



Christ the Saviour N.S.

Christmas Newsletter 2015



Pupils and teachers in Christ the Saviour N.S. have been very busy since we returned to school after the mid-term break in October. This newsletter will show you some of the exciting things we've been up to! We hope you enjoy this edition as much as the Halloween edition!!!



Christmas Carol Service



We are delighted to invite you to attend our special Christmas Carol Service, taking place Monday 21st December at 1p.m. in Ballingarry Church. All children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class will perform a selection of Christmas Carols. It promises to be a wonderful occasion, so please come along - all are welcome!



Feast of The Immaculate Conception

To celebrate the feast of The Immaculate Conception on the 8th of December, we held a special prayer service here in the school. Fr. Lane kindly visited us and gave everyone an invitation to visit the crib, at the church, over the Christmas holidays.

Curricular News

Science:

The Senior Infants and First Class were in for a treat on the morning of the 3rd of December, when Ms. Tangney brought her husband to school with her! Jer is a scientist and works in a lab. He brought the uniform he has to wear when he is doing experiments and the boys and girls got to try on his cool coat and goggles. He even left them with the class and they are already looking forward to dressing up and using them again! He showed them some really fun experiments using static electricity and explained all about his job! They really had a super morning! Thank you Jer and Ms. Tangney!



Literacy - M.S. Readathon:

This year 3rd class to 6th class took part in the M.S. Read-a-thon from the 9th of October to the 9th of November. Children were asked and encouraged to read as many books as they could and donate €1 per book they read. Many of the children worked so hard for the month, reading all sorts of books. We had many excellent readers who read over 15 books and other children improved immensely at their reading during this time.

To celebrate this great reading the teachers from these classes chose their top two readers. The prize winners included:

- Ms. Hanley chose Phoebe Sheehy and Brett Shanahan from 6th class, who read a total of 25 books between them.
- Mrs. Murphy chose Tomás Houlihan, for the most expressive and improved reader and Jack Mullane, from 4th Class, who read 17 books.
- Ms. Fitzgerald chose Abbie Clancy and Tim O'Donoghue, both improved and great readers for the month.

These children received a prize of a book of puzzles and 'anti-boredom' activities from the school.

Well done to all who took part, we have now sent a cheque to M.S. Ireland for a total of €276.

Keep up the reading everyone!!



Literacy:

[Spelling Workshop and Parents Talk with Mr. Brendan Culligan](#)

Brendan Culligan visited the school on Wednesday 18th November and completed two hours of continued professional development with teachers. He then provided a parent's information talk from 7-8p.m.

Brendan is a lecturer and leading expert in the area of spelling development and is author of two books: 'Improving Children's Spelling' and 'Spelling & Handwriting: A Guide for Teachers and Parents'.

Brendan provided teachers and parents with plenty of advice on how to encourage and motivate pupils. The method being used by all teachers is:

LOOK - COVER - WRITE - CHECK

There are many ways that you can support your child with their spelling development. Please encourage your child to write down their spellings instead of calling the spelling out. Also encourage them to check the spelling themselves. Teachers have now changed how we correct spellings. If a pupil gets part of a spelling incorrect, this is marked for the pupil to check, rather than putting an X beside the whole word.

Brendan provided an information handout on spelling and handwriting and this was made available to all parents following the talk. A copy of this handout is also on our school website under the section: School Self Evaluation.

In January, staff will develop an action plan following on from Brendan's talk and this will be made available to all parents.



History: A Visit from the Army

We were really lucky this week to have been visited by two soldiers from the Irish Army!

On the 10th of November, Sergeant Derek Dinan and Private Ciara Quinn presented us with an Irish Flag and the 1916 Proclamation.

Sergeant Dinan told us all about the flag and what it is like to be in the army.

They asked us to raise our new Irish flag at 12 noon on Monday the 15th March. Every school in the country will join us!

We enjoyed asking them questions about their uniforms and singing and playing 'Amhrán na bhFiann' for them!



Physical Education: Swimming

All children from 4th to 6th class will be beginning a six week block of swimming lessons in January in Askeaton Leisure Centre. Every year the children thoroughly enjoy these lessons and provide them with a valuable learning experience. Swimming lessons will cost a total of €40, including the cost of the bus. There will be five swimming tutors available to work with our pupils. We hope all children learn about water safety, progress in their swimming abilities and have lots of fun.



Sport:

Well done and congratulations to the following children who made the Sarsfield Cup and Larkin Shield, West Primary Schools Team;

- Michael Russell and Philip Byrnes
- Anna Mullane



Fundraising News

Parents' Council Cake Sale November 2015



The Parents' Council hosted their annual Cake sale on Friday November 26th, 2015. As always there was great support from the locality in terms of providing and purchasing baked goods. "Guess the number of sweets in a jar" and the raffle proved very popular. Everything was sold out by 2pm! Thank you to all the parents who helped organise and orchestrate the day - some new faces were very welcome! Thank you to the pupils and staff in Christ the Saviour School for coming across to the cake sale and shopping with us. The winner of the Guess the number of sweets was Nancy O Keefe. Some of our Raffle prize winners include Danny O Grady, Hannah Mulcahy, Edward Lynch, Noelle Insley, Billy Birne, Chloe O Keefe and Sarah O Connor.

The total profit raised from the Cake Sale and Raffle was €936.



Fundraiser for a New Set of School Jerseys for Christ the Saviour N.S.

There will be a **bucket collection** taking place in the school **from the 17th until the 22nd of December** to raise funds for a new set of jerseys for the school. Presently, the school has only one set of jerseys and it is hoped that we would be in a position to buy a second set in the New Year.

Christ the Saviour National School has been very active in terms of entering sporting competitions, for both boys and girls, over the years and as a result we have encountered a few problems whereby the girls and

boys matches have clashed. As a result we would really like to have a second set of jerseys that could be worn by the children on days like this.

Consequently, there will be a bucket collection taking place, in the school, between now and the Christmas holidays. A bucket will be placed at the front of the school and donations can be dropped into the bucket at any time. Furthermore, **the bucket will be placed in the church during the carol service which is taking place next Monday the 21st of December.**

All donations would be gratefully appreciated. Thanking you in advance for your continued support and kindness.



Letters to Santa:

Junior Infants were very busy last week writing their letters to Santa. They had to write Santa's name and address on the envelope and then put a stamp on it. It was great fun.

Our Postman, James, came and collected their letters with his post van. He said he would tell Santa how good the children are at school. The Junior Infants were super excited and cannot wait for Santa's visit on Christmas Eve.





New Board of Management

The new Board of Management has been officially constituted for a term of four years. The first meeting of the Board of Management will take place on Monday 21st December. The eight members of the new Board of Management are:

Chairperson: Kevin Kennedy

Patron's Representative: Fr. Dan Lane P.P.

Principal & Teacher Representative: Rebecca Cleary & Mary Hanley

Community Representatives: Trudy Stuart Trainor & James Higgins

Parent Representatives: Patricia Houlihan & Kieran Irwin

We would also like to wish our Principal, Mrs. Cleary the very best of luck as she waits to welcome her new baby. We are all excited to hear some news in the very near future!



Finally, the staff and Board of Management of Christ the Saviour N.S. would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!! We hope Santa Claus visits all the children in Ballingarry on Christmas Eve.

School will re-open on Wed. 6th January. Enjoy the Christmas holidays!!

