



SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL

Green Lane, Carlow

Principal: Bernie Murphy

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach Christmas here is our latest school news:

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –

Christmas Holidays commence Friday, Dec. 22nd at 12 noon. (Pupils wear clothes of choice.)



School re-opens Monday, 8th Jan. 2018 at 9a.m.

Mid-term break – school closed 15th and 16th Feb. 2018

School closed Monday, March 19th – St. Patrick's Day.

Easter Holidays – school closing 12 noon Friday, 23rd March and re-opening Monday, 9th April 2018.

ENROLMENT REMINDER: If you have a daughter due to start school with us next year, *please make sure her name is registered by Jan. 31st 2018.*

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Woods on her appointment as Deputy Principal!

PARISH LOTTO: Our school won €20,000 in the Parish Lotto. Great plans are in motion!

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: The standard of the shows just continues to soar! Great credit to all the teachers for their incredible work with their classes.

CONCERT DVD: Copies of the DVD are available from the office for €10.

PARENTS' COUNCIL RAFFLE: Yet again, a huge thanks to our immensely supportive Parents' Council who raised an amazing €3,775! Fantastic hampers were made up by the Parents' Council and caused lots of excitement in the school! *Remember, all money raised is used to fund activities in the school.* Sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our sponsors too! *(P.S. The Parents' Council would be grateful if you would return any unwanted baskets to school for re-cycling!)*

PARENTS' COUNCIL NEWS: We'd like to thank out-going chairperson, Deirdre Kennedy, for all her phenomenal work and we welcome Eileen Doran as the new chairperson!

TREASURE HUNT: Our part-time secretary, Helen, put together a wonderful Treasure Hunt which all the classes enjoyed yesterday. Thank you to all for donations received on the day, the proceeds of which will go to *Medicine Sans Frontier* to help the plight of Rohingya refugees. A total of €308 has been raised to date.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Thank you also to Donough O'Brien and his students who made and sold Christmas decorations. The €176.22 they raised will go to the same cause.

CHRISTMAS ANNUALS: Thank you to our SNA, Miss Byrne, for again organising the sale of the Christmas Annuals which are so popular every year!

ACHIEVEMENTS: We are stunned at the standard of art achieved by our pupils and have received great compliments from judges! Yet again, our pupils have featured prominently in art competitions.

Congratulations to the following:

G.B. Shaw/Nationalist Christmas Art Competition : Oliwia Mordas (6th Class) was the overall winner.

Oliwia's entry was published in the Nationalist along with other entries from Scoil Mhuire gan Smál. She has won a workshop for her class in *Visual* in the New Year.

Bank of Ireland Christmas Art Competition: Nancy Byrne Haughney (4th Class) was the winner.

Student Concept Competition: Megan Townsend (5th Class) won 2nd place with her invention, "The Bully Eliminator". Kasia Pawlus (6th Class) was awarded 3rd place for her invention of a Composter turning waste food into energy.

Two other pupils, Laila Dowling Callinan and Hallie Dowling (both 5th Class) received prizes for their entries too.

SPIKEBALL: 5th and 6th Classes enjoyed coaching from St. Leo's Transition Year students. The girls will take part in a Blitz on Jan. 12th 2018. Best of luck, girls!

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL: Once again a staggering number of boxes was collected this year. Thanks to Ms. Rogers for organising the collection and special thanks to all parents and pupils for these special donations! Míle buíochas!

CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE: Well done to the pupils from 3rd - 6th Classes who participated in last Sunday's Carol Service in the Cathedral. It was a lovely lead-in to Christmas. This year we sang, "Night of Silence". Grateful thanks to the parents who brought their daughters to the afternoon rehearsal and night time service!

CAROL SINGING in the SACRED HEART HOSPITAL: Both 4th Classes paid the annual visit, accompanied by Ms. Calvey, Ms. Dunne and Ms. Byrne. Residents of the Sacred Heart hospital requested the girls especially for this occasion and it truly was a special visit.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: Once again this year, our school will take part in this special Mass for children. Some pupils from 3rd Class will be involved in acting out the Gospel while all pupils from 3rd - 6th are invited to sing. Mass is at 7pm and we look forward to seeing many families on Christmas Eve. Thanks to Mrs. Fitzgerald for her work with the children at evening rehearsal. Thanks also to Ms. Dunne who will accompany the choir and to Ms. Balfe, Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Calvey for helping me with the choir.

SPECIAL VISITOR: Did you hear the Parents' Council arranged for Santa to make a visit last Monday?

GREEN NEWS 1) A Marine Litter Survey was carried out by pupils in 3rd - 6th classes. Results will be displayed in January. 2) Please recycle old Christmas cards, stamps, batteries and old phones in January. 2nd and 3rd places in *Carlow's Tallest Sunflower* competition were awarded to sisters, Ruby, Isobel and Amelia Edwards and to Tasfia Binta Hassain. Congratulations girls!

Santa Goes Green Competition : Entries of wreaths were wonderful, imaginative and creative, all made from recycled materials! Overall winning wreaths were by: Hollie Holden (plastic bin liners and paper flowers), Keeva Nolan (toilet roll tubes painted and decorated with baubles) and Akasa Roarty (recycled book and cardboard). All entrants won a prize.

Cycle training will commence for 6th Classes in the New Year.

A Note from The Presentation School Band – Celebrating 50 years

"Sr. Anna's school band will be 50 years old in 2018. This will be the first milestone for the band that she isn't here to celebrate. However, we hope to celebrate in her honour during the year. For those new to the school, Sr. Anna Hyland was the Principal of SMgS for many years and it is thanks to her that the school has such a strong musical tradition. Under her leadership, the band travelled to parades in New York and Birmingham as well as participating in many local events over the years.

At this stage we would like to flag to all those current and past members of the Presentation Band that we will arrange a least one major event during the year to celebrate and reminisce about the band. Please spread the word to friends and family that 2018 is a special year and we will use various means of communication during the year to let you know what is happening. If anyone is interested in reliving their youth and playing with the band again we would love that to happen. If you are interested in being on our mailing list or have any memories to share please email presbandcw@gmail.com

Join the Band - The band is currently open to all girls from 4th class upwards. If you play piano/keyboard you could play the melodica in the band which could also lead to accordion, any type of wind instrument, anything really that you can march with. Please contact Edwina Hayden, (086 1735944) Band Leader, if your daughter is interested in joining or you'd like to know more. Practice is in the school on Monday nights. For those in younger classes, maybe your daughter would think about learning an instrument to join the band later e.g. Tin Whistle, keyboard/piano.

The Band will be marching on St Patrick's Day in the local parades and will be playing at a Family Fun Day on June 16th in Carlow College."

Please note: The school band also practises on Weds. afternoons, working to re-establish the trad. music Sr. Anna worked so hard to foster. Grateful thanks to Ms. Dunne, Ms. McDermott, Miss O'Rourke and Mr. McEvoy for their work with this group. New members from 3rd - 6th always welcome!

Finally, a sincere thank you to all who work in, and on behalf of, our school. On behalf of the entire Scoil Mhuire gan Smál team, may I wish all our families a truly happy Christmas and a bright, prosperous New Year!

Bernie Murphy

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