

Castlehackett NS

Our School Newsletter

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Tá fáilte romhaibh ar ais arís. Cár imigh Mí Mheán Fómhair orainn?! We're excited about the year ahead and once again we look forward to sharing the highlights from Scoil Naomh Iosef with you here in our monthly newsletter. Don't miss it!

Off to school we go...

All of our new infants have settled into routine superbly. They are at the centre of all we do in Castlehackett NS. The transition for all the new students was seamless thanks to you, the parents, and Noelle Gannon, class teacher; well done to all.



Summer Works

A special debt of gratitude is owed to everybody who ensured the internal renovations, which included a new facility for Tiny Tots, the new Principal's office and the new Learning Support room, along with the external painting to the school were all completed in a hassle free manner and on time before the school recommenced.

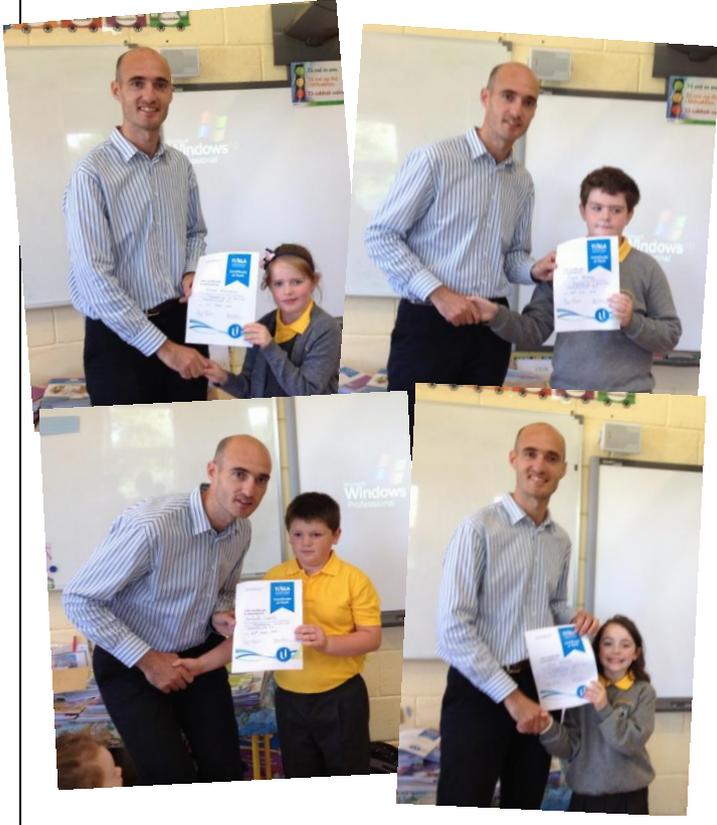
In this regard a special mention has to be given to Ivan Morris, Tony McHugh and all the local Rural Social Scheme members; Vincent Judge, Pat Shaughnessy, Thelma O'Reilly and her husband Dermot and the whole staff of the school who ensured our pupils came back to a clean, modified and stimulating learning environment on 01 September.



It was a great team effort. Well done to all.

Full attendance for 2014/2015

Four pupils were acknowledged at our first school assembly of the year for having a full school attendance record from last year. They were presented with certificates. What an outstanding achievement.



School Self Evaluation

We are very proud of our recently completed *School Self Evaluation Report & Plan in Mathematics*. Many thanks to all the parents for completing the survey forms last year and to the staff who helped collate the data and draft the documentation. Please contact the school and request a copy of same should you desire.

We have already commenced on our third subject for evaluation; PE. Survey forms for you to complete are already prepared. Collectively we never take a break from creating the educational centre of excellence which Castlehackett NS is. Well done to everybody.

The Travelling Shop!

Pupils and staff stock up on resources at the start of the year. We now have all the materials that we need organised for the year. Thank you to Ann Creaven from *Cregal Art* for her service.



Healthy Lunchboxes

The HSE issued a useful guide to Healthy eating options for children at school earlier in the month. A copy of this guide has been circulated to all the families in the school. Let's all do our best to ensure healthy eating takes place in our school.



Continuous Professional Development

We thank all staff members for engaging in Professional Development courses during their summer holidays. They completed courses in areas of IT, Special Education and Infant Education. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and conscientious professionals working with the pupils every day.

Sports Enthusiasts

4th class pupils display their gold medals from local club tournaments in hurling and football, which they won during the month. The joy of sport!



iPads for Learning

With our mathematics apps and language apps to boost learning in those areas we are a force to be reckoned with. There is no doubt that technology can be an aid in the classroom when used appropriately!



Guitar Class

On the rare occasion that blue skies reveal themselves we sometimes feel the urge to go outside and play our guitars! 'Ireland's Call' is our latest party piece! We'll be singing it from the top of Cnoc Meadha when we win the Rugby World Cup!!



Book Launch

We congratulate Mary J Murphy (a parent in the school) on the completion of her book entitled 'Caherlistrane'. We are all invited to the launch on Saturday 03 October at 7.30pm in the Caherlistrane Community Centre. It promises to be a very enjoyable night. Winnie McGoogan from Mrs Brown's Boys will be the special guest on the night of the launch.

Ryan Tubridy is pictured with the book 'Caherlistrane' below. Pupil Minette Glynn invited Ryan to visit Castlehackett NS when she met him recently in Ballyconneely. Who knows when he visits he might have some tickets for the Late Late Toy Show in his back pocket!!



Training Sessions

Lunch time football and hurling training sessions re-commenced at the start of the month. The pupils' enthusiasm is infectious. We can't wait for the competitions to start again this year.



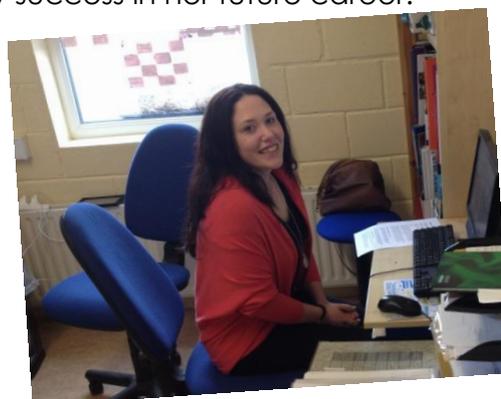
An Múinteoir nua

Ms Lucy Fleming joined the staff this year as our Learning Support teacher and is shared with Knockroon NS. We welcome her to the school.



Work Experience

Past pupil Maria Courtney recently completed a two week work experience in the school. It was a pleasure having her and all the staff thanks her for all her hard work. We wish her every success in her future career.



Castlehackett 8k Update

Footage of our memorable 8k event has been edited. Renowned local musician and past pupil Catherine McHugh is recording accompaniment for it in Dublin at the moment. We are very grateful to her. The finished product will be available to view on YouTube early next week; watch this space!

A constructive meeting was held on Thursday 17 September to decide how best to proceed with the proceeds from our 8k for the construction of our very own athletics track. It has been decided to defer construction until the school closes in June 2016. There are many good reasons for this. In the meantime I'd ask you all to find a good rake and shovel; we'll be looking for help and now that you've been given loads of notice you'll have no excuses!!

Plus now is the time to commence training for Castlehackett 8k 2016! Get those runners on! A date for this event will be confirmed shortly.

Read all about it!!

Journalist Jacqueline Hogge and photographer Ray Ryan visited the school on Friday 18 September to prepare a feature article about our school for The Tuam Herald. We were very pleased with how it went. It makes for interesting reading. Don't miss it!



On yer bike!

Well done to everybody who participated in European Mobility Day on Tuesday 22nd of September. We'd encourage you all to consider walking, cycling or taking the bus to school when it's possible for you weather permitting. All efforts made in this regard will help us gain credit towards attaining our 4th green flag in the area of transport. Together we can all make greener choices. We thank Elizabeth Keady and her green schools committee for leading our green charge!



How much does air weigh?

Weigh a deflated ball. Then inflate it and weigh it again. The result is interesting. Try it! The senior pupils were pleasantly surprised! Science can be as simple as this!



A look into the Junior Room...

Who said learning can't be fun? It's no wonder our pupils love coming to school!



Extra Curricular

We welcome Mr Matt Cunningham (our visiting music teacher), Ms Susan Shaughnessy (our visiting dancing teacher) and our external Gaelic football and hurling coaches again this year. We are delighted to be in a position to offer these extra-curricular activities to our pupils during the school day. Thank you all for supporting these activities. Castlehackett NS prides itself in providing a broad range of educational opportunities for the children attending the school.

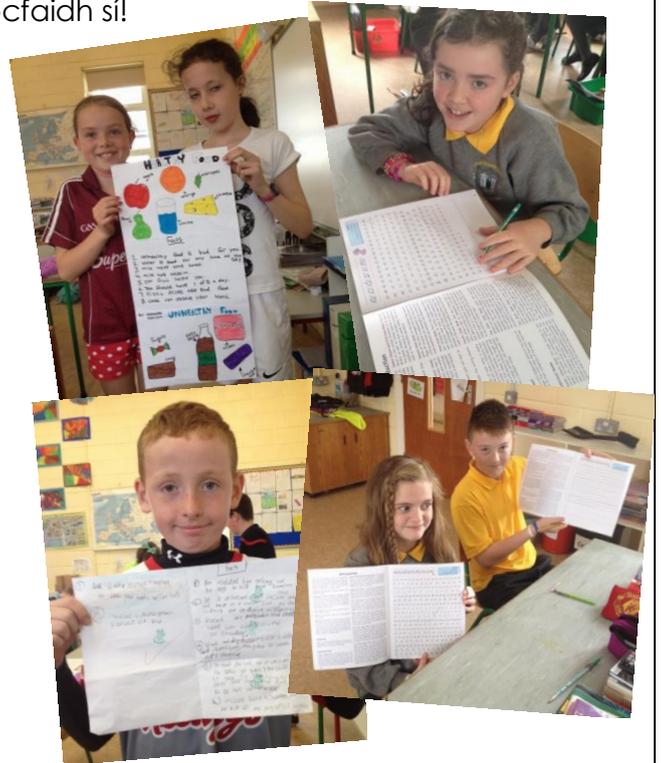
1916 Centenary Celebrations

Members of the Irish Defence Forces; past pupil Dermot Monaghan, Séamus Gannon (Junior room teacher, Mrs Gannon's, husband) and David Mulvaney (a parent of former Castlehackett NS pupils) presented the children with the Irish Proclamation of Independence and our national flag on Friday 18 September. This is a Government funded exercise to create awareness of the centenary celebrations of the 1916 Rising that will take place next year. It was a very memorable ceremony. All the pupils are now considering careers in the military!



Look at this!!

Why not broadcast a small sample of all the fine examples of work that the children have completed with you all?! Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí!



Cúpla Focal for Parents

A basic conversational course for parents to assist their children's learning of Irish will take place in the Ard Rí Hotel, Tuam on 08, 15 and 22 October and again on 05 and 12 November from 7:45pm to 9:00pm.

Please contact Aisling in Tuam Education Centre on 093 25877 from 9:30am to 2:30am Monday to Friday for further details/booking etc. This is an excellent opportunity to learn some new Irish phrases etc that could be used at home in a fun and informal way. We highly recommended it!

Strike a Pose

The school Photographer visited our school recently. We are looking forward to getting to view these photographs shortly.

New Parents Association

A meeting to elect a new Parents Association will take place on Monday, 05 October at 8pm in the school.

A spirit of partnership best summarises the working relationship between all the key stakeholders in Scoil Naomh Iosef. In light of this I'd really appreciate if as many parents as possible could attend this meeting.

Gaillimh abú

We all decorated the school for Galway's quest for All-Ireland Glory earlier in the month. It wasn't to be on this outing but we've every reason to be optimistic for the future! And who knows, maybe Castlehackett NS will produce a future county player or two from amongst their sporting protégés?



We love to paint

We have had the influence of Monet, Picasso and Vincent van Gogh, inspire our art classes in recent weeks; truly stunning.

In the words of Picasso "All children are artists".

How is it that most of us adults seem to lose this gift? (Perhaps I'm only speaking for myself!)



Note from Principal

Next month's e-newsletter will prove to be equally as exciting! We'll have news about a visiting engineer, maths week, Tuam library book week, school debating, purchasing of new science equipment, our after schools clubs and much more!

You can all do your bit to spread the good news stories from Castlehackett NS by telling family, friends and neighbours to check out our school newsletter on our website at around this time every month and to check out our Facebook page for regular updates.

What a fantastic school we have! Well done to the pupils, parents, staff, BoM and the whole school community for creating this very special learning environment.

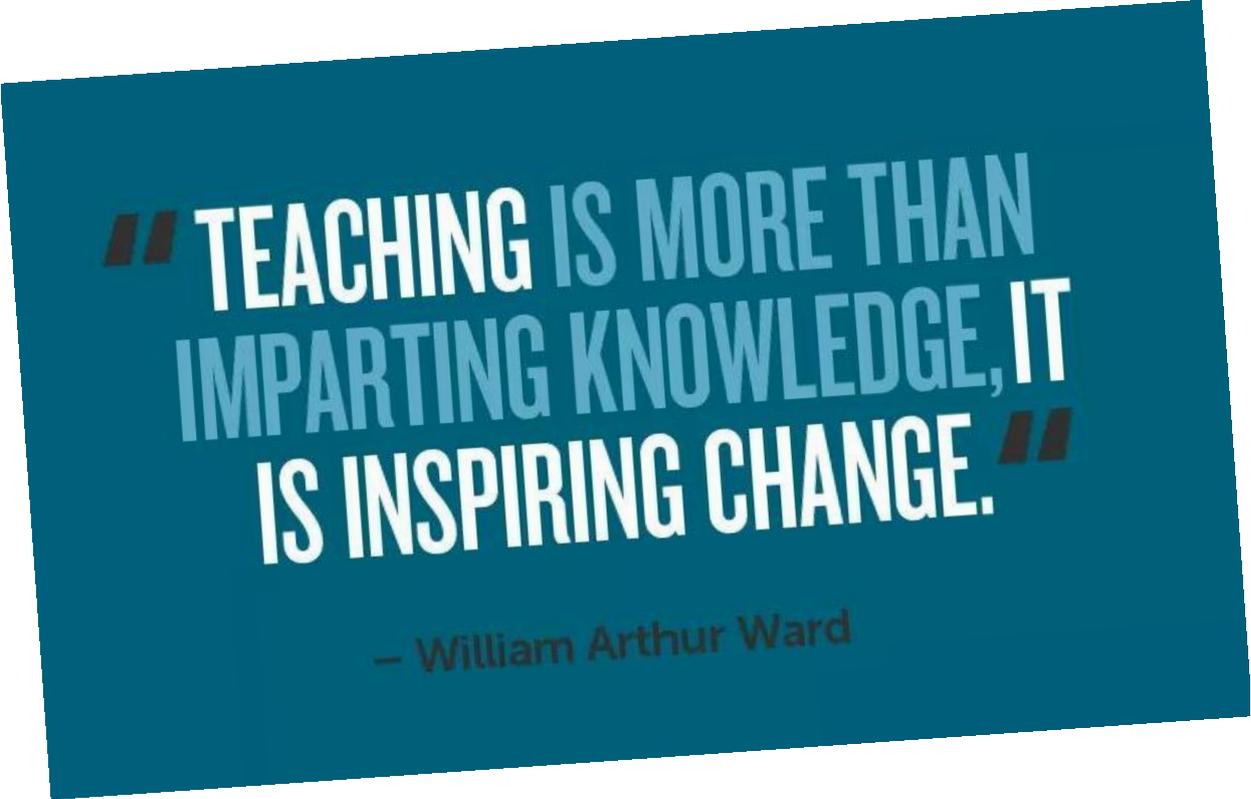
Until the next issue...

Slán agus Beannacht Dé oraibh,

Is mise le meas

Fergal Ó Neachtain

Thought for the month



**“TEACHING IS MORE THAN
IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE, IT
IS INSPIRING CHANGE.”**

– William Arthur Ward