

Saint Patrick's Infants School Newsletter

Nov / Dec 2018



Upcoming Events

- ◆ School closes for Christmas Holidays Friday 21st Dec at 11:30 am
- ◆ School re-opens Monday 7th January
- ◆ Term 1 attendance certificate ceremony

A Christmas message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians and Friends

Dia dhaoibh go léir!

Christmas is here once again and the boys and girls have been busy with all things festive from Christmas art to writing their Santa letters! On behalf of all the staff here I would like to thank you for your great support and encouragement and wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2019 for lots more fun, friendship and of course work!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome 3 new members of staff, Alannah Wilmot teaching in Senior Infants, Stacey Taylor who is working as a member of our SET team and Alan Power who will be joining us in January. I would like to thank Margaret McCarthy our Deputy Principal for all her work, support and dedication to all of us in St Patrick's Infants over the years and wish her all the best on her retirement.

You will be missed Margaret.
Le gach dea-ghúí
Anne O' Connell
Principal



A message from the Board of Management

It is with a heavy heart we must bid farewell to our Deputy Principal, Margaret McCarthy, as she sets off into the sunset of her retirement. Margaret has been an intrinsic and integral part of the St.Patricks Infants School Family and will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Board of Management I thank Margaret for her dedication, diligence and commitment over the years and wish her every happiness in her retirement.
Stephen Moroney, Chairperson.

The Board of Management would like to wish all of our amazing children and their families a happy, joyous and fun Christmas. It is an unfortunate reality that Christmas may not be as enjoyable for some families so if you can, try to spread some of your joy around so everyone can have a Happy Christmas!!

Regards,
Stephen Moroney



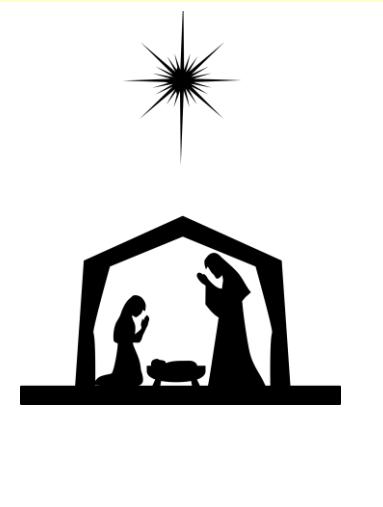
Christmas Fete

On Monday 17th something magical happened in St. Patrick's. Our school halla was transformed magically into a Christmas Wonderland with an array of activities, from storytelling to Art and Craft organised for each of the classes. The halla was beautifully decorated in festive bunting, lights, trees and art work. To top it all, who should appear but Santa himself with presents for all the children! I overheard Santa tell one of his elves that all the children are on the nice list!!

The atmosphere was truly amazing and the whole event was a huge success. Thank you so much to all the parents that donated their time and energy into decorating the halla and organising the activities. The staff and children are truly blessed to have such dedicated and generous parents here.

Senior Infants Nativity Play

On Tuesday 18th December the Senior Infants performed ***The Story of the First Christmas*** through song, dance and narration. On stage there were shepherds, wise men (and women!) innkeepers, stars, angels, donkeys and of course Mary, Joseph and the angel Gabriel. The girls and boys all looked wonderful in their costumes and accessories. They narrated the story, sang sweetly and above all else, reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas. Well done to all the children for a beautiful and spiritual performance.



Junior Infants Christmas Concert



To celebrate the most magical time of the year the Junior Infant classes put on a festive Christmas Concert on Wednesday 19th. They sang many popular Christmas songs such as Santa Claus is coming to town, Jingle Bells and Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer. All the teachers were very proud of their sweet singing. Well done to all!

Attendance Drive

Congratulations to all children who made a great effort to come to school every day as part of our attendance drive in November. Children were rewarded with stickers and prizes at the end of each week and their attendance certificates are proudly displayed outside each classroom.

In January attendance certificates will be given out at assembly for three categories – full attendance, excellent attendance and greatly improved attendance. Photographs will be taken of those children which will be displayed on our attendance board in Term 2. Let's hope the positive trend continues for the rest of the school year.

Christmas Raffle

Congratulations to all the winners of our Christmas Raffle. Thank you to all those who donated prizes and all who supported us by purchasing raffle tickets.

Some of the fantastic prizes that were won included the Corporate box in the Opera House for Aladdin, personal training sessions, afternoon tea in Clayton Silversprings, a food hamper from SuperValu Glanmire, a family ticket for Mahon Omniplex as well as many gift baskets and gift sets.



Cork Simon Fundraising

In recent weeks all the boys and girls have written a letter to Daidí na Nollaig (Father Christmas) wishing him well and letting him know what they would like for Christmas. Each class walked to our local Post Office and some classes even posted a Christmas song to Santa along with their letters. We now know that all these letters were received because a special delivery arrived from the North Pole! Santa had replied to all the children in St. Patrick's! Santa told us that he had received our letters and that he had heard great reports about them all from his robin (who was spotted peeping in the windows of St. Patrick's recently!)

The school has managed to raise a lot of money for the charity. Thank you to everyone for your support



Great days out for Room 19



Room 19 has had a great time over the past few weeks. Last month we visited the Glen Park. Here we fed the ducks and walked to the top of the hill where Denis could see his house. In October we visited the Glen resource centre where the children got to experience snow tubing, running in giant Moonwalkers, fun on the bouncy castle and our favourite thing - the bungee trampoline!

We have also enjoyed 4 great trips to Chuckies in Wilton, and a huge thanks to the local members of An Garda Síochána for organising transport for us. Finally to round off a fabulous term the children had a great trip to Grenagh farm where we got to meet Santa himself!

'Fighting Words' Workshops

Room 20 was thrilled to take part in The Grafitti Theatre's "Fighting Words" workshops in November.

This involved two workshops focused on character and character creation - based on Peter Reynolds' creative books DOT and Dotish.

One workshop took place in-school the other, as a follow up at Graffiti Theatre in Blackpool. The boys and girls enthusiastically explored the various texts, building their creative confidence while working on developing characters. Wonderful oral language was elicited and beautiful, individual pieces of art were created by everyone. The children were so thrilled to be driven to the theatre, by Garda Maeve, in the Garda minibus. A big thank-you to Rav and all the team at Grafitti and to An Garda Síochana for providing transport



Healthy Lunches

Our school is a health promoting school and we are very fortunate to be able to offer each child a free, nutritious, tasty lunch and snack each day. Eating healthily promotes improved concentration and higher achievement among young children as well as long term health gains in later life. Here is a sample menu of what your child can avail of in school at present but we are monitoring consumption and will adapt when necessary.

Our school lunch consists of:

- Wholemeal cracker
- Banana
- Strawberry
- Wholemeal brown bread
- Cheddar cheese
- Real deli sliced turkey
- The only drinks we encourage are milk and water.

We place a lot of emphasis on positive mental health and so at various times throughout the school day we are practising mindful breathing and relaxation with the children, while at other times we encourage active, aerobic activity to promote greater concentration and motivation. It is our mission to equip the young children in our care with the resilience to cope with the many challenges they may face in later life.

MSI

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another school year and a special welcome for our new Junior Infants.

I have taken photos of most of the Junior Infants with their parents at this stage but please contact me to arrange a time that suits you if you missed me.

Saint Patrick's Infants

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“Kind words, kind hands, kind feet”

We're on the Web!
www.stpatricksinfants.net

The in class initiatives will be starting soon so watch out for the green notes. We are starting Internet safety with Senior Infants and their parents this Friday Oct 3rd @ 9:50, each Senior Infant class will get two sessions starting with Room 10 on Oct 3rd and 10th ,Room 3 on Oct 17th and 24th and Room 19 Nov7th and 14th .

We are hoping to restart our parent and toddler group so if you are interested let me know.

There are many other courses available in the Community, computer, self-development and gardening if you are interested at all please contact Ger @ 0863740419 for more information.