote our name on the card and coloured it in. We then gave them to Fr. Liam and then we walked to the rugby pitch and ran around the 1 kilometre track. After that we went back to Renahan Hall. When we came back Fr. Liam assembled a dove with our names. We each got a candle and Fr. Liam said a class mass. Next we did a meditation which was very relaxing. We went to Pugin Hall for our hot lunch which was chicken nuggets and chips. For our dessert we had carrot cake or black forest gateaux, and our drink was coke (Ms. Kelly's jaw dropped when the Priest mentioned coke!).

Fr. Liam demonstrated world equality. He handed out sweets unfairly and he also showed us diagrams - (this was to prepare us for our social justice project during Lent). At the end, we did a word scramble. The answer to the word scramble was "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit". It was a brilliant day. *By Alex Mooney and Sean Costelloe – Ms. Kelly's 6th Class.*

Intel Mini Scientist



Congratulations to all our 5th class boys who participated in the annual Mini Scientist Competition. This year we had the highest number of projects entered in recent years with a total of 24 entered between the two classes. All entrants received a 'goody' bag from the



sponsors Intel. They also donated some lovely science equipment to the school, for its engagement with the Intel Mini-Scientist Competition.

Congratulations to Tom Kelly, Rory Byrden, Jack Murnane and Mikey Clarke, whose project "Hydraulics", was selected by the judges as the overall winner. The boys will represent the school in the Leinster Regional Final on Thursday 11th December in Intel. Good luck boys.

The projects entered included:

Step by Step

Rocket Science

All about the senses

Visual Learning

The Power of Straws

The Drink Test

The Candle Vacuum

Electricity – how does it work?

Wind Power

Electro – Magnetism

If only Macconi had Twitter

Egg and Salted Water

How Helium Affects You

Kinetic Energy

Air Pollution

Fat in food

Electric Motors

Comets Taste Buds

Acid Attack

Popping Popcorn

Make your own quicksand

DNA

Magical Silver Cleaner

Bending Water with Static Electricity



School Policies

Copies of School Policies available on School Website (under 'School/Office') or by request from the school office.

Rugby Coaching

Every Thursday we do rugby coaching with Niall. We play lots of games like bulldog, endaball and stuck in the mud. All of these games are designed to help our rugby skills and stamina. We are having great fun. In the New Year, we are going to play a match against the Gaelscoil. We have a lot of practicing to do! *By Sean Flaherty - Mr Davis 4th Class*

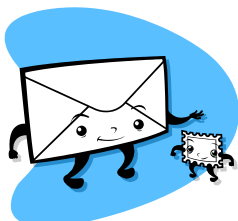


Fighting Words Workshop – 3rd Class

On Wednesday 3rd December we went to the Fighting Words Workshop. Our main character was “Johnny the Leprechaun”, his best friend was “Joe” a flying cow. We all did chapter one together. Then, we got to write the end by ourselves. Most of us introduced new characters like Dr. Phil, Fright Sling and Pat the Pirate. What a day!!! *By Matthew Diamond and Kaelin Hackett.*

Dance Performance – 1st Class

Since September Ms. Rafter’s first class have been participating in contemporary dance classes with the Froebel Dancer in Residence, Lisa Cahill. This will culminate in a special dance performance on the 11th December at the Sports Hall in Maynooth University. The boys have been invited to the college to watch performances by other students and to perform their own dance routine. Over the past few months the boys have developed their talents and are now very excited about the upcoming event – they can hardly wait to perform!



Postage Stamp Re-cycling

Our school is involved in the collection of postage stamps which help to save Irish bogs. Please save your Christmas stamps and drop them into the office. Thank you.

Folens Christmas Annuals

Folens Christmas Annuals are still available from the school office until this coming Friday 12th December. We highly recommend these publications for their fun, creative, interesting and educational content. Cost is €4.00.

PTA News



Voluntary Contributions: A big thank you to all families who have made the voluntary contribution so far this year. Due to the ongoing support from parents, extra activities and supports, for example language classes for 6th class boys, sports equipment, extra books, teaching aids and maths equipment have all been possible due to money collected via the voluntary contribution. The contribution is €50 per family, although any amount is gratefully received and can be made directly into the PTA account at Ulster bank at any time (see details below). It

can also be paid by cheque or cash in an envelope marked PTA Voluntary Contribution with your son(s) name and class and handed to the class teacher. Your support is always very welcome.

Account no: 49849009

Sort code: 98 60 95

BIC code: ULSBIE2D

IBAN: IE06ULSB98609549849009

Website: The PTA section of the school website is currently under review. We hope to have some new photography up on the website in the new year, where parents can see where we spend the funds and how it directly impacts upon school life.

Coffee Morning: A big thank you to all who supported the coffee morning last Friday! To those that baked; to those that came and enjoyed the coffee and chat; and to those that helped in any way, thank you. The proceeds from the morning go to the up-coming Christmas festivities/events that the boys will enjoy before the Christmas holidays.



Illegal Parking: As many parents will be well aware, dangerous and illegal parking outside the school continues to be an issue. The Gardaí have written recently to the PTA to confirm they are giving this issue their continued attention and will be monitoring the area outside the school over the coming weeks and months "to prevent breaches of the parking regulations". It is hoped, with the support of parents that this will contribute to a safer environment for the boys as they arrive and leave school on a daily basis. Please, please, for the safety of all our children, adhere to the parking regulations outside the school gates.



Upcoming Events: After the Christmas break there will be more opportunities to get involved in some of the fun events run in conjunction with the school, with the support of parents and for the benefit of the boys in the school. Please watch this space as details will follow in January with a few dates for your 2015 diaries.

Next Meeting: Our next PTA meeting will be held in the computer room of the school on Tuesday January 6th, new and old faces are always welcome! In the meantime, have a very happy Christmas and a good break over the festive holidays.

