



By Finn Desmond

Scoil Iognáid de Rís

Christmas 2016

CBS Primary School, Kilkenny

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Fáilte

Dear Parents,

We are coming to an end of a very busy second term and during the past few weeks all classes have been busy preparing for Christmas.

Our assemblies have continued this year and all the great work that is being done by pupils in all classes is highlighted. More importantly it's an opportunity to acknowledge all children not only for their successes and achievements but also to recognise their effort and improvement academically and in extra-curricular activities.

I congratulate our school Gaelic Football team in reaching the county final and they did the school proud despite their defeat in the final. Thanks to teachers and parents for their tremendous support. We continue to offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities like, Basketball, Performing Arts, Drama, Piano, Guitar, Chess, French for Fun and Homework Club.

Thanks to all the different groups of people who promote the school in such a positive manner. I include all the staff both teaching and ancillary staff, the Board of Management and the Parents Council.

The school choir distinguished themselves yet again at the Three Tenors concert in St Mary's Cathedral on December 10th. Thanks to Mr. Seamus Brennan, the choirmaster, for all the time that he gives in preparing the boys to attain such a high standard and to his daughter Fiona for accompanying them on keyboard.

A big thank you to Mrs. Grace, who is responsible for putting this newsletter together and to the teachers for their contribution.

I take this opportunity to wish the whole school community a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Nollaig shonasaigh agus athbhliain shuaimhneach diobh go leir.

Le gach dea-ghu,

Dónal Mc Carthy, Principal.



Roinn A Football Finalists 2016

Front Row Left to Right: Owen Hanney, Clayton Barry, Harry Maher, Jake Coyne, Brooklyn Synnott, Nathan Pollard, Patrick Lacey, Rúaidhrí Harrison, Killian Dollard.

Back Row Left to Right: Alvaro Ramirez Hernandez, Billy Wall – Young, Seán Knox, Cillian Dunne, Darragh Butler, Jack Docherty, Cathal Poyntz, Finn Desmond, Greg Kelly, Calvin Barry, Rory Flanagan, Jamie O'Brien, Michael Bourke – Lambert

Our Gaelic Football panel had a very successful year. Last September 70 boys from 5th and 6th class took part in our Winter League. This league prepared them very well for the Roinn A League Championship. Ten teams took part in this championship and our boys qualified for the quarter-final, having won seven league games.

In the quarter-finals the boys recorded a comprehensive win against Graigue/Skeogh which set them up for a semi-final against local rivals Gaelscoil. After an enthralling game C.B.S. came out on top, booking a place in the county final. Alas, it wasn't to be as a very strong St. Canice's team came out on top.

A huge word of thanks to our panel of players who put in a massive effort since the first week in September. They represented the school with immense pride all over County Kilkenny. A word of appreciation to all the parents who gave great support and encouragement to the team. It was invaluable.

Finally, many thanks to the following teachers: Mr. Bergin, Mr. Cunniffe, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Reidy and Mr. Prendergast for training the panel.

All-Ireland Camogie Cups Visit



The O'Duffy Cup and The Jack McGrath Cup on a visit to CBS Primary School Kilkenny. Áine Fahy, Kilkenny Intermediate Camogie captain is pictured above with teachers Mr. Shane Prendergast (Senior Kilkenny Hurling Captain 2016), Ms. Sarah Walpole, teacher and pupils.

CBS Boys' Choir

The choir's first term ended on a very high note when they sang at the Three Tenors concert in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, December 10th. This was the culmination of several weeks' intensive practice in preparation for this important performance. A notable feature of the occasion was their impeccable behaviour when they waited patiently for two hours in the back rooms of the cathedral before performing for a very appreciative audience.

The boys deserve great praise for their unfailing commitment to the choir and especially for their attendance at early morning practices. They represent the very best standards of the C.B.S. and are a credit to their parents and their teachers.

Seamus Brennan



Tin Whistle



The second and third class boys are thoroughly enjoying their tin whistle lessons and are making great progress.

Sincere thanks to their teacher, Paul Martin, who voluntarily tutors them twice weekly.

Literacy Lift off continues on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This is a 'power hour' of English where the boys spend fifteen minutes at each of four stations.

The stations develop the following skills: New Reading, Familiar Reading, Phonics through magnetic letters and games and finally Writing. The boys are really enjoying it and benefitting greatly from this initiative.

We would like to thank Mrs. Bolger, Ms. Curran, Mrs. Malone and Ms. Phelan for working with our class teachers Mrs. Moloney and Mrs. Ryan.

Green School 2016



C.B.S. started the Green Schools Programme six years ago. For those who perhaps are not familiar with the programme, Green Schools is an international environmental education programme. There are schools all over the world involved in the programme.

The programme is divided into six themes. After completion of each theme a green flag is awarded to successful schools. Each flag takes two years to achieve. To date we have successfully completed three themes and received three green flags, one for

litter and waste management, one for energy conservation and one for water conservation.

The programme is carried out by both Ms. Boyle (Green School's Co-Ordinator), and our green school's committee, which is made up of pupils from every class. The committee work extremely hard in promoting care and respect for the earth and our local environment.

Last year we not only achieved our third green flag for our water conservation measures but we also were chosen as one of the top four schools in Ireland for our environmental work. We earned the title of 'Water School of the Year', Southern Region Winners for 2016. What an amazing achievement. We received our Green Flag, a beautiful glass trophy and a cheque for €750.

We are extremely proud of our achievements to date. We constantly strive to be active in caring for and respecting our environment. Our Green Flag flies proudly outside our school.

This year we have begun working on our fourth green flag which is called 'Travel'. We will be encouraging pupils who can, to either walk to school or car pool if possible. We will keep you posted as these events occur.

We would like to welcome our new committee members this year. They are: Brian Sommers, Conor Ryan and Joey Brennan.

I would like to personally thank all the pupils, teachers and parents for their co-operation. A special thank you to all the committee members for their hard work to date and their outstanding achievements.

This year we have been chosen as "The Model Water School" for Leinster and as a result we have been asked to speak to other schools about our work and achievements. This event will take place on the 30th of January 2017.



We will be busy bees in the New Year. At this point the Green School Committee would like to wish you all a very happy and a peaceful Christmas.

P.S. Don't forget to recycle your

Christmas trees in January and turn off tree lights when you are not home. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Theatre Visit

Our pupils attended the Barnstorm Theatre Company's "The Messenger" at the Watergate Theatre on November 16th, 17th and 18th this year. The play was the story of Christy 'Bullet' Brady and how his life became tangled up with the events at the GPO during the 1916 Easter Rising.

The show was full of interesting characters and fantastic performances. The C.B.S. boys particularly liked the set with its back lighting and moving projections.

Even though the ending was very sad with Christy 'Bullet' Brady being killed, the boys really enjoyed the Theatre experience.

Barnstorm Theatre Company also gave a free follow-up workshop to each class the following week, during which all boys got a chance to show their own acting talents.

Yulefest Soldiers

Congratulations to Kevin Power and Luke Butler from Room 3, and Jack Morrissey and Rúaidhrí Harrison from Room 5 on their winning designs for the 2016 Yulefest Soldiers Competition.



Two weeks ago I took part in a competition for Yulefest 2016. In the competition you had to design a soldier which was displayed in the Butler Gardens. My friend Ruaidhrí and I were the winners in our class.

Many other schools were involved in the project. The whole class had great fun painting the soldiers, we all took turns paying great attention to detail. It took around a week to paint both soldiers. We were all very happy with the way the soldiers turned out.

Altogether there were almost 200 soldiers from all the schools in Kilkenny. My favourite soldier was the one painted by Cartoon Saloon.

By Jack Morrissey, Room 5

Aquatics

Our boys continue to benefit from Aquatics which is a strand in the new physical education curriculum.

The boys from Room 10, Room 6, Room 1 and Room 2 have all completed their programme for this year.

The boys from Room 8 and Room 5 will commence their programme on the 19th January 2017.

The boys from Room 3 and Room 7 will take part in their programme on the 9th March 2017.



Active School Flag



We are continuing to build on the fantastic work already done, towards achieving our first Active School Flag.

Currently every Wednesday we have our Active Travel Morning where boys gather in the Water Barracks between 8.30am and 8.40am.

We ask all the boys to make a New Year's Resolution to join us in January.

On wet days, the boys still get to stay active with Go Noodle activities.

The Active School Committee will be introducing new initiatives in January, so be ready to take part.

We would like to thank Mr. Bergin, Ms. Curran and the Active School Committee for their commitment and hard work in ensuring the success of this initiative.

Athletics

Our Cross Country Athletics Team from 4th, 5th and 6th Class took part again in the annual Inter Schools event in the Castle Park.

We are very proud of their achievements. Darragh Dunne from Room 7 came 3rd in the 4th Class event and his brother Cillian Dunne came 2nd in the 6th Class event.

Our 6th Class team of Cillian Dunne, Harry Maher, Jake Coyne and Darragh Butler won 3rd prize overall, which was a tremendous achievement.

Many thanks to their coach Mr. Bergin. Ms. Curran has started Athletics training every Friday after school.

Performing Arts

Every Thursday for ten weeks, Mr. Cunniffe held a free Drama Workshop after school for 22 boys from 5th and 6th class.

During these sessions the boys learned about improvisation, mime, public speaking, play script writing and performing in front of an audience.

Highlights for the boys include:

"I liked the solo acting because you get to be yourself and show people what you are made of."

by Ciaran Murphy, Room 10.



"I enjoyed when we did the awful airlines ad because it was fun."

by Harry Maher, Room 10

Book Reports Competition Room 8



Mr. Cuniffe held a book report competition for our class. I really wanted to win. We had one week to do the project. I did my project on my favourite book, Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl. I asked my dad to print some pictures. I was so happy when my project won. I got a Maasai bracelet from Kenya.

by Cormac Wall, Room 8



Matthew Bracken won the 3rd class competition for his report on Charlie and the chocolate factory.

CBS Welcomes Debating



This year saw the school enter a team for the first time into the Concern Primary School Debating Competition. The team have been learning about the formal structure of debating. The boys attended a secondary school debate to get a better sense of what debating involves. The first formal debate saw the boys compete with the Model School over the impact of social media on every day life.

In January the team will face Askea Boys School to see who advances to the next round. The team will be proposing the motion that the school day should be made shorter.

The team is made up of Ciarán Murphy, Harry Maher, David Ormonde, Patrick Lacey, Richard Madden and Brooklyn Synnott. The team is coached by Mr. Roberts and Mr. Cuniffe.

Choose a Healthy Lifestyle

The pupils from CBS Primary are choosing a healthy lifestyle, including very healthy lunchboxes. We are also taking part in the Super Troopers Programme which promotes and encourages us to engage in more physical activity and healthy eating, to drink and adequate amount of water and to get lots of sleep at night. There is also an emphasis on mental wellbeing.



Each pupil gets his own Super Trooper Homework Journal so that he can record his progress each night for homework, which also helps to keep him on track and stick with the programme.

I would like to congratulate the boys from Room 1, Room 6 and Room 5 on winning Healthy Lunchbox of the Month to date and I am happy to say that there is a very high standard of healthy lunches throughout the school.



Best wishes

We are sorry to see Ms. Phelan, SNA, leave our staff. We wish her every success with her further studies and thank her for her kindness shown to the children in her care and for her friendship on the staff.

Carol Service

Looking forward to seeing you tonight at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Cathedral.

Art and Craft



- Teodore and Zaclan from Room 1 painting a lovely Christmas scene on their classroom window
- Jack, Mafujar and Joe from Room 7 with their artwork, standing at the “Artist of the month” display board.



- Sam & Killian from Room 5 with their Christmas trees.
- Christmas pastel snowmen from Room 3.



A crib scene painted by Ms. Curran and boys from Room 7.



Rocking chairs from Room 10.



Rocking chairs from Room 8.



Personalised Christmas jumpers from Room 10.