



# St. Conleth and Mary's



# Summer Newsletter



## June 27th, 2017.

Dear Parents, Guardians,

As we come to the end of another successful school year I would like to thank you for your continuing support and generosity over the past year. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Management and Parent Association for all the work they do for the school. I greatly appreciate all the extra contribution to the school from the teachers, SNAs, Anne and Bernard and I thank them for all their help and co-operation. As our sixth class pupils are leaving us I wish them happiness, good health and good fortune for the years ahead. This year also we bid farewell to Mrs. Lyons who has been a teacher here since 1978. Over the years she has been a wonderful teacher, friend and colleague and on behalf of the whole school community I wish her all the best for many long and happy years in retirement.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila O Neill

### First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the boys and girls from 2nd classes, who made their First Holy Communion on May 20th, and to their teachers who prepared them so well.

Thanks to the choir for helping make the occasion even more special and to teachers Mrs. Cullen, Mrs. Dwyer and Ms. Nugent for preparing the music. Well done, too, to those First Communion children who walked in the Corpus Christi Procession on June 18th.

### June Fest Art Project and Yarnbombing

Rooms 6 & 7 took part in an art project, facilitated by artist Paul Woods, which involved painting a forest scene in different seasons. This was then exhibited in the Riverbank Gallery during June Fest and both classes went up to view the exhibition on June 1st.

The two classes also learned to knit and yarnbombed a large tree in the park. Well done to all, including our adult helpers, who were so generous with their time.

### Cakes, Buns and Biscuits Galore

On 14th June, 4th classes hosted a delicious Bake Sale, raising over €400 for charity. A great day was had by all.

### Active Schools Week

This much anticipated week-long event kicked off on Mon. May 29th, with Sports Day. Despite the disappointing weather, all classes thoroughly enjoyed the activities, with Mrs. Cullen's 3rd particularly chuffed at their victory over Ms. McGrath's 4th in the Tug-of-War. Other fun events were 'Dancing with Carla' and 'Street Soccer' with Mark Tiernan and past-pupil Peter Fleming, who demonstrated amazing soccer skills to the children. Our Annual Students vs Teachers Match had to be postponed due to bad weather but was played on June 14th. After a hard fought game, the students emerged as worthy winners. Well done to them and to their manager Mr. Collins. Thanks, too, to all the brave teachers who risked life and limb for the honour and glory of the staff! Better luck next time! The week closed with a 'Picnic in the Park', when all the school trooped up to the Liffey Linear Park for lunch and games in glorious sunshine. A big thank you to Ms. Bolton for organising the week and to the Tidy Towns people who maintain this wonderful facility.

### Out and About

- 5th classes enjoyed a trip to the Curragh Racecourse on May 31st, with Alison Power, Room 6, winning a runners-up prize in the subsequent essay competition. Maith thú Ali.
- 6th classes were invited to visit Old Connell Stud on Mon. 19th June. They had a wonderful time and learned lots about the early training of potential racehorses.
- Rms. 13 & 14 enjoyed yarnbomb sketching in the park on Friday, 23rd May and Rm. 15 also went up to view the colourful display.

### Sporting News

- Well done to the Under 10 boys on a busy season and thanks for all your hard work. We look forward to the Under 11 League in Sept.
- Swimming in Naas has come to an end for all classes. Check out <https://www.watersafety.ie/> for a reminder on how to keep safe near water this summer.
- 2nds and 3rds greatly enjoyed GAA coaching, courtesy of Sarsfields, in the Patrician Field over three Thursdays. Thanks to all.

### Green Team

Well done to our school Green Team, and to all the children, on achieving our 7th Green Flag, which was raised on Friday, June 16th, by Ger Ahern, Chairman of Newbridge Tidy Towns. Thanks to all who attended and to the children who performed so well on the day, especially our MCs Aoife Mac Murchaidh and Daire Mulraney. The previous day we had a very successful Green Action Day, with lettuce planting, school clean-up, science experiments and energy quiz, for which prizes were awarded in each class. Keep up the good work. A big thank you also to Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Nugent, who kept the show on the road!

### Mr. Z's Visit

2nd classes enjoyed a visit from Mr. Z. who carried out experiments on electrical circuits with the children. It was a fun-filled, educational experience for all.

### Friday Quiz Club

The weekly sessions finished up on June 23rd. Well done to all the children from 4th, 5th & 6th classes who attended the quiz training each Friday. Thanks to Ms. O'Neill for organising this fun activity.

### Irish Classes

'Maith thú!' to all those who participated in after-school Irish classes with Ms. Dempsey this year. These classes will resume in Sept. with lots more games, activities and songs. Bain taitneamh as na laethanta saoire.

### World Book Week

We celebrated World Book Week from 6th to 9th June. The work started with a visit from the M & M Theatrical Production Company, who entertained us with their version of Treasure Island. Other activities throughout the week included paired reading between 2nd and 6th class pupils and book quizzes in all classes, for which prizes were awarded. All classes worked on an artistic representation of a favourite book and the fruits of their labour were presented at a highly entertaining assembly on Fri. afternoon. The event was given even more colour by the fantastic costumes of the 2nd and 3rd class pupils. We are looking forward to next year's event already. In the meantime, KEEEEEEEP READING!

### Talent Show

On Fri. June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held our Annual Talent Show - with a difference! This year's 'Royal Variety Performance', featuring acts from all classes, was dedicated to Mrs. Margaret Lyons, who is retiring this year after teaching in the school since 1978. Indeed, many of the children present at the show had parents who had been taught by Mrs. Lyons. We were treated to a succession of entertaining acts, ranging in style from Russian dancing to beatboxing, from magical tricks to song and dance routines, all ably introduced by Ms. Bolton. The show concluded with a presentation to Mrs. Lyons from the Parents Association, the Board of Management and the children. Well done to all the boys and girls and every good wish to Mrs. Lyons for a long and healthy retirement.

### Parents Association

At the end of another school year, we would like to acknowledge the many ways in which the Parents Association enhance school life for our children.

- On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> classes were treated to a cinema trip to see 'Boss Baby', to mark their First Holy Communion.
- On June 1<sup>st</sup> the P.A. held their annual Family Fun Quiz in the school hall, with quizmaster Derek Whelan. Almost 20 tables battled it out to see who would be crowned 2017 champions, the honour finally going to the Joyce Family.
- On June 27<sup>th</sup> the refreshments for the 6<sup>th</sup> class Graduation were provided by the Parents Association and each graduate was presented with a memory stick holding photos from their years in St. Conleth and Mary's.

Buíochas mór daoibh go léir for all your hard work and commitment to the school.

### School Tours

Yet again this year, all classes enjoyed some fantastic trips and their behaviour and good manners were a credit to both their school and their families. Maith sibh go léir.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> classes stayed in The Short Grass County, at 'Let's Go' Camp in Kilcullen on June where they had a ball.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> classes had a splashing good time in Fort Lucan on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 4<sup>th</sup>s visited Causey Farm and Martry Mill in Co. Meath - and returned very impressed with the Royal County.
- 5<sup>th</sup>s visited Baltinglass in The Garden of Ireland, where they tried their hand at canoeing and orienteering.
- 6<sup>th</sup> classes also went to Wicklow, The Garden of Ireland, where they threw themselves into such exciting activities as zip-wiring and abseiling.

Bhí an-spórt ag gach duine - even the teachers!

### 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation and Farewell.

On Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, it was time to pay tribute to our class of 2017 and bid them farewell. Well done to all the children, who behaved themselves impeccably on the night, and thank you to all the family members who turned out to support them. Buíochas also to the choir, under Mrs. Cullen, and Ms. McGrath's dancers, who added so much to the proceedings. Thanks to Rm. 13 also for their lovely stage decorations. While sorry to see our senior pupils leave us, we wish them well in the years ahead, confident that they are ready to face the wider world. They will always receive a warm welcome back in St. Conleth and Mary's.

### End of Year Mass

A Mass to close the school year took place today. Well done to all on their lovely singing, reading and prayers.

**HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO ALL!**