

Castlehackett NS

Our School Newsletter

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Issue No. 3 – November 2014

A big welcome to you all once again. This is the third issue of our hugely successful school newsletter and we are delighted to share with you again some of the big news stories from Castlehackett NS.

Fundraising Progressive 25 Card Drive

Spread the word – promises to be a great night!

**FUNDRAISER FOR
CASTLEHACKETT NS
PROGRESSIVE 25
CARD DRIVE
SUNDAY 07 DECEMBER 2014**

AT 7:00PM SHARP

AT CASTLEHACKETT NS

TICKETS €5

1ST PRIZE - LAMB EACH FOR FREEZER

2ND PRIZE - LUXURY HAMPER EACH

3RD PRIZE - €25 VOUCHER EACH

PLUS RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS



Continuous Professional Development

Mr Fergal Naughton and Mrs Noelle Gannon recently attended in-service training in school self evaluation regarding mathematics organised by the Professional Development Service for Teachers. The staff of the school are continuously volunteering to attend educational programmes and training sessions that have the potential to ameliorate the teaching and learning in Castlehackett NS. The whole school community is very grateful to them for doing this.

We Like To Cycle

There were almost as many bicycles in Castlehackett NS as there is in Beijing on Wednesday the 23rd of November. This cycling safety course afforded the children the opportunity to acquire some new cycling skills and also to learn the rules of the road for cyclists.



Annaghdown Sports Day

All the senior pupils participated in the Annaghdown Sports event recently. They were a credit to their school and all athletes posted Personal Bests. What more could you ask for? Well done to them all. The lesson learned was that hard work brings success! What better way to learn this!



Feeding the Birds

The children prepared the bird table for the winter ahead. It is now erected in the garden in front of the school.



Castlehackett's Got Talent

Our budding guitarists are still very enthusiastic and are practising every day.



Peer Tutoring

Older pupils assumed the responsibility of tutoring their peers in a supervised setting recently. We have some teachers in the making for sure!



Tiny Tots Pre School

The children in Tiny Tots are busy preparing for our first Christmas play - The Littlest Christmas Tree. The classroom is looking very colourful with our winter crafts on display. All children have settled in really well with their teacher Linda. We look forward to welcoming an Early Years Inspector from the Child and Family Agency to our preschool in December to show off the fantastic facilities we have on offer. We still have places available for those parents who wish to send their children on a part time basis before they begin their free preschool year in September 2015. We are looking forward to welcoming some of those children in January on a part time basis. We are also taking names for September 2015. Don't forget we provide an extra 40 minutes each day free of charge in addition to the 3 hours free preschool provided by the ECCE scheme. Please drop in for a look at our bright and spacious classroom or phone Thelma for more details on 086 - 3982513.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Isn't it heartening to see the generosity of the parents and children of Castlehackett NS? The shoe boxes, all wrapped in Christmas paper and full to the brim with gifts for children of a less privileged background in developing countries in Africa. Well done to all.



Project Work

We are always very proud of our pupils who we always encourage them to share their project pieces with us.



Community Alert Meeting

It was very encouraging to see a full school hall on Tuesday 11 November for a very constructive Community Alert Meeting. More details on this scheme will be made available shortly.

Origami Workshop

In conjunction with Galway Science & Technology Festival we were privileged to have Mr Tom Cuffe visit our school and share his paper folding skills with pupils on Thursday 13 November. The pupils made a prism and a rotating disk using this ancient Asian art form! Very impressive!



Girls just want to have fun

Some of the junior girls play with hoops on a regular basis. The pupils are very fortunate to have such supervised/safe access to all areas of our very spacious playground. This situation is more the exception rather than the rule for primary school children in general. All pupils also have access to a variety of play equipment during all their breaks.



Work Experience Students

What a great addition to our school Claire McHugh, James Glynn (T.Y. student) and Morgan Glynn (T.Y. student) have been in recent weeks. We wish them every success in their future careers.



School Inspection

An Inspector from the Department of Education visited our school on Wednesday 26 November. All the staff and pupils were applauded for the high levels of teaching and learning that takes place in our school. It was heartening to obtain this affirmation. Many thanks to you the parents, who are partners in this process; this is also a reflection of all the work you do every day. As a team we are no doubt a force to be reckoned with!

PE Sessions

Children in Castlehackett NS always get to play a variety of sports for their weekly PE sessions. It is no coincidence that our focus for November was tag rugby, in light of the big internationals that took place in Lansdowne Road recently. Bring on the World Cup!



Hubie Glynn Cup Winners

Yet again we have reason to celebrate sporting success within the school as some of our pupils celebrated another big win with one of the local GAA clubs recently. Congratulations to all involved.



Dates for the Diary

- ◆ The children's Christmas concert takes place on Wednesday 17 December at 7pm. There will be a raffle on the night with some great prizes to be won. And rumour has it that the man of the moment, Santa, will be checking in to make sure that the children are behaving themselves...



- ◆ A retirement function for Mrs Mary Heron will take place at 5pm on Saturday 31 January 2015 here in the school. All welcome.

Note from the Principal

Bainigí sult as ár nuachtlitir agus mar is gnáth scaipigí na deascéalta ó Scoil Naomh Iosef ar fud na háite! Beidh ár gcéad eagrán eile le fail ag am Nollag!

Is mise le meas

Fergal Ó Neachtain

PS I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Martina Griffin whose help is invaluable every month in organising the material contained here. What a great job. Well done.

Thought for the month

