

# Castlehackett NS

## Our School Newsletter

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### Issue No. 4 – December 2014

Beannachtaí na Nollag agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise díobh go léir. Welcome to our final school newsletter for 2014. Castlehackett NS has been a very busy place in the run up to Christmas! We are delighted to be able to share the highlights with you here.

#### Fundraising Progressive 25 Card Drive

What a successful fundraiser we had on Sunday 07 December. A total of €2279.74 was raised on the night and all funds will go towards various initiatives in the school. A massive debt of gratitude is owed to our Parent Association who organised the whole event. A special word of thanks must also be given to all those who attended on the night, all the sponsors, the school staff and of course Mattie Scales, Declan McDonagh and Bernie Hannon who ran the card game for us.

#### Jam & Pudding



The best of our local produce went on sale on the night of our card drive. It simply flew out the door. Many thanks to Mr Thomas Treacy our expert jam maker and our own Breda McHugh who made the plum puddings and managed sales on the night.

#### Continuous Professional Development

Once again Staff committed extra hours to engage in Maths Education Training, a Christmas Art Workshop, a Health & Wellbeing Workshop and an Afterschool Sports Activities presentation. How fortunate all the pupils are to have such motivated staff work with them every day.

#### We Named It!

Thanks to Abbey Signs, Corrandulla, who recently constructed our school name sign. The sign was sponsored by the Parents Association.

We think you'll agree it looks very impressive.



## Clothes Recycling Breaks All Records!

The front Entrance to Castlehackett NS was temporarily blocked on 10 December with bag loads of clothes for recycling stacked from floor to ceiling! A total of €735.35 was fundraised in the process. This was an all time record. Míle buíochas to everybody who contributed.



We would like to remind you that our clothes recycling drive is an ongoing project. If you are doing a clear out over the holidays (or at any time during the year!) please remember to bring them to the school when we reopen in the New Year.

## Tiny Tots Pre School

Well done to the children in Tiny Tots who made their stage debut with 'The Littlest Christmas Tree'.



## PE Sessions

Our focus for the past few weeks has been soccer. We always strive to provide a variety of sporting opportunities, to cater for the individual difference of all our pupils in Castlehackett NS. We always put our students first.



## NUIG Youth Academy



We are very proud of all our pupils who have represented our school at the NUIG Youth Academy in a number of disciplines in recent times. Castlehackett N.S. certainly has talent! Well done to them all.

## Global Warming Projects

The students all prepared global warming projects recently to help educate themselves and others about the causes, consequences and solutions regarding global warming. We are immensely proud of the way in which they can not only present material but also articulate themselves so passionately about whatever the topic in question is.



## Enrolment for 2015/2016

Watch out for our new enrolment signs which will be posted outside the school shortly!

**Castlehackett N.S.**  
Scoil Naomh Iosef

**Enrol Now**

Limited number of available spaces

091 791708

[www.castlehackettns.ie](http://www.castlehackettns.ie)

- New state of the art facilities
- Favourable Pupil/Teacher Ratio
- Guaranteed individual attention for pupils
- Talented Youth Academy Scholarships
- Afterschool Clubs • E.C.C.E. Year
- Sport • Music • I.T. • Science
- Gaelige • Irish Dancing and much more!

## The stage is set!

Our Christmas Concert took place on Wednesday 17 December. We all wish to thank Mr Ivan Morris and Mr Seán Costello for constructing our very own stage. And we would like to thank those who sponsored prizes for our raffle. The junior classes hosted a production of 'Whoops A Daisy Angel'. The middle classes sang some beautiful songs and the senior classes played guitar and sang some great songs. The children also performed The Nativity.

Here are some of the highlights of the night, including a guest appearance from Mrs Mary Heron and a surprise visit from Santa himself!



## Food for Thought

Mrs Mary Qualter shared her confectionary talents with the junior pupils on Wednesday 10 December. Everybody really enjoyed this experience and we are very grateful to Mary for sharing her time and expertise with us in this way.



## A Christmas Message from the Cayman Islands!!!

They haven't forgotten us and we certainly haven't forgotten them. Here is a message from Culainn, Breannach & Doireann:

*We would like to say hi to all our friends. We really like our new school but we really miss all of our old friends. We will be home for all of next summer so we will have plenty of time to catch up with all of you! Merry Christmas to all in Castlehackett NS from all The Lynch Clan xxxx*



## Let it snow!

From extra large snowflakes to Santa and his reindeer, we have made them all in Castlehackett NS for our art classes! Aren't these pieces beautiful?



## Note from the Principal

Well done to the whole school community for working so hard at making this a memorable first term. We have so much to celebrate. Further to this a whole lot of activities are already organised for 2015 which include scratch programming classes every Thursday, engaging tutorials by a local historian, practical workshops from our visiting science teacher and of course our after school sporting competitions but to mention a few! This will all take place on top of all the excellent teaching and learning that takes place in every classroom every day.

Tá sos mór tuillte agaibh anois áfach. Bainigí sult as an Nollaig agus feicimid sibh go léir sa bhliain nua.

Is mise le meas

*Fergal Ó Neachtain*

## Thought for the month



Christmas is not so much about opening presents, as opening our hearts!