

# Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa



September Newsletter Special  
Dedicated to the memory of Ms. Olive O'Neill

## Thank You

- Due to the untimely and sudden passing of Olive O'Neill, Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa remained closed at short notice on September 1st. Thank you to all parents and guardians for your support and understanding during that time.
- Teachers, Special Needs Assistants, former colleagues, Parents' Association, board of management and children formed a guard of honour at the church on the morning of the funeral.
- There was a spontaneous round of applause for Olive as her remains left the church for burial at Palmerstown Cemetery.
- The school opened a book of condolences and the Irish Flag remained at half mast for a number of days

## Remembering Ms. Olive O' Neill



We learned with great sadness and shock of the death of our beloved colleague Olive O'Neill on Saturday 29th August. Brimming with cheer and effervescent with energy, Olive played a huge role in the life of our school and our community. Her connections with Huntstown go back to when her three sons, Alan, Stephen and Barry attended the school. Olive was an enthusiastic and encouraging parent who supported the school in every way possible and later joined our staff to work as a Special Needs Assistant bringing care, kindness and warmth to the role. Assigned to support children with specific learning and physical needs, Olive had the foresight and dedication to reach out to all the children in the class. For her, the role of the Special Needs Assistant was to care for every child and she was diligent in her attention to her duties. The great Christian theologian and philosopher Karl Rahner noted that teachers "teach who they are" and so the content of their character is evidenced in the manner with which they interact and care for their students. Olive was eternally positive and she imbued this positivity into everyone she encountered in the school. The true content of her character could be seen in the gentle motherly care she showed to each and every child, the genuine interest she showed to her colleagues and the commitment she showed to her school. It was heartening to see the huge number of students, both past and present, who were at her funeral mass on Tuesday 1st September. It is a true testament to the impact she had and will continue to have on the lives of so many. We feel blessed to have known and loved Olive. We extend our deepest sympathies of the school community to her husband Des, sons Alan, Stephen and Barry and their extended family.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.*

## Olive.. a friend, colleague.. At work and play

Olive lightened the work of the Special Needs Assistants every day with her positive approach to life work and family. Each of us loved her dearly and could always depend on her when we needed a lift. During her illness we were always reassured by her positive attitude that all would be well.

*A light has gone out at Sacred Heart of Jesus School.*

We, the Special Needs Assistants, have lost a dear colleague, a confidante and a friend. September has not been the same. Neither will the future without Olive. We all miss the chats, the gossip and the cups of tea. When we gathered to shop or to travel or to celebrate an event Olive was to the fore, always up for fun. We send our deepest sympathy to Des, Alan, Stephen and Barry and their extended family.

Tribute from the Special Needs Assistants





Olive was happiest when working with the children and caring for others

*‘Olive was not only a colleague, but a friend who was deeply interested in all aspects of school and family life. She connected with everyone through her kindness, empathy and genuine concern for all ‘*

*Seán Ó Díomasaigh  
Príomhoide*



Olive loved to celebrate, especially family

## Olive - My Best Friend .. a poem by Mary O' Connor

When I started work in Huntstown  
You met me like a gentle breeze  
Took me underneath your wing  
And made me feel at ease.

Then over the next few years  
Our friendship grew and grew  
Anytime I needed cheering up  
I always thought of you.

We enjoyed so many good nights out  
The food the wine, the chat  
You were the life and soul of every outing  
Who can ask for more than that?

Every Easter we went travelling  
Maybe Berlin or Budapest  
As a companion and a roommate  
You simple were the best.

When confronted with your illness  
Your bravery was never in doubt  
You remained so bright and cheerful  
And always kept the good sight out.

Now your spirit it will stay with me  
Our friendship, too strong to ever end  
I'm so grateful to have known you  
And I'll miss you Olive—my best friend

### Board of Management

The Board of Management extends its deepest sympathy to Des, Alan, Stephen and Barry O' Neill on the sad passing of Olive, a valued member of the Special Needs Assistants staff at Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa. Olive bore her illness with dignity and a positive attitude which was an example to all. She was always cheerful. Her dedication to the school over many years was unwavering. The Archbishop of Dublin Dr. Diarmuid Martin, Patron of the school, also extends his sympathy to all Olive's colleagues, the school community and to her family.

### School Credit Union

In order to encourage children to save and to make them aware of the credit union movement, the school is opening a Credit Union branch in conjunction with Community Credit Union, which will operate at the school on Friday mornings. Children and parents are encouraged to save money weekly for future events. The Credit Union will operate as a normal branch for the children from 10 am. To 11.30 each Friday.

### Epayments

The school will shortly be making the option of

#### electronic payments

available to parents/guardians. Under this new scheme, parents/guardians will be able to pay the school for books, art and crafts, IT, tours etc. by debit or credit card. This will eliminate the need for cash to be sent to the school and should make payment easier for all. Details will be circulated to all families once the details have been finalised.

## Tributes to Olive

Since the untimely death of our colleague, Olive, many tributes have been paid by parents, colleagues and children, all of which reflect the high esteem in which she was held.

These are just a few of the tributes:

- “Such a warm and wonderful lady”
- “Fantastic woman, will be greatly missed”
- “So glad I had the opportunity to know Olive”
- “You are a big part of our school”
- “always put a smile on my face”
- “beautiful lady”
- “The class miss her so much and talk about her all the time” wonderful lady”

## School Opening and Closing Times ...



**Parents and guardians are reminded of the Board of Management's review earlier this year of school starting and finishing times and of safety issues around these times.**

- School grounds open at 8.30am
- No responsibility is accepted for children arriving before that time
- Classes commence at 8.50am
- Classes finish at 1.30pm for infants and 2.30pm for all other classes
- Children should be lined up outside their classrooms no later than 8.45am

Parents/guardians/minders who collect **infant children** should be at the school no later than **1.30pm**. Parents of children in all other classes, who wish to have their children escorted home, should make arrangements to have them met at the school and the person to escort them should be at the school **no later than 2.30pm** as the school cannot accept responsibility for children after that time.

Children arriving for school in the mornings should **assemble outside their classroom** in the designated areas and remain there until their classroom door is opened to receive them. On wet mornings classroom doors will be opened at **8.30am**, all children should proceed to their classrooms at this time.

Parents and children should **dismount from their bicycles, scooters, Flickers etc. before entering the school ground and should only use the pedestrian gates.** Under no circumstances **should anyone cycle** through the church car park or school grounds at any time. It is illegal to smoke in the school grounds **and dogs are not allowed in the school grounds.**

**Parents are also asked not to obstruct the school entrance by parking in the bus lane or at the school gates. Please cooperate with the Lollipop ladies by not blocking their view.**

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

*Always put children's safety first.*

**Board of Management**

### Parachute Jump

A number of parents, teachers, friends and staff members have completed parachute jumps recently. Congratulations to all and well done. Funds raised will go towards the new playground equipment. The playground is very popular with all the children and affords regular opportunities for all children to socialize and integrate through play.



***"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to Die"***

## Ms. Clare Gallagher Class Teacher 2015... a tribute

I had the privilege of working with Olive for the last school year- 2014-2015. And it really was a privilege. Olive was a huge help and support to both myself and the children. She cared, not only for the children she was assigned to, but for every child in the class, taking the time to get to know them and being a friend and helper to them all.

Olive was a ray of sunshine. She was always smiling, always positive and never complained. I know that there were times last year that were tough for her but Olive's attitude was to

push through it and stay positive. She was truly brave and inspirational. She was also great fun and loved to have a bit of craic with the boys and girls, joining in with all the songs and dances. She had a special bond with the children she worked with and had a warmth and instinct for their needs that cannot be learned. She taught me a lot about working with children with special needs. My class adored her and they miss her terribly. They pray for her every day. They tell me stories about times she was kind to

them or helped them, for example, "She helped me with my writing and she was my best friend" Ava, 5 ½ "She was always smiling and she helped me when my nose was bleeding" Dean 5 ½

We miss her every day. Our classroom is a changed place without her. She was a lady, a friend and a rare person.

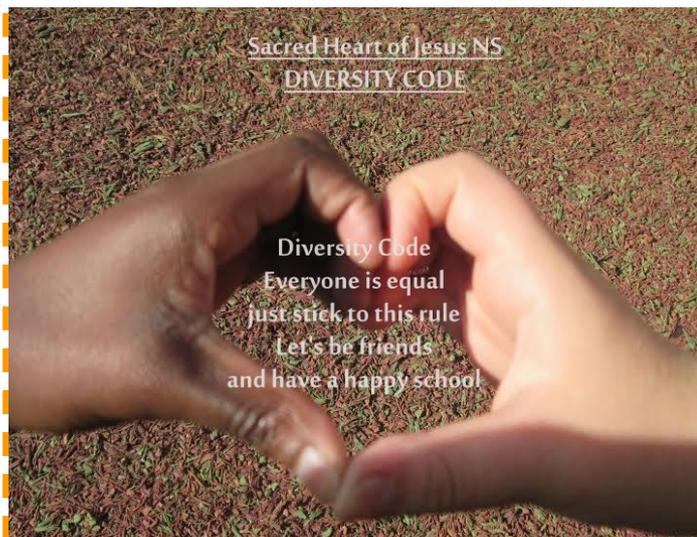
**Rest in peace Olive  
Clare Gallagher**



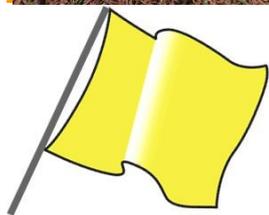
**Olive full of fun and laughter**

## SCHOOL DIVERSITY CODE

## Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa is a Yellow Flag School



The creators of the photograph were Vanessa Covaci and Francesca Butnaru and their models were Claudio Maqueto and Celine Popescu. As part of a unit of work on Newspapers Ms Kirby's class looked at publicity photography. The children took this shot as an image to represent our school as a diverse and inclusive place. The children took many wonderful photographs to represent the school but this **wowed** us all. The project tied in very well with our Yellow Flag campaign Thanks to the hard work of all the teachers, children and parents under the leadership of Ms. Mullany, the school has been awarded the Yellow Flag which will be presented to the school in January 2016. Olive was a keen participant in the Yellow Flag campaign and would be very proud.



### **Tribute from Parents' Association**

The Parents' Association were deeply saddened to learn of Olive's death. Olive was a remarkable lady who brightened up the day of everyone she came in contact with. She was always on hand at any event we held in the school with encouragement and support for us and was always the first one down to see what delicious treats awaited at the Cake Sale! Seeing Olive with the children she worked with demonstrated what a loving, caring and devoted person she was and that she relished her position in the school. Throughout her illness she always smiled, laughed with us and fought her battle with positivity and grace. We have wonderful memories of Olive and will miss her greatly. On behalf of all the parents in the school we extend our deepest sympathies to Olive's family, Des, Alan, Stephen and Barry .

### **Parents' Association News**

The Book Rental Scheme is operating again this year thanks to the hard work of the Parents' Association in cooperation with Ms. O Connor. Considerable work has been put into its organisation before the summer break and since our return to school. Preparations are also well under way for the publication of the annual Christmas cards which are always popular with the children and organised by the Parents' Association. Thank you also to the Parents' Association for its involvement in the campaign which resulted in the school being awarded the Yellow Flag. The Association is also preparing for the Annual Book Fair which it coordinates with Ms. Mullany. The committee represents the school as a community and fund-raise to provide equipment for the children's education and enjoyment. All of the children's needs, abilities and interests are discussed before deciding what project to support each year. The AGM of the Association has been postponed until later in October. Parents will be contacted by text

### **Poem from Olive's S.N.A Colleagues**

Olive fought a very hard battle, but played a brilliant game

It is sad she had to leave us, she has gone straight above

Leaving everyone in numbness and all who she did love,

Olive lived life to the limit, with the glass always half full

The light with which she radiated has now left the school quite dull.

As we sit and ponder over the times and fun we had She can almost be heard saying "Girls things are not that bad"

So may you rest in peace dear Olive and enjoy eternal life.

On earth you were a great mother and a dedicated wife

The cakes and scones you baked are now a legacy

For your friends here in Huntstown School

and your loving family

