



# Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

## Christmas Newsletter 2015



### Competition Winners

**Congratulations to 4th class pupils on winning the FAI Respect Art Competition and winning €100 from the Community Credit Union for our school. Congratulations to Amy Devoy from Mr Herity's 4th class on winning the Folsen Siamsa Art competition. Amy won a Smyths voucher for herself and a Siamsa Christmas annual for all her classmates. Well done to all & remember "if you're not in, you can't win!"**



### Christmas, A Time to Reflect

As we approach Christmas 2015 we reflect on a year that has brought great changes to the world and to our school. The world has been beset by violence and the increasing threat of terrorism. Climate change seems to have fundamentally changed our weather pattern resulting in sights of destruction and misery for many of our citizens. Homelessness has become a major crisis in our cities and towns. Let us remember all those who are less fortunate than us during the Christmas period. Christian values should not be replaced by consumerism and in the true spirit of the season let us all think of those we know who are suffering. Children are ever sensitive to the plight of the less well off and this is always a good time to encourage them to think realistically and modify their personal expectations. Santa is getting older and the recession has hit the North Pole too!



There have been many changes at Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa during the year. Our new playground is proving very popular with all classes. The newly renovated pitch will be fully operational in the spring. Planning permission has been granted for a number of new resource rooms and a new classroom. Children have started saving with the Community Credit Union each Friday in the school. Some new teachers and SNAs have joined us this year since September and we welcome them. Congratulations on the birth of their new babies recently to Ms. Lucey, Ms. Hegarty, Ms Murray, Ms Desmond, Ms. Byrne and Ms. Monaghan whom we welcome back to school next week .

The most profound change that has happened in our school in 2015 was unfortunately the sad and untimely death of Mrs. Olive O'Neill, our SNA of many years. Olive served the community and the school tirelessly right up until June this year. The school community was shocked that such a kind person could be taken from it so suddenly. We miss Olive every day and will be thinking of Des her husband and her three sons, Alan, Stephen and Barry. We hope the arrival of Olivia, Olive's granddaughter, will be of some consolation to the family this Christmas.

I wish all teachers, special needs assistants, our secretary, our caretaker, Bean an Tí, all our cleaning staff, parents and children a very peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you to all the staff at Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa for your commitment to the children and to the parents for your continued support. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

**Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh uilig.**

**Seán Ó Díomasaigh (Príomhoide)**

### Young Scientist of the year project 2016

The children are looking forward to presenting their project at the Primary Science Fair on Saturday 9 January 2016. It is a wonderful opportunity and a great honour for the boys and girls and for the school. This year the children decided to examine genetics and how traits such as eye colour and freckles can run in families. They conducted a survey and collated the information. They discovered some fascinating results. We are immensely proud of them for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. Three awards were made to the school during 2015, one for our work in science, one for maths and a third for the school's participation in the Empowering Minds Project as part of the Yellow Flag initiative. (see Page 3)





Please support your  
Community  
Credit Union  
by  
saving at the school eve-



Thank you to Your Local Pharmacy, Huntstown for its kind sponsorship of school jerseys and its ongoing support for the school.



The Irish Tricolour was presented to the school at the end of September. Ms.



Marie Lynch accepted the flag on behalf of the school and passed it on to the youngest child in the school Lateefa Akinsola

## News in Brief

**Please note that** there are a few mis-prints on the school calendar - the school will close for Christmas holidays on Tuesday 22 December 2015 at 12 noon. There is no school on December 28th.

### Parachute Jump Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that the sum of **€8,110.00** has been raised as a result of our Parachute Jump. Congratulations to all involved for raising these funds and thank you to all the generous donors who contributed to the effort.



### Board of Management

The parents' nominees for the new Board of Management 2015/2019 were elected at the Parents' Association AGM on November 30th. Mr. Joe McNeice and Ms. Sabina Ryan were duly elected. Our outgoing chairman Mr. Tony Hickey is stepping down after 8 years as chairman. We thank him for his sterling service to the school community. His experience as a senior member of the Gardaí was of great benefit to the school. Also thank you to Mr Ciarán Casey for his service as a representative of the local community. Ms Paula Doyle also served the board with distinction during her time as parents' nominee and Ms. Mullany as teachers' nominee gave generously of her time to the board. On behalf of the school community we say "thank you". Ms Dooley is the teachers' nominee on the board. Further details of the new board will be issued later.



### Carol Singing

Children from the school sang carols in the Bank of Ireland, Blanchardstown on the morning of December 11th in aid of the Hospice. Thank you to all who participated and to Ms. Donohoe and Mr. Sullivan who organised the event.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all parents who attended parent/teacher meetings in November. There was a very good attendance by parents and for those who could not make it please make an appointment to meet your child's teacher as soon as possible.

### Credit Union

We are delighted to have The Community Credit Union visiting the school weekly and facilitating children and their parents to open accounts and save on a regular basis. Thanks to the CU for its generous donations toward the purchase of a set of jerseys, raffle prizes and a cheque for €500 to the school funds.

### Your Local Pharmacy

Thank you to **Your Local Pharmacy, Huntstown** for its kind sponsorship of school jerseys and its ongoing support for the school. There is a sample of the new jersey in the column on the left of this page. The jerseys will be ready for The New Year.

### Calendar 2016

**School re-opens:** January 6th. **Mid Term:** February 18th and 19th.

**Easter Holidays:** Closing March 16th and re-opening April 4th.

**May:** Closed 2nd to 6th.

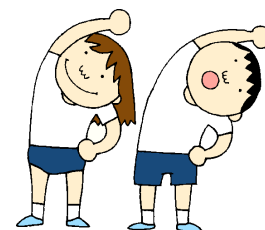
**June:** Closed Monday 6th June.

**Summer Holiday:** Closing June 30th.

Visit our website at  
[www.sacredhearhuntstown.weebly.com](http://www.sacredhearhuntstown.weebly.com)

## Athletics

Ms. Quinn has been very impressed with the number of children taking part in Athletics training each week since we started in September. Some children have improved immensely and they all appear to be enjoying the sport. We will continue to train on Thursday (3rd & 4th classes) and Friday (5th & 6th classes) when we return in the New Year.

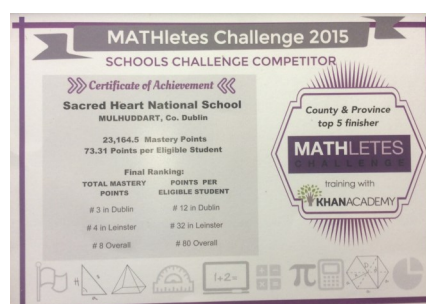
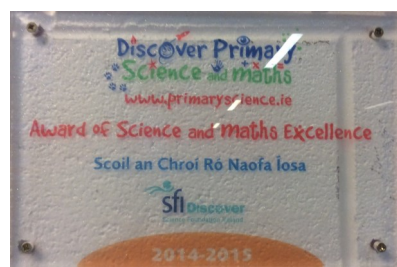


## Operation Transformation 3KM Run

There are boys and girls from 3rd-6th class taking part in a 5 week training programme in order to prepare them for a run on Saturday January 9th 2016 in Porterstown Park at 11 a.m. Please encourage your child to continue with training during the Christmas Holidays. If your child didn't receive a training plan and wishes to take part in the run, they can still train over the holidays. They will need to do between 12-20 minutes running three days a week.



## Awards 2015 for Science, Maths and Roboshow.



## Book Fair 2015

Thank you to Ms. Mullany and the Parents' Association for their hard work during the Annual Book Fair which took place in November. Members of the association were in the school every day during Book Fair week. Thank you to all for a very successful event. There was an impressive range of books to suit all ages. We were delighted with the numbers of parents who visited the fair. A book makes a wonderful gift, giving hours of enjoyment, while stimulating the imagination and extending vocabulary. We hope all who purchased were delighted with their choice and we look forward to our next annual book fair. A big "Thank You" to our Parents' Committee who give of their time so generously to run the book fair.



## Parents' Association

Thanks to the Parents' Association for its continued support. The Association is funding a portable trolley for use with our 19 laptops. Well done to all on the beautiful Christmas cards organised by the Par-

## Planning

Permission has been granted by Fingal Co. Co. recently to the Board of Management for a new classroom and resource rooms. Work should commence in the spring but unfortunately there will be some disruption to the school.

## Soccer Blitz 2015

Well done to the winners of the school's soccer blitz which is held annually in memory of Ciarán Daly. Blitz's Final Squad winners were; Paul Dunne, Ryan Fagan, Senan Keenan, Daire McMillen © Jessica O Connell, Steven Tan, Calum Teeling and Aaron Wall.

## Khan Academy Maths

Khan Academy Maths began in the school this week with internal competitions running between each year group. In total, 240 pupils registered for the initiative from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. The pupils have shown their usual wonderful enthusiasm through their participation in the early challenges. The school has amassed over 13,000,000 points which is yet another testament to the industriousness of the pupils and teachers involved. As a reward for the pupils diligence and determination the school has decided to provide monthly prizes for the winning class in each year group.

Sacred Heart's initial participation in Khan Academy was a very successful. The school was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 120 schools countrywide and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Dublin in 2015. With a greater number of pupils signed up this year we are confident the children can continue to perform well in 2016. Well done to Mr. Hanly for his work on this project.

## Digital School of Distinction

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa has just completed its evaluation for inclusion as a Digital School of Distinction. This is a flagship programme which aims to promote, recognise and encourage excellence in the use of technology in primary schools. Having successfully completed the 3 step programme the school will now receive a nationally recognised Digital School of Distinction Award, accredited by the Dept. of Education and Skills. Digital Schools of Distinction will also receive free hardware and software and ongoing practical support and resources as part of the community of digital schools in Ireland. Much of the credit for this award must go to Mr. Lyons who completed all the paperwork earlier this year. Thank you, also, to Mr. Shelly and Mr. Ó Ceallacháin for all their work since summer to ensure the success of the project



## Dates to Remember

Confirmation: 22nd April at 11 a.m.

Communion: May 28th at 10 a.m. and 12 a.m.



## Yellow Flag Award

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosal will be presented with its Yellow Flag late spring at Dublin Castle This is an important day in the life of the school and is the result of very hard work on the part of Ms Mullany who coordinated the project from the beginning of the school year 2014/15.

Thank you to all the children, parents and teachers involved.



## School Enrolment 2016

School Enrolments for Junior Infants will take place in the school on **Tuesday February 9th, to Thursday February 11th from 10a.m. to 12 p.m. and also on Thursday evening from 7p.m to 8p.m.**



Our school offers the Rainbows Support Programme for pupils (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class) who are experiencing loss as result of bereavement or parental separation/divorce. The programme can begin once sufficient applications have been received to make up groups of children of the same age who are experiencing similar loss. Further information on the Rainbows Programme is available on [www.rainbowsireland.ie](http://www.rainbowsireland.ie). Application forms are available on request from the school office. Please return completed forms to the school office for the attention of Ms. Mullany.

## Sam Visits School

Eric Lowndes, a local member of the victorious Dublin All Ireland winning team, visited the school recently with the Sam Maguire Cup much to the excitement of the boys and girls. Well done to Eric and the team

