

St. Conleth's National School Newsletter

November/December 2016

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Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas Concerts take place on the 6th, 7th, 13th & 14th of December. Tickets for the Carol Service are now available from class teachers at a cost of €2 each. Tickets are limited to 2 tickets per family. Any surplus tickets will be available from the office after class sales are completed. To accommodate the audience and the participants we will have 4 performances. Check the schedule shown to find your class. We look forward seeing you all at the Concerts.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Tuesday 6 th December	Wednesday 7 th December	Tuesday 13 th December	Wednesday 14 th December
Ms. O' Brien's Class Mrs. Mather's Class Mr. Hughes Class	Mrs. Cooney's Class Mrs. O' Donoghue's Class Peace Proms Choir	Ms. Walsh's Class Mrs. Byrne's Class Mrs. Cullinane's Class Ms. Keown's Class	Mr. Claffey's Class Mrs. Grogan's Class Mrs. Kenny's Class Mr. Farrell's Class Ms. Justin's Class

**APPLY
NOW!**

**Now Enrolling for
September 2017.
Application forms
available from the
school office.**

Parents Association



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children



Our Parents Association are very active this year. Meetings are being held each month and these have been very productive. The Parents Association have put together a newsletter to keep everyone up to date with all the activities that are being organised. The school relies on the Parents Association for financial support that enhances the school experience for each and every child in our care. We are extremely grateful to the members that commit so much, so willingly.

The inaugural newsletter of the Parents Association lists the schedule for this year's meetings and texts will issue to remind you all in advance of the meetings. Every parent is a member of the Parents Association and every parent is welcome to attend the meetings.

The activities organised to date have included the Christmas cards that your children designed and made. Not only have valuable funds been raised, but the children enjoyed creating the cards and seeing their work presented in such a professional manner. Sincere thanks to the Parents Association for giving our children the opportunity to be involved in this venture.

In the newsletter you will find out how the funds will be used at school. Without this extra injection of funds, there are many activities that might be cancelled or restricted at school. We need the Parents Association and we truly appreciate the generosity of all involved.

There are many plans in place for fun and fund-raising events during the year. The newsletter gives details of these events. If you are available to help or participate, you would be very welcome. The members of the Parents Association Committee invite you all to their meetings and they look forward to seeing you there.

Parent-Teacher Meetings



We take this opportunity to thank all the parents and guardians for attending the Parent-Teacher meetings in November. Good collaboration between school and home is a significant factor in the successes and levels of attainment of our children. Your support and encouragement is truly appreciated. Working together will always benefit our children.

Sometimes, it can seem as though there's a chalk line drawn down the middle of your child's life. On the home side of the line, there are all the things you know about your child, the help you give with homework and the social development with siblings and peers. On the school side of the line, there are all the things your child's teacher, the help being given with school work and social development with peers. The information on both sides can be combined to create a fuller understanding of your child. This is not only of benefit to children but also to parents and teachers.

We thank you all for attending the Parent-Teacher evenings and encourage you to continue to communicate regularly with school.



Green Schools News



This month we have been revising our second flag, "Energy". The children all engaged in Energy activities, including reading "Guzzler's Big Book on Energy." Next month an Energy workshop from the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) has been arranged for a few classes. Second and Third Classes proved to be the most energy efficient in turning their lights off when leaving the room. Well done!

In December we are revising the theme of "Water". It's a topic that everybody seems to be interested in at the moment!

Thank you to everyone who donated bags to our clothes collection in November. Our only difficulty was storing so many bags while awaiting collection. We cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity. Funds raised from this will go directly towards our Green Schools Fund.

We had three very successful workshops from GOAL recently, which focussed on Global Citizenship. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes enjoyed the workshops and gained a lot of knowledge about poverty and inequality in the world. We also handed over a cheque for €540 to GOAL which our children had raised on our GOAL Jersey Day.



GAUDATE DAY

Gaudate Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The word, "Gaudate" means "Rejoice". In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of joy," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you." The pink candle will be lit on the Advent Wreath on Gaudate Sunday.

We've discovered a beautiful Advent tradition that has become very popular. Every year in Rome, on Gaudate Sunday, the Pope blesses the crib figures of Baby Jesus that people bring to St. Peter's Square. Last year, the Catholic Grandparents Association introduced this initiative in Ireland. This is a wonderful way of putting the birth of our Lord Jesus at the centre of Christmas.

On Monday December 12th (the day after Gaudate Sunday) we will have a special blessing of the Baby Jesus figures at school. The children are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from the crib at home to school. We suggest that the children carefully bring the crib figure to school in a little box or package. Fr. Fitzpatrick will bless the Baby Jesus for each child and the figure can then be carefully repacked and minded until Christmas day when your child/children can place the Baby Jesus in the family crib. We think this will make the birth of Jesus even more special to the children.



Christmas Jumper Designs

Our Sixth Class children have been very busy and very kind recently. They have utilised their artistic skills and talents to design Christmas jumpers. This activity is part of a fundraiser for Crumlin Hospital. The children have also submitted a donation of €83 to the Children's medical Research Fund. We are very proud of the children. They are generous and giving. Their designs are incredible. They have shown great initiative and they have set wonderful example for all at St. Conleth's.

Shoe Box Gifts

The children enjoyed donating shoe boxes over the years and this year the children themselves started the ball rolling. Teachers were inundated with requests from the pupils about organising the collection. Mrs. Cooney volunteered to co-ordinate the Shoe Box Appeal for the school. Shoe boxes were collected for Team Hope.

This year TEAM HOPE are planning that shoeboxes from Ireland will go to street children, orphans, children in hospital, poor families, victims of war or other needy situations. The only criteria for receiving a shoebox is the need of the child. Our shoebox gifts will be given into the hands of a needy child, irrespective of his or her race, religion, ethnicity, or background – who all equally deserve a shoebox gift.

As usual Derrinturn has been generous and sympathetic. Initially we intended to prepare one shoebox per class, but as usual, the generosity of our parents and children shone through and we had more boxes than anticipated. We thank you all for your kindness. Santa will surely be just as generous when he visits our thoughtful children!!



Christmas Concerts: 6th, 7th, 13th & 14th December (See page 1)

SEAI Workshops for Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd classes: Thursday 8th December

Panto Trip for 3rd & 4th classes: Thursday 8th December

Gaudate Day Celebrations: Monday 12th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS: School closes on Thursday 22nd December

Parents Association Church Gate Collection this weekend.

Please give generously. Thank you.