

# Castlehackett NS

## Our School Newsletter

Castlehackett NS • Belclare • Tuam • County Galway • e: [info@castlehackettns.ie](mailto:info@castlehackettns.ie) t: 091 791708 Roll No. 18289D

### Issue No. 5 – January 2015

Athbhliain Shona díobh go léir. It's hard to believe that January is almost over and Spring is just around the corner. Welcome to our fifth newsletter and our first for 2015. What a busy few weeks it has been since Christmas. We are delighted to be able to share the highlights with you here once again. Remember all of the previous newsletters are available on [www.castlehackett.ie](http://www.castlehackett.ie) along with further content relating to our school.

#### Junior Infants 2015 Open Morning

An Open Enrolment Morning for parents wishing to send their children to Castlehackett National School in September will take place on Wednesday 18 February starting at 10:15am sharp and will conclude at 11:45am.

This information morning is for parents only. The new Junior Infants themselves will be welcomed for a half day in June before they commence officially in September 2015.

Bringing prospective parents to the school during daylight hours affords the staff the opportunity to showcase the very best of what our school has to offer in terms of facilities and pupil's learning. We expect a large attendance and we will look forward to giving you a warm welcome on the day. Refreshments will be served.

#### Mrs Mary Heron's Retirement Function

Mrs Mary Heron's Retirement Function will take place on Saturday 31 January at 5pm in the school. There is an open invitation to the whole community to attend and it promises to be a fantastic evening of celebration, dance and music. We look forward to meeting you on the night! A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all the members of the organising committee for their time input and sharing of expertise since before the Christmas holidays.

#### Art Classes

The senior children have been instructed to focus all their artistic talents on construction in recent classes. The theme has changed from urban scape to rural landscape and finally to the world of sport. What lovely creations they have designed and completed.



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
- Gaeilge • Irish Dancing and much more!

## Tiny Tots Pre School

Tiny Tots are now taking names for their September 2015 roll book. They will be holding an open morning on 18 February 2015 for any parents wishing to see the facilities on offer.

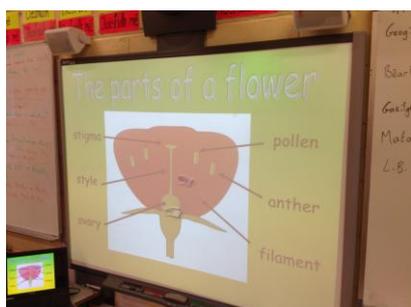
## Early Morning PE classes

Blue skies or grey, we are outdoors for our PE classes every week. The pupil's fitness levels have really improved. We are concluding our soccer sessions now and we hope to commence gaelic football sessions in the coming weeks. We want to be in a good position for all the upcoming GAA competitions in Spring!



## Science Class

The flowering plant and pollination took centre stage in recent weeks in the senior classroom. Our wonderful I.T. facilities have really created the perfect learning and teaching conditions for such classes to take place.



## RSA Workshop

Anne Patten from the Road Safety Authority visited the three classrooms on 20 January. It was a very informative session with an emphasis being placed on the key road safety points on walking, cycling, taking the car or bus to school.



## Scratch Programming Classes

Our scratch programming classes have resumed again this year. The pupils have really engaged with this weekly session and their levels of programming competencies are very impressive. Well done to all involved.



## Mrs Anna McHugh's Visit

Mrs Anna McHugh gave a talk to the senior children on Wednesday 21 January re the Great Famine. The focus was on the west of Ireland and our own area more specifically. It was a very interesting workshop and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. We wish to express our gratitude to Anna for taking the time to visit our school.



## Blinded by sunlight no more!

We love the sun but not when it interferes with the children's learning environment in the classroom so we are very grateful to the Parent's Association for their fundraising efforts which have enabled the purchase of blinds for the whole school. They are a marvellous addition and have hugely improved the learning environment for our children.



## Inservice Training

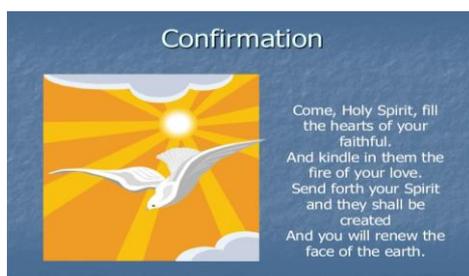
Many thanks to Mrs Mary Rooney and Mr Peadar Monaghan who engaged in in-service training in Special Education and PE recently. The pupils of Castlehackett NS are extremely fortunate to have such committed staff.

## Lunch-time Football Training

Football training has resumed during lunch-time since we started back in January. We praise the children for the commitment they make in this regard. It is a joy to see them grow athletically and socially on the playing field.

## Confirmation

We wish our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils well as they prepare to make their confirmation on Friday 27 February. It promises to be a special day for the confirmandi and their extended families.



## Table Quiz

The senior pupils have entered into the Credit Union Table Quiz Competition to be held in the Mercy Secondary School in Tuam. They are preparing very diligently for this and we wish them every success.



## Christmas Classroom Prize Winners

Many thanks to Mrs Breda McHugh who helped organise the Christmas Classroom raffles once again this year. There were three drawers – Junior classes, middle classes and senior classes. As always, it proved to be a big hit with the children!



## Christmas Logs

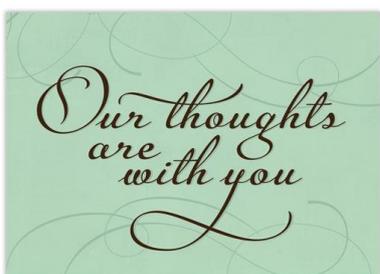
On our last day before the Christmas holidays, the pupils in the senior classes made Christmas logs. Don't they look fantastic! Many thanks to Curran Saw Mills and Mr Ivan Morris who helped bring the project to completion.



## A Note of Sympathy

We extend a vote of sympathy to Hannah and Reagan Connley on the death of their Grandmother.

It was a pleasure having the girls as pupils in Castlehackett National School. We wish them and their family a safe journey back to Australia and we hope they will keep in touch with us through our website.



## Note from the Principal

Bainigí taitneamh as ár nuachtlitir agus mar is gnáth scaipigí na deascéalta ó Scoil Naomh Iosef ar fud na háite!.

Míle buíochas as bhur dtacaíocht i gcónaí.

Is mise le meas

*Fergal Ó Neachtain*

## Thought for the month

