

Castlehackett NS

Our School Newsletter

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Tá fáilte romhaibh ar ais arís. An gcreidfidís tá Mí na Samhna caite agus tá An Nollaig beagnach buailte linn! Táim ag ceapadh go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an eagrán seo. Ní bhíonn easpa nuachta ariamh i gceist anseo i Scoil Naomh Iosef!

You are all very welcome to this issue of our newsletter. We're never stuck for news to share monthly with you here in Castlehackett NS. I hope you enjoy reading about it here.

When Cooper Came a Calling

Legendary senior Kerry footballer Colm Cooper was equally as impressive off the pitch as he is on, as we saw in the manner by which he spoke to pupils and mixed with members of the community on Monday 02 November; a day to remember for sure.



The Gooch meeting some of our own local legends!



Acting as referee for the senior room!

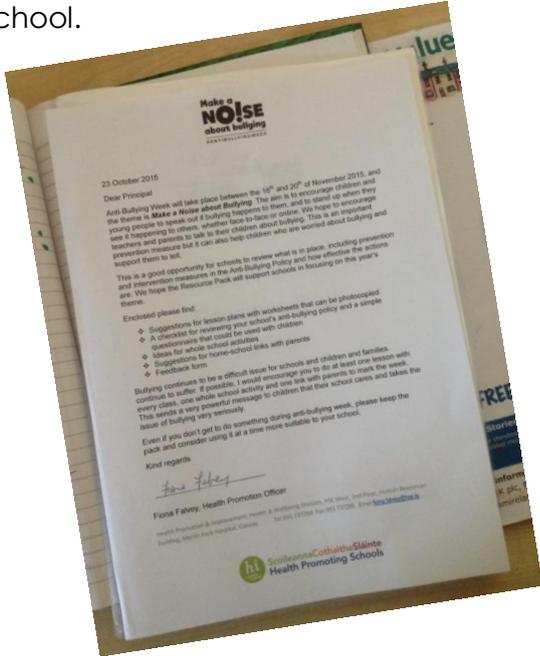


A Q&A session with Colm Cooper



Make a Noise About Bullying

We thank Ms Lucy Fleming for engaging with the anti bullying week in Mid November. She obtained a resource pack with lessons for the school from our health promotion officer. We take our pupils' welfare very seriously here in the school.



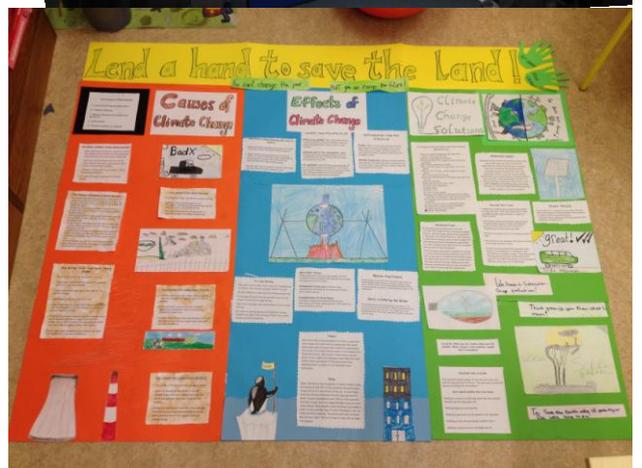
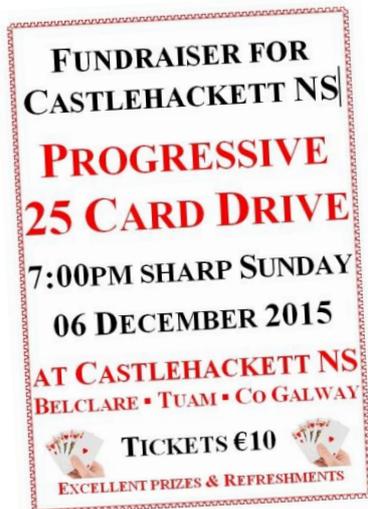
Green Schools Update

Our Green School Coordinator Caitriona Cunningham, visited our school to educate the children regarding the causes, effects and solutions to Climate Change recently. Ms Aislinn Flaherty helped the pupils complete a project on this topic which is still on display in Tuam Library. Renowned environmentalist Mr Gordon Darcy (pictured below) was hugely impressed by the finished product. Well done to all the pupils involved.



Card Drive

We thank our Parents Association for organising our annual Progressive 25 Card Drive. We are also very grateful to all of our card players and non card players for supporting this event in such big numbers every year. It will be another memorable night for our school. It takes place on Sunday 6th of December at 7pm sharp. Spread the word!



New Board of Management

We thank all of the outgoing members of our old Board of Management for all of their dedication and commitment to the school during their 4 year tenure.

A new term has now commenced and the new BoM members are as follows:

Mr Martin Keane (Chairperson and Patron's Nominee); Mr Michael Keady (second Patron's Nominee); Mr Fergal Naughton (Secretary & Teacher's Representative); Ms Lucy Fleming (second Teacher's Representative); Mrs Mary Qualter (Female Parents' Representative); Mr Ivan Morris (Male Parents' Representative); Mrs Bridget Curran (Treasurer & Female Community Representative); and Mr Tomás Treacy (Male Community Representative).

On behalf of the whole Castlehackett NS community I'm very grateful to all of our new Board Members for accepting these voluntary positions on our BoM. Our school couldn't function without their generosity and work input. Míle Buíochas.

New Parents Association

Our new Parents Association has also taken office for its term of one year. On that note I'd like to express sincere gratitude to the outgoing PA for all of their achievements. Every class has a representative on our new association. It's members are Maureen Forde (Chairperson), Martina Griffin (Secretary), James Qualter (Treasurer), Carol Burke, Mary Caffrey, Breda Fitzpatrick, Derek Flynn, Alan Loughrey, Maria Courtney Maher, Geraldine Molloy and Josephine Morris.

All the work that the PA does on a voluntary basis behind the scenes is truly remarkable. The students, general parent body and staff of the school are indebted to them for making Castlehackett NS the special place that it is. At the centre of all the collaborative engagement between the PA and staff is the word *partnership*; together we are a force to be reckoned with!

Wintery scenes from the Junior Room

The junior room have their Santa letters written and their Christmas art on display! The countdown is on!



Cash for Clobber

Well done everybody for bringing in items of clothing for recycling. Together we received a cheque of almost €300 for our efforts. A special thanks to Breda McHugh for being the driving force behind this initiative and for liaising with the recycling company on our behalf.

Faithful Departed

The month of November is a special month for us always in Castlehackett N.S. where we remember all of our faithful departed by placing their memorial cards on a table inside the front door of the school. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.



Tiny Tots



What a fabulous preschool we have. Here's a snapshot of just what goes on in Tiny Tots. The children marked National Science Week (09 – 13 November) and took part in experiments in the classroom. They also tackled construction and looked at different ways of building things. There's something new every week. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Tiny Tots, please pop in for a chat and see for yourself what we have to offer.

Welcome to a new tiny tot

The proprietor of Tiny Tots, Ms Thelma O'Reilly, welcomed her own tiny tot recently! We congratulate Thelma and her husband on the birth of their baby daughter and we wish them many years of health and happiness.



Joe Forde's 'Soldiers of Cumann na mBan' CD launch, and launch of Cumann na mBan: County Galway Dimensions

Mary Kelly, Joe Forde & Mary J Murphy at the launch of Joe Forde's 'Soldiers of Cumann na mBan' single, which was launched with an accompanying book, 'Cumann na mBan: County Galway Dimensions', featuring Eva O'Flaherty of Caherlistrane.

The book and the song will be placed in every library in Ireland, and a copy of both the book and the CD will be given to every national school in County Galway.



Christmas by the Hearth

Seán Keane's 'Christmas By the Hearth Tour' collaboration with senior pupils from Castlehackett NS has enhanced his ongoing & historical links with the school, as the house he lived in at the foot of Knockma was the original Castlehackett school, built way back in 1824. Seán is featured in the new book, 'Caherlistrane' (available in Keanes Shop, Caherlistrane; Easons, Tuam; and Charlie Byrnes and Kennys bookshops. Galway), as is Geraldine Molloy's school mural of Knockma. There are also pictures of many parents and pupils, captured during the recent school 8k run and Bligh/US Embassy school visit last year.



We are all both honoured and privileged to be invited to participate in Seán Keane's 'Christmas By The Hearth' concert in The Town Hall Theatre on Friday 11 December at 8 pm. Pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th class will be singing with Seán on the stage. It's a fantastic opportunity for our senior pupils and one which we are really looking forward to. Tickets will go on sale in Castlehackett NS at a reduced price for both adults and children on Wednesday 09 December only. Otherwise tickets can be purchased at the more expensive price of €20 from The Town Hall. Please tell friends and family about this offer. Contact the school for further details.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Our annual collection of Christmas shoe boxes proved to be very popular amongst pupils and their families this year. There was a massive response once again. It's heartening to see that we reach out to our more needy Eastern European neighbours in times of need. It's what our school's catholic ethos is all about. Many thanks to everybody who contributed and to Breda McHugh for organising it on the school's behalf.



Matt Cunningham Concert

Tickets are available in the school for Matt Cunningham's 'Home for Christmas' concert which takes place in Campbell's Tavern on Monday 21 December at 8:30pm. It's always a fabulous night's entertainment. As you all know Matt teaches music in the school and any support we can give him would be very much appreciated. All proceeds from this concert go to Pieta House.

Religious Inspection

All the classrooms excelled when Ms Ena Sheridan completed her religious school inspection recently. All the pupils sang hymns and communicated all that we had covered in class. We were also in a position to tell our inspector about our sacramental preparations to date. Ena was more than impressed. Many thanks to all the staff and parents for helping to pass on the faith.



Between the jigs and the reels

Susan Shaughnessy, our visiting dancing teacher, puts pupils through their paces during dancing class; Michael Flatley make way!



Learning through Construction

Our recent poor weather during break times only gave our pupils in 1st, 2nd and 3rd class the opportunity to explore the world of construction using different manipulatives! A world of learning, including social learning takes place in these situations and the pupils don't even realise it! The power of structured play!



Visiting Theatre Company

All the pupils were treated to a performance entitled 'The Apprentice Sorcerer' by a visiting theatre company on Monday 30 November. It was a very enjoyable experience for the pupils, some of whom were invited to act alongside the professional actors. This may well have planted the acting seed for some of our students!



Maths Week

Well done to the winners of The Maths Week Quiz in mid November. Once again I thank Ms Lucy Fleming for organising it. Only single scores separated all teams at the end. We love maths!



Staff Professional Development

Many thanks once again to all our school staff who have voluntarily undertaken professional development in areas of I.T., special education, infant literacy and art education. We are all very grateful to them for their dedication and for sharing new content and ideas with other staff members.

Computer Programming

Computer Programming classes are back. It's all about building code i.e. the language of computers. The students are more than proficient in this domain!



Red Cross Donation

Mr Ivan Glesson gratefully accepted a cheque of almost €200 from the children on behalf of the Red Cross on Friday 27 November. The pupils fund-raised this money from their Halloween costume dress up day. All the proceeds will go towards the *Red Cross Syrian Crisis Appeal Fund*. Ivan spoke clearly to the children about the crisis in Syria and about all the other work the Red Cross does in general. There are further details about Ivan's visit on the Galway Red Cross Facebook page.



Random Moments

The following random photographs exemplify the pupils at their best. Castlehackett NS is a fabulous place to learn. I think these photographs bring this message home.



Note from the Principal

The news items in the newsletter only go some way in communicating all the excellent teaching and learning that takes place in Scoil Naomh Iosef every day. There is simply not enough space to communicate all the stories to you. I hope you enjoyed reading this month's issue agus tá súil agam go bhfuil do litir scríofa agat chuig Daidí na Nollag!

Beir bua agus beannacht,

Fergal Ó Neachtain

Thought for the month

“never let the things you want make you forget the things you have”