

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

Summer Newsletter 2016

Issue no. 98



Principal's Final Address

A time to say goodbye

As you already know, I have to retire from the position of principal teacher of Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa at the end of August. I do so with great sadness as I have enjoyed a long association with Huntstown since 2002. It has been a privilege to work with the children, and staff at the school since then, as National Coordinator of the Induction Project for newly qualified teachers for two years, as the school's inspector for five years and as principal teacher since 2008.

Huntstown will always hold a special place in my heart. I have always felt a great sense of community in the school and a wonderful welcoming atmosphere. It has been a real pleasure to interact with the children over the past 14 years.

The demographics of Huntstown have changed dramatically in recent years. However, the sense of community and the pride the people have in their church and school have remained constant. I want to thank all of you for your welcome, your support and understanding. I thank you on behalf of the teachers and special needs assistants for your loyalty to the school.

The responses of parents and children to the Department of Education and Skills' recent whole school evaluation survey were most encouraging and your positive comments about the school and the teachers were really appreciated. You affirmed all at Sacred Heart of Jesus in our work of providing the very best we can for your children and the community.

As I leave Huntstown, I hope I have lived up to your expectations as a principal, a teacher and a member of the community. I have always tried to do the best for the children whom I have been privileged to serve over the past eight years. Sacred Heart of Jesus is very fortunate to have a committed staff of teachers, special needs assistants and bus escorts and I want to thank all of them for their cooperation, dedication and commitment to the school. I will greatly miss the children and my colleagues who have been very supportive of initiatives in the school. Thank you to the cleaning staff who keep the school so beautifully under the supervision of Monica Connell. Visitors never cease to be amazed at how well kept the school is on a daily basis. Thank you also to Carmel our school secretary and Michael our caretaker for all their work ensuring that the school runs smoothly. Thank you also to Marie, for her long service to the school of over 34 years. She worked in the school in a different capacities, most recently in the staffroom, ably assisted now by Tina, where they look after all staff members preparing for their lunch breaks. Since I joined the staff at Sacred Heart of Jesus, there have been many changes in the school. These have, I hope been very positive for the children. I want to acknowledge the Department of Education and Skills' immense financial investment towards the improvement of the infrastructure of the school during my term as principal. Over €1.5m has been spent on the various projects undertaken by the school. These funds were augmented annually by the very active Parents' Association, which has been a wonderful source of support to the school over many years. The social aspect of its work has been very important and I would encourage parents to join and support the great work of the association in coming years. Children love to see their parents actively involved in the life of the school. Thanks to all the members of the Parents' Association for their work on behalf of the children.

Sacred Heart of Jesus school has always adapted and provided for the children in its locality and further afield particularly children with special needs. I am particularly proud of the school's response to the need for school places for children with autism in the area and want to pay tribute to the school community for the way it has embraced these children.

I want to pay tribute to Mrs. Eileen Kitt for her commitment to the school over 23 years, most recently as a Special Needs Assistant. She has been a wonderful advocate for the children and the community of Huntstown over many years while never forgetting her beloved Mayo! Mrs. Kitt's good humour and kindness will be missed at Sacred Heart.

Greatly missed too is our dear colleague, Olive O'Neill, whose death a mere 10 months ago still casts a shadow over the school. We miss her dearly.

To all farewell, I hope I have done Huntstown some service... "O, blest retirement! Friend to life's decline. How blest is he who crowns, in shades like these, a youth of labour with an age of ease." ~Oliver Goldsmith

Seán Ó Díomasaigh (Príomhoide)



Yellow Flag Award Ceremony in Dublin Castle, May 2016.



'Dragons' Den' comes to Huntstown



Minister Leo Varadkar, TD, opening our new playground, classroom and football pitch, along with Joan Burton, TD, and Jack Chambers, TD.



Visit our school website

www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com



Slán agus Beannacht Mr. Ó Díomasaigh

On May 29th, our principal, Mr. Seán Ó Díomasaigh, announced to staff that he would be leaving Scoil An Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa at the end of August for a well-earned retirement from a career in teaching of over 45 years. Mr. Ó Díomasaigh has been principal of our school for the past eight years, and while we always knew that his retirement was inevitable, nevertheless it came as a shock to all associated with the school.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr. Ó Díomasaigh and offer him our sincere thanks and appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the school over the past eight years. On behalf of the children, parents and staff we would like to wish Mr. Ó Díomasaigh good health and happiness in the years ahead, and look forward to meeting him again on what we hope will be his frequent visits to Huntstown.

Farewell Mr. Ó Díomasaigh and thank you for all you have done for the school. Just as one chapter ends, another begins for you!



A Fond Farewell to Mrs. Kitt!

This summer also marks the retirement of Mrs. Eileen Kitt. Mrs. Kitt joined Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa as a special needs assistant almost 15 years ago but her contribution to the school and community began many years before.

Prior to joining our staff, Mrs. Kitt had been actively involved in the school as a parent and served as a member of our parents committee for twelve years. She has also been heavily involved in the parish over the years, fundraising for the building of the church and community centre among other things.

On behalf of the children, parents and staff we would like to thank Mrs. Kitt for her huge contribution to the school over the years and send her every good wish for the future and a long and happy retirement.

Eileen, we thank you for all you have done for the school. Your friendly face, your wonderful sense of humour and your care for the children will be greatly missed.

Best wishes on your next big adventure!

Student Council

Thank you to the outgoing student council which played an active role in our school this year. The council is made up of students from each of the fifth and sixth classes. This year the council helped to coordinate the inter-cultural event, working in the Atrium with the quizzes for each of the classes. They are currently working on in school signage for the coming academic year which will help people to find classes and teachers around our school. The student council listens to the ideas and concerns of all the boys and girls in the school and are active in solving problems and improving the life of the school. Well done to everyone who is involved.



Mr Ó Díomasaigh is pictured receiving an award for the school at the STEM Learning Graduation in May.

Boys' Senior Gaelic

Our Boys' Senior Gaelic Football team represented the school with great pride this year, winning the majority of their games and making it to the Fingal League semi-final. The players put in an excellent effort throughout the year and consistently displayed the traits of hard-work and sportsmanship which we have come to expect from the teams representing our school. During the group stage of the Fingal league, Sacred Heart won all but one of their games and qualified for a semi-final against Howth N.S. The team equipped themselves very well in this game but a late goal from Howth proved decisive as Sacred Heart were beaten by the slimmest of margins. The team's management would like to wish the 6th class boys all the best in secondary school and thank the entire team for their effort. Well done everyone for your great effort throughout the year!

Mr. Costelloe, Mr. Hanley and Mr. Thynne

Horseriding

The boys and girls from our Coiscéim classes have been attending horse riding for the past 9 weeks. They have been learning many new tips and tricks about how to horse ride successfully and all children have advanced to trotting while on the horse! Some children are even riding the horse without an instructor leading them! The children enjoy their day out every week and are learning new skills. Well done boys and girls!

Girls' Gaelic

Well done to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Girls Gaelic football team on their efforts this year! We participated in the Fingal League, Cumann na mBunscoil and the Hartstown Football Blitz. One of the biggest successes of the year was the number of new enthusiastic members that joined the team. We look forward to a continuation of this in September. We also encourage girls to join their local GAA club St Peregrines and get involved! Well done to the girls on their commitment and interest shown this year and we look forward to playing lots more football in school in September.

Ms Fortune, Ms Daly, Ms Kennedy, Ms Mulcahy and Ms Shallow

Swimming

Brothers Adrian and Robert Trinchinet recently represented the school in the Leinster Schools Swimming Championships in Kilkenny. The boys won two gold, two silver and two bronze medals!

Well done boys!



STEM Learning Programme

Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa was one of only 10 schools in Ireland to be offered a place on the RDS STEM Learning Whole School Programme this year. Teachers took part in 6 two-hour workshops after school, focusing on how a child thinks and not what a child knows and using science and maths investigations as the basis for core skills development. A big thank you to Ms. Heslin who facilitated the programme!

Athletics

Thank you to everyone who trained and competed during the year. We had wonderful representatives take part in the Cross Country in Porterstown and the Track and Field in Santry. It is fantastic to see so many talented people in our school!

See you
next year,
Miss É Quinn



Boys' Junior Gaelic

Well done to our Boys' Junior Gaelic Football Team. The boys enjoyed a superb year. We participated in the Cumann na mBunscoil competition, the Fingal League and the Hartstown Football Blitz. The boys grew as a team throughout the year and enjoyed great success. In reaching the Fingal League Junior Semi Final the boys recorded wins over Hartstown, Mountview and a hard earned victory against a talented St Declans side. Hardwork, self - belief and honesty are the hallmarks of this team. The boys delivered an incredible team performance, worthy of a final, in the Fingal League Semi Final but were eventually defeated in the replay. We were very proud of the boys efforts.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the amazing journey, in particular our loyal supporters and parents. We look forward to playing exciting football on our newly developed pitch and doing our best for Sacred Heart of Jesus. Home games will truly be home games from September. Thanks to Mr Ó' Díomasaigh and all involved in developing our new pitch! Remember to sharpen your skills over the Summer and join St Peregrines, your local GAA Club. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Burke & Mr. Byrne

Soccer

No winners' medals for the soccer team this year, but a very good year with some excellent performances along the way. League victories over St. Francis Xavier N.S., St. Mochta's N.S., Scoil Mhuire and St. Patrick's N.S. were not enough as St. Ciaran's N.S., Hartstown took their first West Dublin League trophy. Wins over St. Brigid's N.S., Scoil Áine Naofa Íosa and Balrothery N.S brought the boys to the Dublin Senior Cup semi-finals, where they lost to St. Patrick's N.S., Corduff. The boys performed admirably in the Dublin West Cup, reaching the final versus St. Lorcan's N.S., Palmerstown, who took the trophy for the second year in a row. Glory Nzingo won the Player of the Tournament award after some fine displays. Well done to all involved!

Mr. Byrne, Mr. Kestell and Mr. Sullivan!

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to team trainers who give of their free time throughout the year to train the children and bring them to matches and events!

School Calendar 2016/2017

School will reopen on **Thurs 1st September 2016**

October Mid-term Break: Mon 31st October to Fri 4th November 2016 inclusive

Christmas Break: Fri 23rd December 2016 to Fri 6th January 2017 inclusive

February Mid-term Break: Mon 20th to Fri 24th February 2017 inclusive

St. Patrick's Day Holiday: Friday 17th March 2017

Easter Break: Mon 10th to Fri 21st April 2017 inclusive

May Bank Holiday: Mon 1st May 2017

June Bank Holiday: Mon 5th June 2017

School will close for the summer holidays at 12 noon on **Fri 30th June 2017**

Competitions

In February we entered four teams into the Community Credit Union Schools Quiz in St Peregrines G.A.A. Club. All teams performed very well and did our school proud.

The Junior teams from 4th class included *Ella Grehan, Peter Kenny, Ben Talbot, Abhishek Chauhan, Sarah Hyseni, Mason Maguire, Ciarán Byrne and Shayne Barandio.*

The Senior teams from 6th included *Amber Twamley, Caleb Kayode, Darragh Conroy, Darragh Devoy, Peter Atkinson, Adam King, Dáire Mc Millen and Emma Brady Reid.*

Congratulations and well done to all who have entered competitions this year. Well done to Amy Devoy from Mr Herity's 4th class who won the Folens Siamsa Art Competition and won a copy of the annual for her classmates and a voucher for herself.

Keep entering and remember "If you're not in, you can't win"!

Dragons' Den

6th Class have participated in a number of initiatives this year and most recently carried out a two day 'Dragons' Den' style workshop with Bank of Ireland on the theme of 'entrepreneurship'. As part of the workshop pupils were asked to work in groups to create a fictional business. Following this pupils were required to advertise, market and produce a product they could present to a group of investors with the hope of gaining investment in their company. This was done so with great enthusiasm by the pupils and a huge amount of entrepreneurial knowledge and experience was gained, as a result. Representatives from BOI were particularly impressed with the confidence and ingenuity of the children involved. We would like to thank Bank of Ireland for voluntarily providing the workshop and we look forward to hosting another workshop next year.

POBLACHT NA H ÉIREANN

5th Class Students of Scoil An Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

To The People of Ireland

To all men, women and children living in Ireland and to all Irish people living abroad, we the pupils of Scoil An Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa declare that we are proud to be Irish citizens.

We wish for equal rights for all people, including people of all religions, skin colours, people of all abilities and ages.

We declare that everyone should have the same opportunities to do everything they want in their lives. We believe that everyone should have a roof over their heads and access to food and water. We believe that everyone should have the right to protection from violence and war and the right to a loving family. Everyone should have the right to marry the person they love. We believe that everyone should have the right to the best education and medical care, to clean water, to a good job and a stable wage. We believe that our country should take care of homeless people, the sick, young and old, those with disabilities, refugees and immigrants.

We wish to see a peaceful Ireland. A country free of racism and bullying, where everybody can use their talents, where we get along with our neighbours and where everyone is respected and treated equally. Ireland is not involved in any wars and we believe that Ireland should remain neutral and strive to be peaceful. Let Ireland continue to be a place where we can speak instead of using force.

Our history, culture and language are unique and precious and should be kept intact and passed on to younger generations.

Ireland has a reputation for its green and clean mountains and fields. Our environment should be protected and kept clean for future generations.

We would like to remember and give special thanks to the brave men and women who lost their lives for Ireland in the past and we ask all Gods to put a blessing on Ireland now and in the future.

Signed by Ms. Kirby's 5th Class, 2016, on behalf of Scoil An Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa;

*Holly Anderson
Melissa Butler
Yanessa Covaci
Shane Dunne
Leah Isip
Holly Mackey
Abi Ometita
Aaliyah Shopeju
Aaron Wall*

*Nicole Barry
Francesca Butnaru
Aoibheann Doyle
Zoe Gillen
Alex Judd
Claudio Maqueto
Celine Popescu
Bronagh Treacy*

*Cian Boyle
Jimmy Corcoran
Katie Doyle
Favour Godson
Peter Knowles
Mia Moloney
Joseph Rauca
Adrian Trinchinet*