



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

## Principal's Address

**June 2016**

Dear Parents,

As the end of another school year approaches, I wish to say a very sincere “Well done” to our teachers and our pupils. We have had another very busy successful year at school. We have had all kinds of wonderful events and celebrations again this term such as, Confirmation, First Communion, Music Generation performances, Active School Week, ‘Get Active’ Club, Sports Day, Science Day and 6<sup>th</sup> class Graduation Ceremony. Our school tours are over and all of our pupils really enjoyed them! All of these events have been undertaken as part of the pupils’ learning programme and with the support and participation of all our teachers and SNAs. The end- of- year tests have been completed by all our pupils and we are delighted with the results, which you have received in the school reports. We are genuinely proud of our great school. I wish to thank each and every one of our staff members, teachers, SNAs, secretaries and caretaker for their outstanding commitment to our school. The pupils are indeed lucky to have such a hardworking, self-motivated and industrious staff who give whole-heartedly of themselves for the good of our pupils. A thank you, to all our pupils who behave themselves so well at school, on out of school trips and who do their very best at everything. Our school is a very happy place to be. We extend our good wishes to our 6th class pupils as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey.

We have met our new Junior Infants who cannot wait to come to school. Thanks also to our Parents’ Group for all their support throughout the year and to all our parents who work along with us to support the school and the pupils. Last, but not least “Go raibh míle maith agaibh” to our Board of Management which is so supportive of everything we do. I wish everyone a very happy summer break and hope to see you all back at school again on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016.

**Le gach dea-ghuí,**

**Ms. Geralyn Costello**

**Principal**

## ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

### Active Schools Week 30<sup>th</sup> May- 3<sup>rd</sup> June:

Active Schools Week was a wonderful week in school! All the pupils and teachers were really busy, engaging in all types of sporting activities! Pupils played badminton, tennis, basketball, rowing, cricket, football and swimming. The girls were treated to displays from the following clubs- Karate and Kick-boxing. A gymnastics coach came to school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to work with all of the classes.



Sports Day took place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The girls from 6th class organised stations on the playground for the younger pupils and we also used the nearby track for all sorts of races—running races, egg and spoon, sack races etc. A great day was had by all! Many thanks to the teachers who planned the day, to the 6th class pupils who helped to run the events and to Mrs. Farrell who co-ordinated the day's events!

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Mrs. Farrell's music groups played a selection of tunes from their wide repertoire. The wide variety of musical instruments on display was very impressive. This performance was followed by Mrs. Tyndall's dance class. The wide variety of dances and costumes held the audience enthralled.

Our 'Active School' week was made all the more enjoyable by the beautiful sunny weather!

## Parents' Group Update

### A message from our Parents' Group:

The Parents' Group assisted with many different functions over the year including our flag days in December which were very successful, our table quiz in Éire Óg in April which turned out to be a fantastic night. We also assisted with the preparation of Confirmation robes for the girls who received the sacrament and also with the annual Easter Draw which saw the appearance of the Easter Bunny!!!

The final event that the Parents' Group will assist with this year is the Graduation Ceremony for our 6th class students. We would like to wish the girls every success in their new secondary schools.

Three parents, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ignatius Phiri and Jacqueline Phelan will be leaving the Parents' Group this year after many years of hard work, we would like to thank them for all the help they have provided over the years.

New members are always welcome and we hope to see many new faces in the next school year as we have already got many plans in motion for yet another busy year! The Parents' Group would like to wish each and every family a fantastic summer break!

**Caitriona Brennan-Dowling**

**Chairperson**

### Science Day:

Science Day was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. All classes participated in lots of experiments. There were a lot of explosions and bubbles and chemical reactions but overall it was a day of fun and activities. Well done to all!



### Basketball Club:

A great season was had by all the girls. The girls took part in the Carlow League, though they did not win prizes, they really enjoyed the experience of playing against other teams from around the county. Many thanks to their coach Mr. Jim Connolly.



## HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON NEWS!

### 'Home School Community Liaison' Involving Parents:

After Easter the HSCL teacher Ms. Tully ran 'Cookery For Fun'.

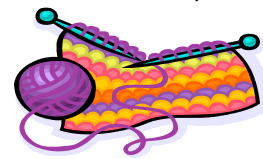
Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part. Thank you to all the parents who helped out, without you, these sessions could not go ahead.

#### "Knitting/Craft Club"

Knitting and Craft Club for parents will restart in September. Please come along, even if you are at beginner level. We will commence a new project for the new school year. If interested please let Ms. Tully know what morning you are available, then we can decide on a day which suits most people.

(Tel: 0879539529).

All parents/guardians and grandparents are welcome.



### Courses for Parents:

'Make Up and Nail Art Course' was a huge success. It was attended by 17 parents. The ladies really enjoyed the course and learned lots of useful tips from the tutor, Tracey Quinlan.

#### NEXT YEAR: - 'Advanced Make Up and Nail Art':

will commence in October. There will be 3 sessions, 1 session will focus on eye make-up. Please contact Ms. Tully if you wish to attend: 0879539529.



### **Music Generation – News:**

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in the Music Generation Choral Concert on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, in the Seven Oaks Hotel.

The girls had a wonderful day rehearsing and performing their repertoire with the other schools on the day. Our girls

performed three solo pieces: 'Hamba Lulu', 'Diamonds on the sole of her shoes' and 'Iko Iko', along with six other songs from the Music Generation programme.

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, our Junior and Senior Infants put on their 'Music Generation' concert for their parents and grandparents. The girls performed songs and musical pieces from their 'Early Years Music Literacy' programme. We were all amazed to see how proficient the girls were in using the musical instruments! We were also delighted with the number of parents who attended the concerts, your support is greatly appreciated.



## **Sacramental Celebrations:**

### **Confirmation:**

The sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April in Holy Family Church, Askea. This was a joyful occasion for the whole school community. We extend our thanks to the choir, their conductor and their accompanists. A special word of thanks to Bishop Denis, Fr. Little, Fr. Seán, Sr. Joan and the parish team for all their support. We hope that all of the children had a wonderful day.



### **First Holy Communion:**

The sacrament of First Holy Communion was celebrated in Holy Family Church, Askea on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. They were beautiful ceremonies. We extend our thanks to the class teachers and SNAs who prepared the boys and girls for this memorable day. We extend our thanks to the choir, their conductor and their accompanists. A special word of thanks to Fr. Little, Fr. Seán, Sr. Joan and the parish team for all their support. We hope that all of the children had a wonderful day.



### **Transition Programme:**

The girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class have completed a Transition Programme. This programme is designed to help the girls to transfer smoothly from primary school to secondary school. The girls have participated really well in the programme and have been enthusiastic about it. Thanks to Ms. Lorraine Dowling for delivering the programme.

### **Graduation Mass and Ceremony:**

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> classes celebrated their Graduation Mass and Graduation Ceremony. This was an emotional occasion for the girls as they reflected on their years in Holy Family G.N.S. Askea. The girls were presented with certificates and medals on the night. The whole school community extends its best wishes to all of the 6<sup>th</sup> class girls as they embark on the next phase of their education. Go néirí go geal leo sa toadhcháí.



### **School Tours:**

All classes have now been on their annual school tours. Junior Infants went to Rathwood; Senior Infants went to Woodfield House; First class went to Dublin Zoo; Second class went to The Chocolate Garden & Rathwood Maze; Third & Fifth classes went to Ferrycarrig Heritage Park, 4<sup>th</sup> classes went to Dublinia & Fort Lucan & 6<sup>th</sup> classes visited Glasnevin Cemetery & Butler's Chocolate factory. All in all everyone had a fantastic fun and educational school tour day. The 'school tour' day is a memorable day for children and we hope that this year's tour added to the happy memories!





**Excellence Award:** The school has achieved a Discover Primary Science and Maths Award for the 2015/2016 school year. Congratulations and well done to all class, their teachers and to Mrs. Farrell who co-ordinates the project.

### Jumble Sale:

6th classes (Rooms 15& 16) held a jumble sale in school on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We wish to thank all those who contributed in any way. Thank you to everybody who brought in lots of toys, books, cakes and donations for the sale. Well done girls!!



### Cake Sale:

Many thanks to parents who volunteered to bake for our 'Cake Sale' on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, also to parents who generously donated 'goodies' on the day! We extend our thanks to parents who supported the 'sale' by buying cakes on the day.



### Green Schools:

Pupils and teachers have been really busy over the past number of weeks planting, weeding and watering in our school gardens. All of the flowers are in bloom and the gardens are looking really well.



### Anti-Bullying & Child Protection policies:

The school's Anti-Bullying and Child Protection policy audits have been conducted by the Board of Management.

### IT Carlow- Festival of Fun Day:

On Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 4th class, Room 11- had a very enjoyable fun day which was facilitated by four BA Sport and Exercise (GAA) students from IT Carlow. The activities for the festival were based on the games of football, hurling, camogie and rounders', and included fundamental movement, skill development, skill testing, fun games, and blitzes using the GAA's Go Games guidelines. The girls had an exhausting but really enjoyable day!

### Presentation of monies: "Jack and Jill Foundation"

The 6<sup>th</sup> classes of both schools presented the sum of €840 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June to Mr. Hugo Jellett, incoming CEO of the *Jack and Jill*

*Foundation*. Mr. Jellett was overwhelmed by the generosity of the girls and boys. It is wonderful to see that our pupils recognise the need for generosity and realise that there are children in our community who need their help. **Maith sibh a cháilíní agus a bhuachaillí.**



## Junior Achievement:

Junior Achievement is an educational programme that links local industry to schools. This year, Louise O' Hara, a past pupil of Holy Family GNS and who is now an engineer with Merck Sharpe Dohme came as a volunteer to our school to deliver a science programme entitled 'Our Universe' to 6th class. The pupils in Room 16 explored the world of science, maths and engineering in a fun and exciting way. They made periscopes and became 'detectives' solving a murder mystery through chromatography. Junior Achievement was a very enriching and rewarding experience for the girls. It inspires and motivates them to realise their potential by valuing education and understanding how to succeed in the world of work. We are very grateful to all the volunteers for their professionalism and enthusiasm in presenting the programmes and we look forward to another successful partnership next year.



## Competition Winners!

### Prize Giving Ceremony re: 'Scríobh Leabhar':

There were great celebrations in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy in Kilkenny on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, at the prize giving for the Kilkenny Education Centre, 'Scríobh Leabhar' project. The 'Scríobh Leabhar' project involved primary school pupils writing and illustrating books "as Gaeilge". The children loved being authors and illustrators. 12 pupils from our school, were presented with medals and certificates for their endeavours. They are Ancita Roney, Jacqueline Holguin, Hayley Cahill, Kim Kumpiranon, Goda Stepanova, Oliwia Majdzinska, Emilia Hamulewicz, Wiktoria Rochnowska, Agnieszka Kramarczyk, Brianna Lupchian, Leisa Jacob and Karina Dzierba. Brianna Lupchian addressed the audience outlining details of her 'leabhar'.

**We celebrate all our winners at Assembly every Monday morning. Space does not allow us to print all of the winners' names. A great number of our pupils are very successful at Irish dancing, modern dance, music and many sporting activities. We are always delighted to hear of their successes.**

## Summer Holidays:

**The school will close for summer holidays on Thursday 30th June @ 12.00.**

**School will reopen on Thursday**

**1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 at 9.20a.m.**

**We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday  
and look forward to seeing you all on 1<sup>st</sup> September!**

**Bain taitneamh as na laethanta saoire;**

**Ciesz się świętami; Izbaudiet brīvdienas.**