



School Calendar 2014

The school will close at **12 noon** on **Friday 20th December** and will re-open on **Monday 6th January 2014**.



February 2014 Mid-term Break:

Our school will close from **Mon 17th to Fri 21st February** inclusive, unless we need to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures.

St. Patrick's Day Holiday: **Monday March 17th** (Public Holiday).

Easter 2014: Our school will close on **Friday 11th April** unless we need to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures. It will re-open on **Monday 28th April**.

May Bank Holiday: **Monday 5th May**

June Bank Holiday: **Monday 2nd June**

Vacation Day: **Tuesday 3rd June**



Summer Holidays 2014 :

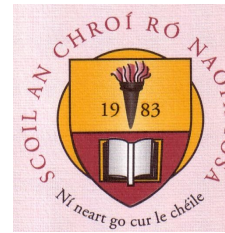
Our school will close for Summer Holidays on **Friday 27th June 2014**.



DANCE CHAMPS!

Well done to **Nadine Farrell** (4th class) and **Anesa Spahic** (5th class) who competed in the **Leinster Grade Irish Dance Championships** in November, bringing home a trophy and 8 medals between them!

Classes with the Fagan School of Irish Dancing will recommence on **Mon 6th Jan** in Huntstown Community Centre at 5pm. Beginners welcome! *For info contact Eileen (0872833124) or Niamh (0857443773).*



NEWSLETTER

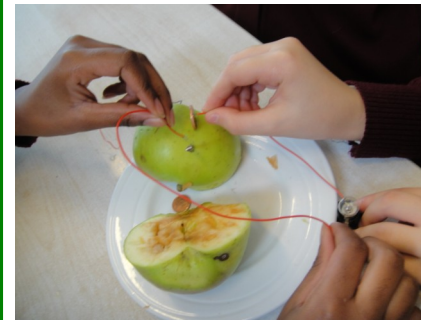
Issue no. 91

December 2013



Young Scientists in Action!

Children from sixth class have participated in **Science Club** every Wednesday since early September. It has been a wonderful opportunity to explore science investigations with other enthusiastic scientists. The children looked closely at the use of electrical current in circuits and explored interesting and innovative ways of creating and altering circuits.



We are delighted that the students have been selected to present their project in the RDS during the Primary Science Fair in January. Run in conjunction with the BT Young Scientist competition, it offers students the chance to showcase their science projects to a wide audience. We are enormously proud of the boys and girls for all their hard work and we look forward to presenting the project on Sat 11th January in the RDS. More info can be found at: <http://www.rds.ie/primarysciencefair>.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Congratulations to Mr. Herity's 6th class pupils from '12/'13 who are now in their first year of secondary school. The children won a 'Spirit Award' and also came joint first in the Primary Schools category of this year's "Let's Talk About Drugs" National Media Awards, with their video exploring the link between alcohol and sports.

Mr. Herity and pupils attended a prize-giving ceremony in September where they were presented with 2 trophies and a cheque for €450. This money went towards the purchase of new football jerseys.

The short film is well worth a watch and is available to download through the competition's website at www.drugs.ie/awards. Well done to Mr. Herity and his past pupils!



BOOK FAIR 2013

We had a wonderful book fair from 11th-15th November. There were hundreds of exciting titles to choose from. Our school will receive books to half the value of the total sales for the week. Many thanks to all who supported this event! A big THANK YOU also to our Parents Committee who run the Book Fair every year. It would not be possible to run our book fair without their help.



A Message from the Principal



“Christmas comes but once a year” is a well know saying. However, it seems to me that we have been in Christmas mode since the witches were taken down in late October. It is a pity that children are been relentlessly bombarded by the commercial world on TV screens, on radio and in newspapers. It is becoming increasingly difficult for children to concentrate and engage at school against the backdrop of the total commercialisation of every event on the calendar. The continued expansion of social networks, the increase in availability of more sophisticated mobile phones, tablets, androids, smart phones etc, etc., make life easier in many ways, but also create challenges for us all, particularly parents/guardians of younger children. These challenges are not just financial. They impose a responsibility on parents/guardians to ensure that children are protected from cyber-bullying and from inappropriate material. I would urge parents/guardians to be more vigilant in the coming year in this area and to support each other in ensuring that there is a community approach to safeguarding of all children.

A new school anti-bullying policy is being drafted for implementation in April of 2014 in accordance with a Department of Education and Skills directive earlier this year. Included in this policy is reference to social media and cyber-bullying. The approach of Sacred Heart of Jesus to this area of policy will be clear. No child under 14 years of age can legally be a member of *Facebook* or *Snap Chat*. If parents become aware of cyber-bullying through either of these media it is a matter for the Garda authorities to investigate. If the school becomes aware that any member of staff is the subject of such messaging, this will be reported to the Gardaí.

Our school year, as usual has been busy and eventful. For the first time ever Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa was represented at the BT Young Scientist of the Year in the RDS in January 2013. In February we a very successful visit of 28 teachers from Norway who were extremely impressed with the school and particularly the children. The former Secretary of State for Massachusetts, Paul Reville and Minister Joan Bruton visited the school to formally open Coiscéim 2 in April. Coiscéim 2 is going very well and we thank the parents for their continued support in raising funds for a playground for the children in the two Coiscéim classes.

Our Children excelled themselves in the Basketball Arena and the National Concert Hall as part of the national Children’s Choir before the summer holidays. Our athletes took part in major events since summer and our football, soccer and hurling teams represented the school marvellously in October/November, culminating in a wonderful Croke Park victory for the Sacred Heart Girls’ Team and a place in the final also for the Boys’ team. Well done to all and to the teachers who give willingly of their spare time to coach, to train and to accompany the boys and girls to all their training and games. Congratulations to Mr Herity’s class which won an award for a short film just before the summer holidays and well done to all children who took part in quizzes, art and essay competitions throughout the year.

Our new classroom and 2 resource rooms were completed during the summer at a cost of €185,000, provided by the Department of Education and skills to replace the classroom and resource rooms lost to Coiscéim 2 last year.

But that’s not all! Just a few weeks ago rehearsals for the musical *Oliver* began. Boys and girls from 4th to 6th class have been busy preparing during their lunch breaks and after school for what promises to be a fantastic performance in the Draíocht Theatre in February. The school owes a great debt of gratitude to the children and the teachers who are giving up their lunch breaks and spare time to rehearse for this production. Well done to all, good luck and thank you.

During 2013 the school developed its school self evaluation plan and continues to implement the literacy and numeracy strategy it embarked on last year. The school is focusing on oral work in mathematics and on reading and oral skills in literacy.

The school staff continues to implement the Croke Park Agreement using the extra hours for planning at class level, for staff meetings and for staff professional development.

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa is also part of a new pilot project, Droichead. The group of schools involved in the project will design a whole school support platform for the induction of newly qualified teachers under the auspices of the Teaching Council.

Our Parents’ Association continues to support the school. Congratulations to the parents for organising the beautiful Christmas cards recently. The Association also worked hard on the Book Fair, the Food Dudes programme and the Confirmation and Communion receptions etc. Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

Thank you to our Student Council for all their work in 2013. The boys and girls raised funding for *Oliver*, they welcomed our special guests to the school and are very active in all school projects. Well done!

Thank you to everyone in the school who work very hard throughout the year, giving freely of their spare time ensuring that our children receive a very broad and holistic education.

It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated staff which is supported by the school community and I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas.



ATHLETICS

So far there has been a great turnout to Athletics Training every week and we hope to see this continue when we return in January. We had great success in the two **Cross Country Meetings** in Porterstown in both the boys and girls competitions. Everyone who took part made themselves and our school very proud! Training with **Miss Quinn, Miss Brady** and **Miss Hegarty** continues every Wednesday for 3rd and 4th and Thursday for 5th and 6th.

COMPETITIONS



Well done to all who entered the **Credit Union Poster Competition** and the **Fire Safety Competition** this year. Fingers crossed we might have some winners! Keep entering competitions and remember.....‘ **If you’re not in, you can’t win!**’.