



St. Catherine's Senior School

NEWSLETTER

Phone: 8387194

Fax: 8387015

DECEMBER 2009

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and friends,

As 2009 draws to a close, we look back on a busy few months. The renovation of all our toilets was completed in September. The gutters have been cleaned, repaired and painted. We have new energy saving lights in the hall.



As part of our long term ICT plan, we have purchased two interactive whiteboards. This brings the latest technology into the classroom and the children are really enjoying the wide-ranging resources available to them. We hope to purchase additional boards early in the new year using ICT funding and the money raised from the Christmas concert.



We are working towards our Green Flag and are collecting old mobile phones until the end of January for the Jack and Jill foundation.

We welcome Miss Stone, Miss Gaynor, Miss Sutton and Miss Cussen to our staff. We wish Miss Waters the best of luck as she begins her maternity leave.

Our sponsored walk raised just over €5,000. We thank you for your continued support and purchased an interactive whiteboard with the money.

Our Christmas Concert was a wonderful success. Congratulations to Ms. Egan and her band who played beautifully and set the scene for a lovely evening. It was the band's first time to play in public and they rose to the occasion. Our musical 'King Louis' new coat, written and directed by Miss O'Neill was an outstanding success. The months of hard work paid off and the girls showed that they really have the X Factor!

We thank everyone involved especially Miss Garvey our stage manager and Miss O'Neill who conducted the girls on the night. Read Zsara and Zara's rap about the concert on page 4



Our wish for you this Christmas is that you may have peace and joy during the season and throughout 2010.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Our children have begun their formal preparation for First Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Communion children had their enrolment in Most Precious Blood Parish at the end of September and the Confirmation candidates enrolled early November. Both of these ceremonies took place during the celebration of Sunday Mass.



Presently, the Communion children are very actively involved in the 'Do this in Memory' parish Sunday Masses. They will be celebrating their First Reconciliation in February. Some of the girls will receive First Communion on Sunday 9th May and others on Saturday 22nd May. We await the date for Confirmation—the end of April we hope!!

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

The Green Schools Committee have been very busy this term. We had a day of action in October, where we collected mobile phones and tidied our classrooms. We made posters for the 'Day of Action'. We have made a chart to record how many mobile phones we have received. We are going to donate them all to the 'Jack & Jill Foundation' mobile phone appeal. We also have surprise spot checks to make sure classrooms are tidy! At the end of the month, the tidiest classroom will win a reward for all of their hard work.



Green Schools Committee Members

H.S.C.L. News

Some parents have been very busy this term attending Computer and Flower Arranging classes.



Congratulations to those parents who made the story sacks and who spoke to other parents about them at the coffee morning sessions for parents.

Thanks also to the parents who took part in 'Maths for Fun' with Ms. Gaynor's second class. Last but not least, thank you to the parents who participated in the 'Toy Library'. Your support is invaluable.



**H.S.C.L Co-ordinators
Monica and Nicola**

MATHS FOR FUN

This term second class took part in 'Maths for Fun' organised by Ms. Egan. Every Tuesday for four weeks, some parents took small groups to play domino games with them. The children were practicing their maths whilst having fun and learning new games.



'We were playing dominoes with Suzanne and it was great fun. She was so nice to me'

Hazel McGee

'We all took five dominoes and added them. Then we got a sheet of paper and wrote the answers down. When we were all done, we counted how many we had to see who won.'



Kaci McKay

'My favourite part was when we wrote down the numbers. Thank you for playing dominoes with me Debbie.'

Taylor White

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



This year's Christmas concert 'King Louis' New Coat' took place on the 15th and 17th of December. The story was a modern version of the well-known tale 'The Emperor's new clothes' created by Ms. O'Neill. The girls rehearsed daily in the weeks before the concert and were very excited and enthusiastic as the concert approached. They thoroughly enjoyed showing off their singing, dancing and acting talents .



Many thanks to Ms. O'Neill for all the work she has put into the concert over the last few months, including writing scripts and song lyrics, auditioning, rehearsing, producing and directing the performance. It was a wonderful success!

Thanks also to Ms. Egan and the recorder group for their beautiful music before the show. The girls have been practicing in the mornings before school begins for many weeks. Their music helped to get us all into the Christmas mood!

LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND US

Ms. Ryan's second class have been learning all about Italy. They learned about what it would be like to live in Italy and even cooked Italian pizza! Look out for our display.

The girls in Ms. Ní Bhroin's fifth class have been learning all about 'Ancient Greece'. They have discovered what life in Ancient Greece was like, what kind of food was eaten, where the people lived and what shopping at the 'agora' would have been like. They have even designed their own style of Greek pottery!



Sixth class were learning about Kenya this term. They watched some videos of Kenya on their new interactive whiteboard and researched the country using the internet and books. They watched the Masai tribal dances and got to see 'The big 5' in their natural habitats in online videos. They are having fun using their interactive whiteboard to help them to learn and to give them access to thousands of resources, stories and games online!



D.C.U. Programme

Three pupils from 5th class attended workshops in D.C.U. this term. Ciara Deegan and Amy McKenna from Ms. Stone's class were involved in a course called 'Neuroscience and the Brain', whilst Lauren Ruddell from Ms. Ní Bhroin's class has been studying 'Zoology' and learning all about animals and their habitats.



'It was fun and educational at the same time! We learned about brain disorders and the parts of the brain. It was the best experience ever!'

Amy McKenna, 5th Class



'Sometimes my teacher brought in a model of the brain. We got to take it apart, then put it back together. It was really hard, but when you did it again, it looked great'

Ciara Deegan, 5th Class

CHRISTMAS RAP

Christmas time there's lots of ice,
We think it's really nice,
It might be cold with a slight breeze,
But we wrap up well and try not to freeze,
We wait for Santa to come in his sleigh,
Then we all play the next day.

We're going down to the hall today,
To practice for our Christmas play,
We've lots of people in our crew,
Singers, actors and dancers too,
Colourful scenery and bright lights,
It truly is an amazing sight,
We've lots of songs that you all know,
So come along enjoy the show.

So mums and dads and children too
Let us do our show for you,
We hope you will have lots of fun,
Merry Christmas everyone!

Zara Blomer & Zsara Uzell, 4th Class



CABRA LIBRARY 'SCARY STORY COMPETITION'

I think I won the Cabra library competition because I had an interesting story.



My story was about five girls and one boy who went to the swimming centre. The pool went black and they got whisked away to the woods. Then the children went into an old scary house and were chased by a ghost. When they got out of the house, they got whisked back to the pool. At the end I realised that it was all a dream.



I won lots of lovely books, pens, bookmarks and a little toy. I was very happy when I won the competition.

Meagan Swift, 4th Class

DOODLE 4 GOOGLE

A number of classes in the school took part in the competition 'Doodle 4 Google' again this year. This year's theme was based on the idea of 'My Future' with the children incorporating this idea into their own 'Google' logo.



An internal competition was run in the school with two winners selected from each of the classes involved. The winners of the school competition were **Julia Wysocka, Niamh Walker-Browning, Katie Sweeney, Claire Donegan, Rebecca Smyth, April Egan, Amy McGarry, Lauren Byrne, Niamh Cassidy, Jodie Gardner, Esther Kodmon and Janesen Eludo**. Their doodles are on display in the computer room. Six of these winners were chosen to represent our school in the next stages of the competition. We wish them the best of luck!

Many congratulations to the Dominican Sisters who came to Cabra 190 years ago, in 1890



Mrs Byrne thanks all who donated food for the St. Vincent de Paul appeal

