

St. Catherine's Senior School

NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS 2011

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents and friends,

Christmas Greetings from all in St. Catherine's!

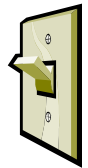


We have had a busy few months since September—including the exciting visit of members of the victorious Dublin team with the Sam Maguire Cup. The girls are enjoying their camogie lessons with GAA coach Kevin and hopefully, some may represent Dublin one day.



Thank you for your support for our sponsored walk. We now have an interactive whiteboard in every classroom, using the latest technology to enhance learning across the curriculum. Our Coffee Morning and non-uniform day raised €450 for the Hospice Association.

The Green Schools Committee are busy raising energy awareness throughout the school. Many energy saving initiatives are now in place and we hope to achieve our second Green Flag before long.



The girls have been busy winning various competitions! Congratulations to all the winners of the Parish Eucharistic Congress competition. Look out for the display of their projects in the Church after Christmas. You may have noticed the winning poems of eight girls from second to sixth class displayed around the new Tesco store. As part of their prize, the girls attended the opening ceremony and cut the ribbon.



Our new Board of Management is now in place. We thank the outgoing Board for all their work on behalf of the school. A special word of thanks to the Chairperson Miss Walsh, for her dedicated service and expertise over the past seven years. We look forward to working with the new Board from January.



We are ending the term on a high note! Congratulations to everyone involved in our Christmas musical "You Shine". The girls put a huge effort into rehearsals and were rewarded with a brilliant show. It is an experience they will always remember. A big thank you to Miss O'Neill for all her planning, singing and conducting over the past two months.



*Wishing you a happy, peaceful Christmas
and looking forward to seeing everyone on January 9th.*



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

We are busy getting read for our First Holy Communion. We have been learning about what clothes the priest wears. On the Advent wreath there is one pink candle, one white candle and three purple candles. We went to a preparation Mass this month.



Sophie McManus, 2nd Class

At the start of our Confirmation preparation we attended an enrolment ceremony. We each received a certificate with our promises written on it. We were told to hang it up where we can see them and be reminded of the promises we made. Our class have also been attending the 'Confirming our Children' Masses with our parents on Sunday mornings at eleven o' clock. While we are preparing for our Confirmation we received our Confirmation books. We colourfully designed the covers of our books. Inside the books we have written down the Ten Commandments, information about ourselves and The Beatitudes. We have more to write and colour in our Confirmation books and the whole class is looking forward to it!



Áine Kennedy, Elle Gray & Zara Blomer, 6th Class

First Holy Communion:

Sunday 13th May 2012 at 11am

ST. DOMINICS TRADE FAIR

On the 29th of November, Ms. Heeney's and Ms. Garvey's classes went to the Trade Fair. Ms. McCormac, Ms. Egan and Sr. Philomena also came. We saw some girls who were in our school in the past. Lots of girls were selling interesting things. They had mini-companies selling hair accessories, make-up, earphones, magazines, phone charms, finger pens and lots of other items. Their ideas were brilliant! We walked around for a while looking at everything, then returned to the school. We had a nice treat!



Lorna Kinsella, 6th Class

HSCL News

Santa paid his usual visit to the parent and toddler group amid much cries and laughter! The Flower arranging course was its usual creative success where the participants were relaxed and calm among the scented smells of leaves and berries. Thank you to our Volunteer Parent Team who were involved with the book Project and to our volunteers who listened to children reading one-to-one. Well done to those who completed the Craft course 'Christmas on a Budget'. Their display of gift ideas was practical and original. A very talented group of ladies! Many thanks to you parents, who support me in so many hidden ways.



Monica Egan (HSCL Co Ordinator)

TREE WEEK

A number of classes from our school went to the Phoenix Park to learn more about trees for it was 'Tree Day'. As we walked to the park, we sang, chatted and waited for the park rangers. When the rangers appeared, they taught us many interesting things about the trees. They explained that horse chestnut trees are close to extinction, for the trees have a disease. We found a beehive, lots of acorns and conkers. We noticed a yellow dot on a tree and realised that this meant that the tree needs improvement and that if there is a red dot, it needs to be cut down. The trip was very interesting and I think everyone enjoyed it, including myself, but it was also exhausting! We learned a lot about trees while having fun!



Natalia Myslinska, 5th Class

'RIDING OUT THE HURRICANE'

We read 'Riding out the Hurricane' with our reading buddies in November. We were very excited. Every Wednesday afternoon, we went to the parent's room to read. We were asked questions and talked about the book. At home, we continued to read our books with our parents or minders. On the 7th of December, we went to Mary Bellew House to meet the author Maeve McMahon. We asked her questions and told her what we thought about the book. I gave Sr. Maeve my book review and Sophia, Claire and Kaci read theirs to her also. I had a great time reading the book and I think everyone liked it. I would love to be a reading buddy next year.



April Egan, 5th Class

D.C.U. PROGRAMME

During the autumn term I went to DCU. I took the course on forensics because it sounded interesting. I went every Wednesday straight after school. Nadine was chosen as well so her Dad dropped me up. We did things like fingerprints, goo investigations and lots of other things.

Eimear Currid,
6th Class



GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Our Autumn Clean took place on October 14th. We brought dusters, cloths, sweeping brushes and more and we cleaned our classroom. Ms. O'Reilly came around and marked the classrooms out of 10. Ms. Ní Bhroins class currently hold the 'Tidy Classroom Award' trophy.

On November 17th, we held a poster competition to raise awareness about energy saving to coincide with a tree planting day in Cork. The posters are hung on the walls of the school. Winners were: Louise Horgan, Elle Gray, April Egan, Nadia Mazgaj, Jessica Ionas, Mollie Turner, Rebecca Devereux, Natalie King and Glory Naralla.



Some classes recently got water filters to stop us from using plastic bottles. Now we have reusable bottles instead. We have also started to replace our light bulbs with energy saving ones that can last up to ten years.

Mollie Turner & Niamh Walker-Browning, Green Schools Committee

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The concert entitled 'You Shine' took place on December 14th and 15th: The pupils from our school staged a play at Christmas time in the school hall to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We learned songs and worked as hard as we could until we got them right. On the night of the concert, we got our costumes and went to the hall. All the mummies and daddys were in the hall ready to watch the show. After that we began the show. I was a bit nervous but it was worthwhile. I thought it was a great experience for our school and I think that the play was a brilliant success. After we sang our final song, we listened to



Ms. O'Reilly and we clapped for all the people helping us with our play. Then everyone clapped their hands for us and we all started laughing. After the concert, we had to get dressed and get ready to go home. Our teacher said she thought our play was fantastic. It was an exciting day and a fun night for us.

Shannon Flynn, 4th Class



ATHLETICS

On Fridays in October, 5th and 6th Class did Athletics with Mary McKenna. On the first week we did stretches and ran around one goal post. As we got fitter, we were able to do harder stretches and started to run longer distances. On the final week, we ran around the whole Bogies. We got a number and were timed as we ran. It was good fun. During the weeks, we also learned how to throw the shot putt and the discus. We learned how to stand correctly and throw it. My favourite part was when I came first running around the Bogies!

Mary Geraghty, 5th Class



On Tuesdays, some classes do GAA in the school hall. We also do camogie with our trainer Kevin. We learn cool skills such as hand passes, solos and much more. We love having fun, but we're getting fit as well. I would recommend it to everyone. We play matches and games. In camogie we have to wear helmets for safety in case we get hit by a hurl. Kevin plays lots of games with us and we play matches also.

**Aoife Walshe & Chloe Bradshaw,
5th Class**

'THE CHOCOLATE TOUCH'



This book is about a boy who goes to a magic store and buys a box of chocolate. Everything that touched his lips turned to chocolate. My favourite word was 'brigand' because it was interesting. It was funny when his mother turned into a chocolate statue. It was also funny when his pencil, trumpet, cafeteria tray and a silver dollar with a piece bitten out of it were lying on the two show windows. I think John would never eat so much chocolate again.

Iza Antepowicz, 3rd Class

MATHLETICS



Mathletics is a really cool website with a variety of tables, fractions and decimal games. We all got cards with a username and password. When we complete activities we earn points and credits. With points we can earn certificates and with credits we can buy accessories and clothes for our avatars. Our class got onto the Irish leaderboard, our teacher was very proud. I think the best think about it is that you can play against people all over the world.

Eimear Currid & Claire O'Sullivan, 6th Class

PARENTS MORNING

On the 4th of October, 2nd class parents came and had a cup of tea with the teachers. We performed an Irish poem 'Mo Theach' and the other 2nd class performed 'An Sorcas'. Then we both performed 'The Teddy Bear' song together. We got to know eachother. We had a great time.



**Teegan Doran,
2nd Class**

Mrs. Byrne wishes to thank all those who so kindly donated to the St. Vincent De Paul food appeal.



Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Heeney's classes together with Ms. Egan's music group delighted the sisters of Santa Sabina House and St. Mary's with their Christmas carols.

