

Castlehackett NS

Our School Newsletter

Castlehackett NS • Belclare • Tuam • County Galway • e: info@castlehackettms.ie t: 091 791708 Roll No. 18289D

Issue No. 10 – June 2015

A Chairde

Tá fearadh na fáilte romhaibh chuig ár nuachtlitr, an t-eagrán deireanach don scoilbhliain! I dtosach báire ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghéabháil libh as ucht na cabharach a thug sibh do fhoireann na scoile ó thús na bliana. Chiallaigh sé go mór dúinn. Cá mbeadh Scoil Naomh Iosef murach an méid tacaíochta seo?

Dá gceapfaidís go raibh Meitheamh ciúin againn tá dul amú oraibh! Bhí an Mhí is gnóthaí agus is suimiúla againn ariamh! Is cúis mhór atháis dúinn a bheith in ann na buaicphointí a roinnt libh anseo. Bainigí sult astu.

The icing on the cake

The icing on the cake says it all. Our footballers have had another fantastic year on the playing field. We won the Acorn shield and we were very competitive in both the Raftery cup and the Cumann na mBunscol competitions. Our success was down to a very healthy team spirit and a genuine love of sport amongst the pupils.

Many thanks to David Glynn & Ann Kilcommins who helped out with the training this year.



A lesson in history

Cullen Gibbons, Corrandulla, completed his research of *The History of Primary Education in the Parish of Annaghdown* as part of his Masters Degree in Heritage Studies in GMIT recently.

We are very grateful to Mrs Anna McHugh for all the research material she provided to Cullen in relation to Castlehackett NS.

Cullen is pictured presenting Fergal Naughton, Principal of Castlehackett NS, with a copy of his thesis in the photograph below. This copy is available to loan from the library should you be so interested.



Clothes Recycling

Our clothes recycling collection raised €790!! How about that? Well done to everybody who contributed. Many thanks to Tony McHugh who ensured all the bags were weighed accurately (all 196 of them!)



The Inaugural Castlehackett 8k

What an unforgettable day we had on Sunday 07 June! We've been left lost for words ever since! Thank you so much for making our day the success it turned out to be. Our Castlehackett 8k would never have happened only for all of your hard work and enthusiasm right from the start of the whole organisational process. We are particularly grateful to all of our sponsors. All of their names are available to read on www.castlehackett8k.com.

Castlehackett 8k raised €8,350 (after all the expenses have been paid) and we're still counting!! We can't wait to get started on our Athletics track!

We're already looking forward to holding the event again next year. With lots of new ideas we know we can grow it even further!! Enjoy the following race photographs courtesy of Mary Glynn and don't forget to check out the school website and Facebook page for all the photos taken by Jimmy McElroy Photography on the day, which we would encourage you all to continue liking and sharing.



The Bug Doctor

Michel Dugon, a zoologist at NUIG entertained the children on the day of our 8k. He showed the children a selection of his reptiles and arachnids! He was a bUG success!!



Sports Day

Sports Day was held on Monday 15 June. We had a lovely day. All the pupils' athleticism came to the fore. The following is a list of the events and the order they came in:

- sprints
- egg & spoon race
- wheelbarrow race
- lobster race
- cic fada
- soccer knockout
- long race
- sack race
- three legged race
- bear race
- wellington throw
- puc fada
- basketball knockout
- tug of war

Great fun was had all around.



Go Games Hurling

All pupils from 2nd to 6th class participated in the *Go Games Hurling Competition* in a sunny Corrandulla on two different Thursdays in June. All the pupils from the schools in the parish of Annaghdown were mixed up and 8 different teams selected. Four games then took place simultaneously. The hurling played was really entertaining, with the emphasis on participation.



Queen Meadhbh and Cnoc Meadha

Many thanks to Geraldine Molloy who painted this fabulous mural for the school. It captures the folklore and the beauty of our area perfectly. Well done Geraldine.



Junior School Tour

The junior tour went to Loughwell Farm, Moycullen this year on their school tour.



The children all had a great day.

The Treacy Cup

The Treacy Cup basketball competition took place on Wednesday 17 June in Belclare NS. The girls played magnificently and scored in every match. They enjoyed a win over Belclare.



Teddy Bears Picnic

The junior room hosted a Teddy Bears Picnic on the last week of school. Luckily the weather held up and the children were able to bring their bear guests outside.



Senior school tour

The senior tour went to an activity centre in Killaloe, Co Clare where they enjoyed archery classes, high rope climbing, canoeing and kayaking! The teachers joined in the fun also!



Fire in the school (well, not quite!)

Members of the Tuam Fire Department visited to promote fire safety with the pupils. Their helmet proved to be very popular! They presented a learning pack to each pupil on the day and we've been invited to the fire station next year!



Music Summer School

Matthew Berrill (clarinet) and Sorcha Walsh (violin) visited the school along with former Castlehackett NS and current PCH pupil Sinéad St John before the holidays to promote their music summer school in Presentation College Headford.

They engaged all the pupils in a collective performance. The music they created was beautiful.



Galway Libraries Summer Buzz

Summer Buzz is a reading programme run by Galway Libraries every summer for children aged 4 – 12 years.

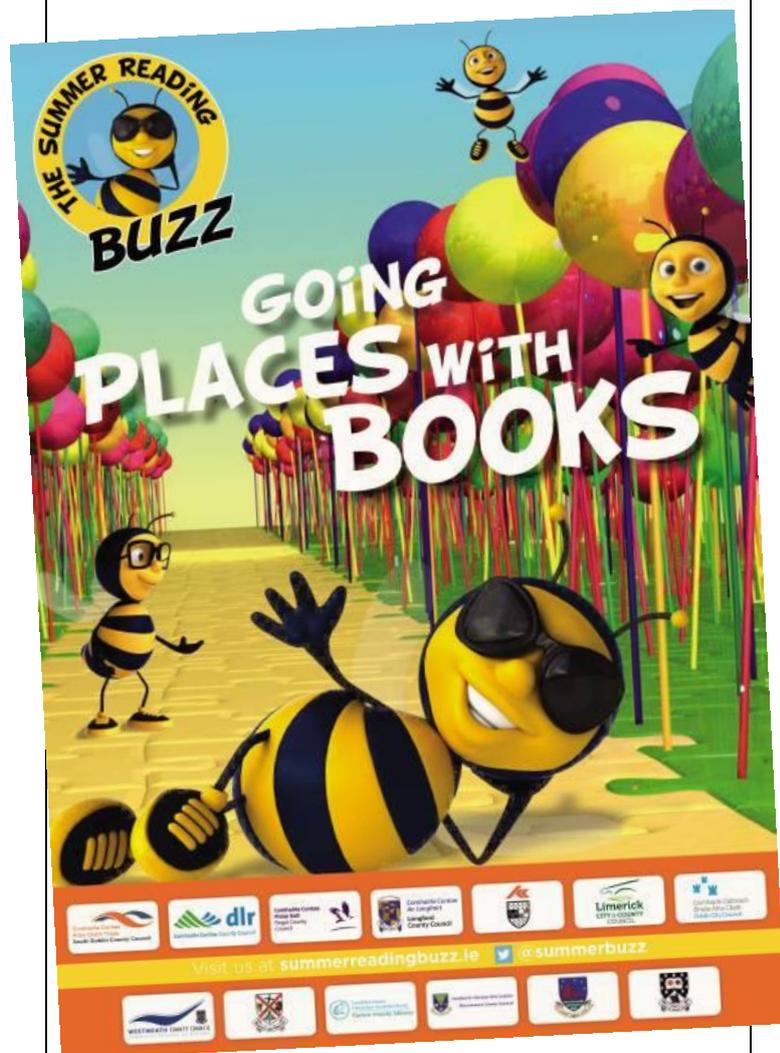
Register for FREE at the library and read 10 books during July and August.

Read all 10 books and get a gift and certificate in September.

Sign up at your nearest Library from 01 July.

Lots of FREE activities on in the library during the holidays also to keep you BUZZY!!

We would encourage all the pupils to participate in this challenge; it's an opportunity not to be missed!



Cycle to Knockma

The senior pupils cycled and climbed Knockma on Friday 19 June; not a bother to them! We undertook this outing as part of National Cycling Week.



Winners alright!

Many thanks to everybody who voted for our entry to the Dulux Paint competition online. We were the highest placed school in Galway and consequently we won paint to the value of €750! All this paint will be used to paint the outside of the school over the Summer. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Brendan Dunleavy, Breda McHugh and Geraldine Molloy for making our entry possible.

Words of thanks must also be expressed to Vincent Judge and all those on the Local Rural Social Scheme who will do the painting for us.



Fathers Day Art

Every Father likes a new shirt and tie! Even more so when they conceal words of endearment!



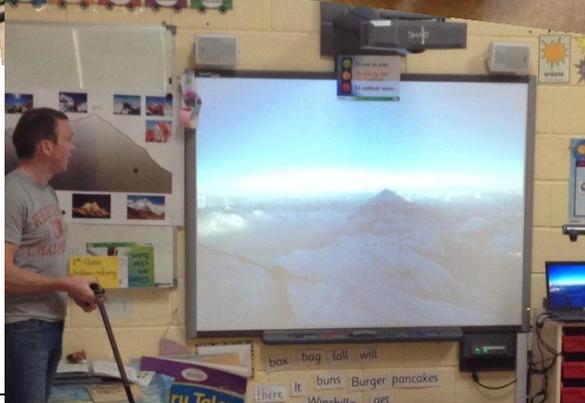
Winners Announced
17th June

There will be three main winners and runner up paint prizes for each county winner.

From the top of the world to Castlehackett NS

Renowned mountain climber and local Killarner hero Peter O'Connell recently visited us to relay his story of becoming the first Connacht man to climb Mount Everest on 13 May 2013. Pupils and staff alike were awestruck at the details of Peter's achievement. He gave freely of his time and we are very grateful to him for his visit.

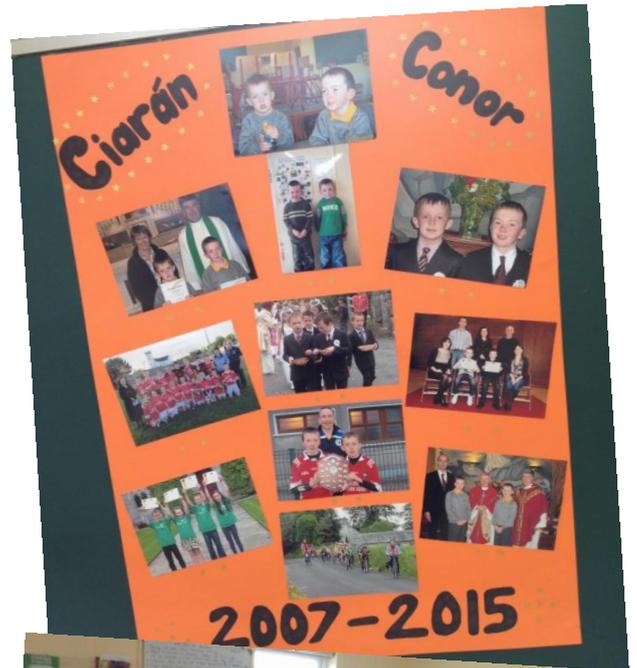
There are no insurmountable obstacles in this life, only conquerable challenges. Peter is living proof of this. He is a true inspiration.



Graduation Mass

A Graduation Mass/End of Year Mass took place on Tuesday 23 June. The mass was celebrated by Fr Hughie Loftus and all of the children sang and played instruments in the service. It was a special occasion.

We wish our 6th class pupils well in secondary school; we will miss them in Castlehackett NS. We do however realise that the time is right for them to step up and tackle greater challenges. We have every confidence in them that they will succeed admirably.



New Graded Readers

We are really looking forward to introducing graded readers as supplementary reading material for our infants from September. These books are of low difficulty and of high interest and have been proven to improving infant literacy levels substantially. If only we were small again!



Annaghdown U14 Hurlers

The victorious Annaghdown U14 Féile national title winners, called to share their tale of success with the school on our last day. Congratulations to them and I know their great win will inspire more of our pupils to take out the camán and play for their parish.



Our New Junior Infants

Our new infants started for a half day before the holidays. There were no tears! All of our new pupils seemed really excited about the fact that they were now starting big school!



We are looking forward to meeting them all again in September.

Castlehackett 8K Race Footage

Pupils and staff watched edited footage of our 8k to backing music on our final day. This will be uploaded onto YouTube shortly. A massive thank you is owed to Clodagh McDermott for capturing and editing all this footage for us. Everybody really enjoyed it.



Sunflowers

Vincent Van Gogh the post-impressionist artist was the muse for our final art class of the year. His sunflowers painting really captured the imagination of all the pupils. Let's hope all this talk of sun will bring it out to shine for our summer!



Tiny Tots Graduation Day

All of our Tiny Tot children graduated with first class honours from their ECCE year in their final week there! They performed for the whole school during their passing out parade. They were a credit to all of their parents and to their tutors Thelma O Reilly and Linda Hession. Well done to them all.



Departing Teachers

Unfortunately we have to say farewell to three fine part time teachers from September. Mairéad Conroy, Aislinn Flaherty and Mary Rooney have been a wonderful asset to our school and will be sorely missed by pupils, staff and parents alike. We wish them all the very best in their future teaching careers. We invite them to visit us at any time in the new academic year.



Parents Association Committee

A closing balance of €1,933.53 was reported in the Parent Associations account for the end of this academic year. We had a most productive year which saw the PA purchase blinds, our school sign and play equipment amongst other items for the school. We are indebted to them for this and for all of their support during the past year. PA accounts for the year are available for any parent wishing to see them. A new PA will be elected in September 2015.

Departing Gifts

Our 6th class pupils presented the school with a self pollinating apple tree and a box of sliotars on their final day in Castlehackett NS. We are very grateful to them and their families for their kindness and thoughtfulness. These gifts will ensure that many happy memories with the pupils are kept alive for years to come.



Certificates for Full School Attendance

Congratulations to Conor Glynn, Iarlaith Costello, Oisín Molloy, Cora Neilan and Sinéad Kilcommins who will receive certificates for full attendance. This is a remarkable achievement for them personally. We thank their parents for their fine example and support.



Health & Wellbeing Session

Our Resource and Learning Support teachers concluded their third and final health and Wellbeing session with each pupil individually before the holidays. We want to ensure that your child's emotional and social needs are adequately met in school. We realise here in Castlehackett NS that proaction is always better than reaction in this regard!

Note from Principal

Summer holidays are here! The extra length of this month's issue is due to the fact that June is such a busy time in school. What's contained here is only a fraction of all that really took place over the final month in Castlehackett NS! We choose the items that we considered of greatest interest to you for this issue!

A sincere debt of gratitude is owed to you all (pupils, staff and parents) for your support since September. Without your genuine interest, Castlehackett NS couldn't provide the range of educational experiences for our children that we currently do. Well done on this. You are our greatest asset and I am acutely aware of this.

At this point it is time for a well earned break for our pupils and staff (parents never get this luxury of course!) I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe summer and that blue skies begin to expose themselves very soon! Looking forward to seeing you all rested and rearing to go again on 01 September. Slán go fóill.

Is mise le meas

Fergal Ó Neachtain

Thought for the month

