

Castlehackett NS

Our School Newsletter

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

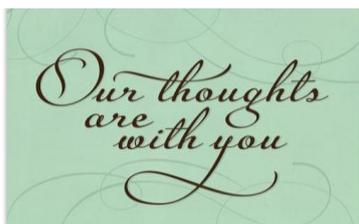
Issue No. 9 – May 2015

Cuirimid fearadh na fáilte roimh chuille dhuine a thiocfaidh ó chéin agus ó chóngair, ar an Domhnach, 7ú lá de Mhí an Mheithimh ar Lá An Rása Mhóir! Is ocaíd speisialta í seo dúinn i Scoil Naomh Iosef agus ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghéabháil le na hiomaitheoirí roimh ré as an tacaíocht a thabharfaidh siad dúinn. Maith sibh! Táimid lán cinnte go mbainfidh sibh sult as an lá, go labhróidh sibh le bhur gcairde faoi agus go mbeidh sibh in ár measc arís an bhliain seo chugainn (le comhlúadar!) ag iarraidh barr feabhais a chur ar bhur n-amanna!! Bainigí taitneamh as ár nuachtlitir chomh maith!

Note of Sympathy

The whole school community expresses their deepest sympathy to Michael, Pat and Pauline Cunningham and their extended families on the death of their sister Ann, a past pupil of Castlehackett NS.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam



Welcome to our bumper edition of our monthly school newsletter. Due to our inaugural 8k being just around the corner, we've decided to publish this special edition. It's a treat for all our visitors on 07 June!



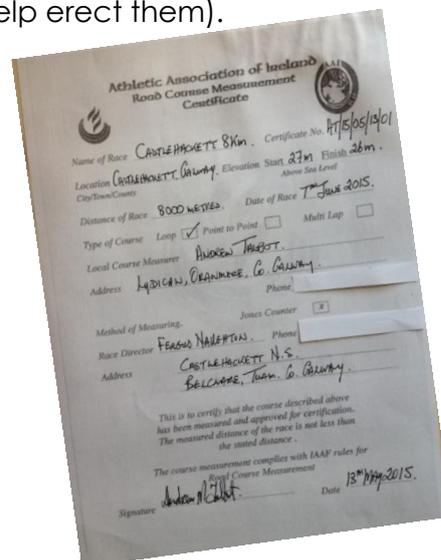
Official Race Launch

County Mayor Mary Hoade launched our Castlehackett 8k in early May. We were delighted to have her. Race numbers are clearly visible! The anticipation has been growing steadily since.



The proof is in the picture

Many thanks to Mr Andrew Talbot for measuring our 8k route officially for us. We are very proud of our official AAI Road Course Measurement Certificate. All the kilometre markings will be clearly visible (in the precise locations) on the route thanks to Aislinn Flaherty (who made them) and Ivan Morris (who will help erect them).



Castlehackett 8k by Numbers...

28 – the number of sponsors at the time of going to print but which is likely to increase, such is the generosity of people! Their total contribution to date is in excess of €3,000!

10 – the number of categories with a total prize fund of €650!

1000 – The number of personal invitations sent to all corners of Ireland and further afield!!

30 – is the number of minutes it will take the leading athletes to cross the finish line!

50 – the number of volunteers who will make this whole event possible!

7 – the number of qualified teachers who will operate our crèche for the day!

50 – at least the number of loaves that will be required to feed the masses!

8 – the distance in kilometres that all participants will cover on the day. This has been measured meticulously with a metallic measuring tape down to the last centimetre (all 800,000 of them!!).

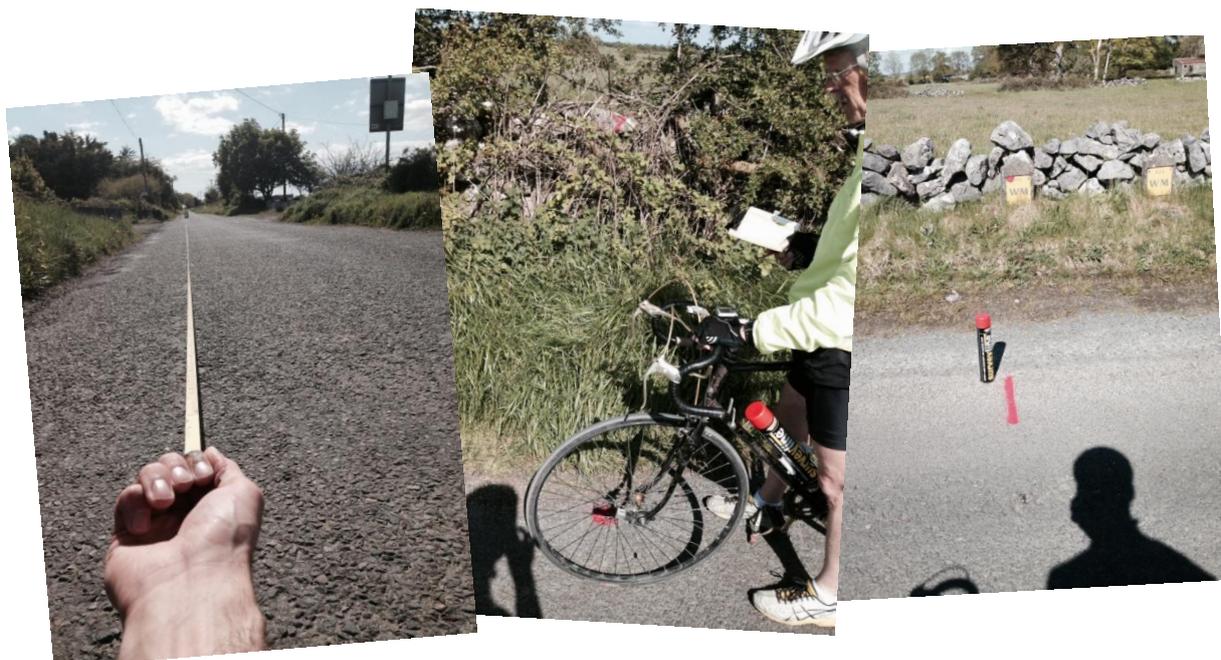
500 – the hours that have been collectively and voluntarily given to organising this event to ensure everything runs smoothly on the day

1 – Where the Castlehackett 8k ranks in terms of organising the biggest and best inaugural 8k Run, Jog or Walk event in the West of Ireland (if not the country) this year!!!

1000 - the km collectively driven by all of our organisers in attending meetings, flier drops, equipment pick-ups, poster erections etc in the lead up to this event!

4 – the number of major sporting events attended to promote our Castlehackett 8k!

10,000 – our fundraising target to construct our 250 metre athletics track!



Thank you for being a part of it!!

Why Choose the Castlehackett 8k?

Whilst this may be a bumper edition of the newsletter, there still wouldn't be enough room to list ALL the reasons you should choose to do our 8k, so below we've listed some.

- ❖ It's a local scenic route in the foothills of the beautiful Knockma
- ❖ There will be marshals at every junction and a water station at the half-way point.
- ❖ All monies raised will help fund a 250m athletics track in the area.
- ❖ Accurately marked and measured along the race course running line using a Jones Counter. An official AAI road course measurement certificate has been obtained.
- ❖ Finishing time plus race position will be recorded digitally and emailed to all finishers after the race.
- ❖ A guaranteed race atmosphere with post race refreshments and reception for all participants
- ❖ Generous sponsorship has been secured meaning that prizes totalling €650 will be awarded over 10 categories.
- ❖ There is a free child-minding service provided for all participants should they require it.
- ❖ Warm up plus free post race treatments (should they be required) provided by Mr Sean Mulroe, Sports Therapist
- ❖ 1k Junior Race at 11am on the day
- ❖ All race finishers will be presented with a bag of goodies! It's our way of expressing our thanks for supporting our event.

We hope these reasons and more will see you back here again next year!

And in other news...

Congratulations to Mrs Mary Rooney (one of our resource teachers) and her husband Michael, on the birth of their son Eoin Michael on Thursday 21 May. Both Mother and baby are doing very well. We wish them all many years of health and happiness together. We look forward to Mary's return in November.

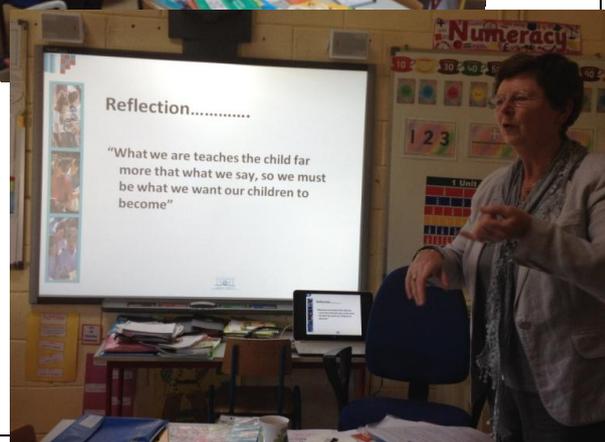
Professional Development

Teachers attended a school self evaluation seminar in Galway Education Centre recently. As always the staff of the school opted to attend professional development training at this very busy time of year in school. Míle buíochas!

Relationships & Sexuality Training

Joan Boland from the Professional Development Services for Teachers attended the school on Tuesday 26 May to offer Relationship & Sexuality Education (RSE) training to all the staff. We learned how to teach the younger pupils how to tell the difference between male and female in a young baby (note the plastic dolls in the photograph!). We also learned how to approach the more sensitive issues in the senior room!

RSE will be provided for all pupils in June.



Girls football

Congratulations to the girls Cumann na mBunscol 5-a-side team who were narrowly beaten by Caltra NS in the county final recently. They played brilliantly in their 3 preliminary games to qualify for the final. They were most gracious in defeat and they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school on the day.



Communion Day

Congratulations to all the communion children on making their First Holy Communion on Saturday 16 May. We thank all the parents and Fr Loftus but most especially we thank Ms Mary Kelly, their class teacher, for preparing the pupils for their big day.

Well done one and all.



Boys Hurling

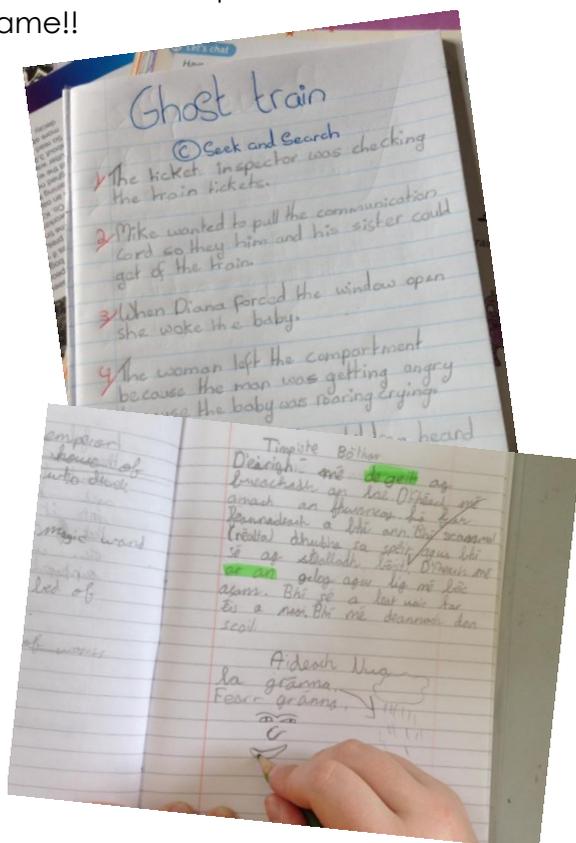
Castlehackett NS played in their first Cumann na mBunscol hurling 7-a-side competition on the 14 May. They played magnificently and were only narrowly beaten by Ballinderry NS. We're really looking forward to taking part in the *Anthony Murphy Cup* hurling competition organised by Sylane Hurling Club, for the first time starting on 09 June next.

Up Castlehackett NS!



Top quality presentation

The pupils in Castlehackett N.S. are very proud of their work. How about this for fine presentation? It puts their senior teacher to shame!!



Friends of Castlehackett NS

We welcomed Richard Clancy and his wife Anne to the school on 25 May. Richard's great grandfather, Dr John Bligh, attended the school in the 1800s and was the first third level student to graduate with a degree in surgical medicine from Galway University. Richard and his relations in the UK are obviously very proud of this fact, as are we. They are generous benefactors of the school and we thank Mrs Anna McHugh, a grandparent in the school and local historian for establishing this connection.

We also welcomed back our friend and former principal Mrs Mary Herson on the day.



Bligh Award Winners

Two pupils in the senior room scooped the annual Bligh Awards on 25 May. These were presented by Richard Clancy and his wife Anne on the occasion of their visit. The pupils earned the awards not only for their academic achievements but also for their dedication and leadership qualities on the sports field. We are very fortunate to have such role models for all our pupils.



Our Recycling Appeal

Our next collection will take place on 17 June 9.30am. Please ensure all recyclables are in the school before this date. We have 200 bags already collected! Keep up the good work!

We are also collecting old mobile phones and these can be left in the box in the entrance hall at the school.

Acorn Cup Shield Winners

The football team played their best football all year when it counted, in the final of the Acorn Shield against Kilroe NS on 28 May. They had a convincing victory. Their coaches David Glynn and Ann Kilcommins were inspirational as always.

Well done to all involved.



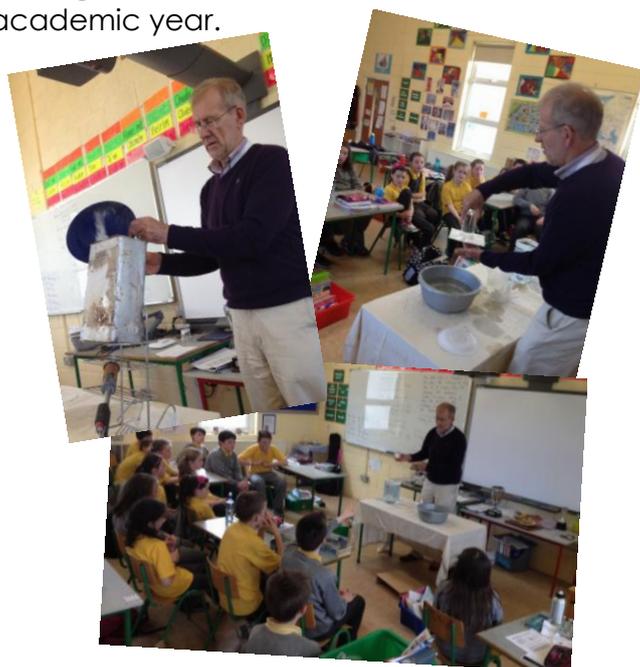
Tiny Tots Open Day

Tiny Tots open day takes place on the same day as our Castlehackett 8k. We are very proud of our preschool facility and we invite you to come and see all that it has to offer on the day. Many thanks to Thelma O Reilly and Linda Hession for all the wonderful work they do there. The children are so fortunate.



Science Workshop

Malachy Naughton visited for his final science workshop of the year on 29 May. An unusual Bunsen Burner and an equally unusual tripod stand were produced! When the laboratory was set up it was down to work. The pupils helped prove through experimentation that air occupies space, that air exerts pressure and that air pressure can act upwards. All the experiments were subsequently recorded by the pupils. We thank Malachy Naughton for sharing his time with us and we are already looking forward to his return in the new academic year.



Tiny Tots on Tour

Our preschool children line up at the school gate in anticipation of their school tour bus that took them on their annual outing on 29 May. The dark rain clouds gathered over head, yet it was jubilant mood all around before they headed for Galway.



Why you should choose to enrol your child in Castlehackett NS if it is your nearest primary school (We don't want you to miss out!)

- (1) Our greatest resource is our staff. They are constantly engaging in continuous professional development and are only satisfied when they have maximised the potential of all their pupils.
- (2) A stand alone infant teacher from September 2015.
- (3) 15 confirmed new comers for September 2015. Additional staff will be employed. There have been other expressions of interest in enrolment. As spaces are limited we would urge prospective parents to submit completed enrolment forms ASAP to avoid disappointment.
- (4) Should you be 3.2km or further from your NEAREST primary school, the state is obliged to provide bus transport for you. The current route is not set in stone and can be amended as necessary.
- (5) A brand new state of the art resourced facility is being refurbished to accommodate our Tiny Tot ECCE year pupils in September. All works will be carried out during the Summer Holidays. Please note that Tiny Tots are holding their open day today in one of the rooms directly inside the main front doors of the school facing the road (this will be the new location for Tiny Tots). You will get a glimpse of what the facility may look like in September there.
- (6) We have a most favourable pupil/ teacher ratio. The pupils get guaranteed individual attention as a result.
- (7) A state of the art purpose built school that is less than 10 years old.
- (8) There is no overcrowding in our spacious playing area. Every pupil gets an equal opportunity to use our play equipment and get chosen for school teams.
- (9) There is a very good school atmosphere and the success of our school is based on a spirit of partnership.
- (10) Talented Youth Academy Scholarships.
- (11) Afterschool clubs.
- (12) A hugely supportive Parent's Association.
- (13) Effective communication by means of a monthly newsletter and a regularly updated website.
- (14) ICT and Scratch Programming classes.
- (15) Healthy Eating Policy amongst others available to read any time.
- (16) Green Flag. (We are currently in our fourth successful application. Our theme is transport)
- (17) Huge emphasis placed on PE and lunch time training sessions. We involve the pupils in football, athletics, hurling, basketball and swimming.
- (18) Music classes with renowned musician Matt Cunningham.
- (19) Science and experimentation with science teacher Malachy Naughton.
- (20) An bhéim ar labhairt na gaeilge.
- (21) Irish Dancing classes with World Champion Dancer Susan Shaughnessy.
- (22) The benefits of a dedicated school library/paired reading/debating/book rental scheme.
- (23) An excellent special needs department.
- (24) A healthy attitude towards competition participation.
- (25) Individual *Health & Wellbeing* sessions for all pupils.
- (26) Concert nights and community events.
- (27) An organic school vegetable garden.
- (28) School Outings/school tours.
- (29) A welcoming place for past pupils. Many of whom have availed of work experience opportunities.
- (30) A soon to be constructed 250m athletics track! We will be the only school in Galway to have such a facility!

Best Foot Forward

The *Golden Boot* was presented to the senior room on 29 May for all the extra effort the senior pupils made in the preceding week in walking to school. What room will win next week? Many thanks to the Green Schools Committee, their teacher Elizabeth Keady and their director Caithriona Cunningham for their continued commitment in getting us all more active.



Splash of colour!

We entered the "Dulux Lets Colour Awards" on 25 May. The mini film we created is available to view online on the school website and also our Facebook page. We urgently require your votes so that we're put in a position to win paint and painters for our school! In order to vote you must have a Facebook account and follow the link on our school Facebook Page and search for 'Castlehackett NS' and hit the vote button. Simple as that!! You are allowed one vote per day so please vote daily. We need all the votes we can get. So please consider sharing the link to your own Facebook page and ask your friends to vote for us too. Our mini film was written, directed and edited by Brendan Dunleavy. A massive thanks to him and to all the actors!

Staying on the painting theme, we look forward to having Geraldine Molloy create a mural with the pupils in the front corridor of the school in the coming weeks. We know how talented our pupils are but what about our parents; simply fantastic!

Quote of the Month

"It doesn't matter how slow you go, so long as you do not stop."

New Junior Infants

We welcome our new Junior Infants for one day on Thursday 25 June from 8.50am until 12.30pm. They will get to meet their new teacher Mrs Noelle Gannon below (without her witch's hat!) on the day. Please ensure any outstanding enrolment forms are returned then. Please note that the new infants **do not** have to wear the school uniform.

We are really looking forward to having them.



Note from Principal

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh ár gcúirteoirí taitneamh as ár gceiliúradh álainn i Scoil Naomh Iosef. Lá speisialta a bheidh ann dúinn go léir. Tá obair na gcapall curtha isteach agaibh le tamallín anuas ag fáil réidh leis an rás mór agus ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghéabháil libh as sin. Cá mbeadh aon scoil murach a dtuismitheoirí agus a mbaill foirne? Níl ag teastáil uainn anois ach an ghriain! Abairigí paidrín beag! Is deacair a chreidiúint nach bhfuil ach trí sheachtain eile fágtha go dtí deireadh na scoilbhliana! Cár imigh an bhliain sin? Ní bhíonn in aon rud ach seal beag is dócha!

We also thank all of our Castlehackett 8k participants in advance for supporting our Rás Mór. We look forward to having them back again next year!

There's lots of work and other interesting projects to be completed and reported about in June. Read about them all in our next and final issue of our Newsletter for the 2014/2015 school year!

Is mise le meas

Fergal Ó Neachtain

PS All previous editions of our newsletter since September 2014, are available online at www.castlehackettns.ie. Please have a read.