

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTER- EST:

- Visit of the Jazz Band
- After School Activities
- New staff members
- New Junior Infants
- Student Council
- Morning Time Assembly

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas

On behalf of the Board of Management and all of the staff of our school, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your family a happy and peaceful Christmas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff members for their wonderful dedication since the start of term. I am very proud of our team here in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh and I think our children are very fortunate to have such skilled and committed people guiding their education. I have said this before but I think what our staff give here in this school is second to none and our children are

indeed privileged.

I would also like to thank the Parents Association for their efforts since the start of the year. The committee do a wonderful job and are never found wanting in terms of supporting the school. I especially thank all of the parents who helped to organize what was a wonderful day, when we hosted a family Christmas party on the 6th of December. Well done and thank you.

I thank you the parent body of the school. Your support of your children certainly makes our job that bit easier and makes a huge difference to a child's

education. Education is the greatest gift we can give our children and I am of the belief that Spioraid Naoimh boys are fortunate to come from the homes that they do.

Finally, to the boys of the school I say well done for all your hard work. I really believe that being a Spioraid Naoimh boy is something to be proud of and we here at Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh are very proud of you.

Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Brian Cuthbert
School Principal

School Concert

Our Christmas concert was held in the school hall on Thursday and Friday last. It was a marvelous success and it certainly was a feast of song, music and drama. Many weeks of practice went into each performance and we would like to say well done to all of the boys in the school for putting on such a wonderful performance. We also would like to thank the teachers for all their hard work.



The Christmas Party

After the disappointment of last year (cancelled due to snow and ice) this year's Christmas Party went ahead and was a resounding success.

Two sessions were held in the school hall, at 12.00 noon and 2.30 pm. Fun, games, face-painting and bouncy castle were all part of the entertainment which made for a vibrant and exciting time for all.

The highlight of the afternoon, especially for the younger members, was the visit of Santa him-

self, on a short break from his duties at the North Pole. We are all looking forward to his return visit to our homes on December 25th!

Many thanks are due to the Parents' Association for their hard work in preparing the hall and bringing the show together. Thanks also to the parents and staff who turned up on the day to ensure the smooth running of the party.



After School Activities

G.A.A.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 2:45-3:30 during September and October G.A.A. training took place in the Bishopstown G.A.A. Club.

Mr. McCarthy trained the boys from 4th-6th class with the able assistance of Brendan Driscoll. The school gaelic football team represented the school in the Scaith na Scoil leagues and the school hurling team will enter the leagues in the Spring.

Mr. McCarthy is looking forward to the hurling training and hopes that many boys will become involved.

Basketball

Ms. O Callaghan has been running a very successful basketball class on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-3:25 after school. Up to 20 boys from 5th and 6th attend the classes and at Christmas the school team will be picked. The boys who attend have great fun and Ms. O'Callaghan is an expert coach Basketball classes will continue after Christmas.

Soccer

Every Friday Mr Carroll runs a soccer programme in the school hall. It is thoroughly enjoyed by everybody.

Band

Following the retirements of Mr. Fennell and Mr. Foley the school band was taken over by Mr. O Callaghan and Mrs. Morley. Mr. O Callaghan has taken on the whistle section while Mrs. Morley teaches the accordion. Classes are held after school and the band will perform at the Christmas concert in December.

The boys are leaning some marches and polkas as well as the popular Christmas pieces for this performance.

Tennis

Tennis continues every Thursday throughout the term.

The Christmas Concert

This year's Christmas concert will have a new format compared to previous years.

It was felt that the senior school would welcome the opportunity of performing at Christmas. Previous years had seen the Junior School at Christmas and the senior boys perform in the Summer concert. Games, activities and school trips have made it much harder to fit all the Summer activities in.

At the time of writing the whole school is beginning the rehearsal process and we all look forward to an entertaining Christmas show in the middle of December.



Green Day for Ireland

The Irish rugby team was not wanting for support in Scoil an Spioraid Naomh. To celebrate their playing in the Rugby World Cup in October a very successful "Green Day" was organised in the school. Pupils and teachers embraced the idea whole-heartedly and a great day was had by all. The "Evening Echo" came to record the occasion as Scoil an Spioraid Naomh was the only school in the world to have two past pupils playing together in a World Cup Quarter Final. Well done to the Irish team and our past-pupils Donncha O Callaghan and Ronan O Gara.

Art Classes and Computers

The school is very busy in the afternoons. While the school day is over for some, many boys stay behind and enjoy extra activities with their friends. Art and computer classes are particularly popular.

Every Tuesday from 2:30-3:30 after school art classes take place. The classes are being taught by Ms. Desmond and she is delighted with the class. Forty five enthusiastic pupils

from 3rd-6th class attend the classes and after Christmas the classes will re-commence.

Also on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30 computer classes take place. The classes are being taught by Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Harney.

Twenty two boys from 1st and 2nd class attend the classes. The classes will continue after Christmas.



Visit of the Jazz Band

To celebrate the Jazz Festival before the mid-term break a very successful concert was held in the school hall. The Oh No Jazz Band from the Netherlands arrived and thrilled us with a lively and entertaining programme. The boys were introduced to the different instruments and the sounds they

make. The children, staff, and indeed the many parents who arrived were all thrilled and thoroughly enjoyed the jazz. Two vibrant staff members (and Mrs. Hynes and Mr. McConnell have asked to remain anonymous) added to the show with their impromptu and expert jiving.



New Teachers

Mr Carroll



Ms Ni Chrualaoi



Ms Hogan

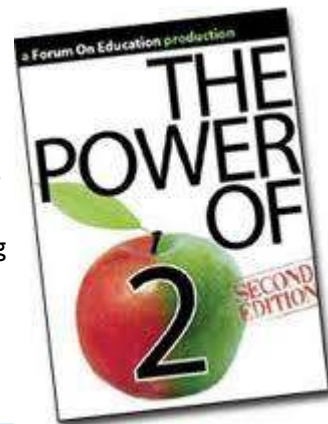


Ms Weste



Co-Teaching

This school year has seen the introduction of co-teaching in our school (2 teachers in one room). This initiative involves learning support and resource teachers coming into the classroom and teaching groups of boys who normally would have been withdrawn to another classroom in the past. This system has many benefits, notably children's self esteem, better access to the curriculum and obviously smaller class groups within the class. All of the staff have reported very favorably regarding this style of team teaching and we would believe that the long term benefits will also be very positive. A number of our staff are also running various initiatives for the many different needs of our pupils. These activities include occupational therapy class before school, art therapy, music therapy and computer skills to name but a few.



Assembly in the Morning

Since the middle of November, we have started to assemble in the school hall before school begins. We have decided to have an assembly every morning for a number of reasons but particularly as a means of avoiding standing out in the cold for twenty minutes prior to the commencement of school. An assembly every morning also affords the principal the opportunity to address the school on any issues that may arise. The plan is that during next term we will use assembly once a month so as to afford ourselves the opportunity to celebrate achievements, good work and initiative in the various classes.



Pupils playing in the snow this time last year. No more lining up in the cold.

Fundraising



Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continuing financial support for our school. I know it is not easy for anyone in the present climate but we do really appreciate your help in terms of paying school expenses, the voluntary contribution and the other expenses that arise throughout the year.

From here on in, we will have to run 2 or 3 events a year to gather funding so as to maintain the school to the standards that we are all accustomed to. This year, we will hold a cake sale in the 2nd term and a sponsored walk in the last term. The dates will be confirmed in the coming months. These events will be vital towards gathering finance necessary in terms of meeting our day to day running costs.

Thank you to the Parents Association—our library is a massive hit

The School Library



Our school library is now up and running and is proving to be a huge hit with all of our students. Classes attend a weekly library session and certainly the boys are very happy with their new surroundings. Over €4000 has been spent on stocking the shelves and the collection of books has been greatly improved. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank the parents association for their wonderful work and dedication in seeing this project through to it's finality. The library is a huge asset for our school and certainly the new bright and comfortable surroundings can only be a positive in the promotion of reading and overall literacy.

Uniform Collection

After a number of meetings with the Parents Association, the school have decided that we will trial a new system whereby families can hand in to the school, uniforms that are in good condition that are no longer needed at home.

It is felt by all here in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, that

many families are going through times of hardship. It is also felt that we must be proactive in trying to ease the financial burden on people at this time. Thus, if you have uniforms that no longer fit your son, we will gladly take them and store them. These

uniforms will be available to families from the start of May onwards. I do hope that people will avail of this initiative and that this scheme might ease in some way the current financial pressures that exist in some households.



5th and 6th at the C.I.T.



The fifth and sixth classes had a very enjoyable trip to the

Cork Institute of Technology this term as part of their Science programme.

Organised by the Lifetime Lab, this programme focused on “Elements and Properties.”

Various experiments were dis-



cussed and demonstrated during the hour long presentation. The highlight for many was the “exploding geyser of water”, while some of the boys (and their teachers) were enthralled by the placing of an egg into a

jar much narrower than itself.

All proclaimed themselves delighted with the opportunity of seeing Science in action.



6th Class Student is Swimming Champ

Daire Boylan a Sixth Class student in our school will take part in the All Ireland Swimming Final in Galway on December 10th and 11th.

Daire was inspired to swim by watching his older brother. His swimming hero is Olympic Champion Michael Phelps.

Daire trains six days a week throughout the year, his only break coming on Sunday morning.

Daire loves to swim, saying it is his most enjoyable activity. “A real rush” comments Daire.

Daire is very proud to be representing Scoil an Spioraid

Naoimh, and we are very happy to wish him well in his endeavours. Good luck Daire and come home with gold.

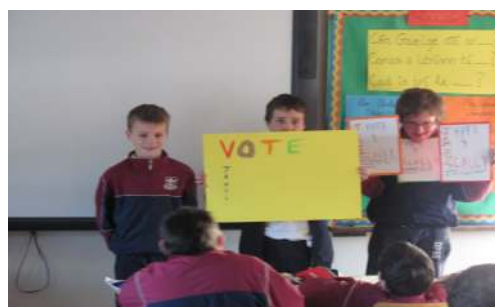


The Student Council

For the first time in the history of the school, we recently held elections so as to fill positions for our student council. There was real excitement in 5th and 6th class as nominated students went on the campaign trail. Eventually 12 boys were elected. These boys meet twice a month to discuss

school matters of concern to their peers. These matters are then brought to Mr Cuthbert’s attention. The following boys are on the council this year, Omar Aftab, Robert Long, Kevin Tobin, Len Ahern, Eoin Dorgan, Cian Morey, Conchúr O Herlihy, David Cremin, Scott Milne Dowd, Tadgh

Connery, Dara Costelloe and Donagh Dorman.



New Junior Infants

This year's Junior Infants are definitely enjoying being at Scoil An Spoiraid Naomh B.

Between the two classes there are 37 boys.

The new students enjoy painting, playing with play-doh, reading their Jolly Phonics. But their all out favourite subject is P.E. Both teachers agree that the junior infants are hard working, fun and a pleasure to teach.

This year the junior infants teachers are hoping to show the pupils the school rules, to write, to have a good knowledge of the Jolly Phonics and to have fun.

Ms. Dodd and Ms. Ní Chrualaí both hope that the junior infants will keep up the brilliant work.

Finally the teachers are both extremely happy with their pupils work and say 'they are a wonderful class.'



Junior Infants in Halloween mode'

New Board of Management

A new Board of Management came into being on December the 1st. The Board has many important functions and is the body that has responsibility for the running of the school.

The school has been very fortunate over the years to have had Board members who have been very supportive of work undertaken in our school. Our last

Board worked extremely well together and I would especially thank both Michele Dillon and Philip O Reilly for their roles as parent representatives. The following is the new Board of management:

Professor Chris Synnott (Chairperson), Tony Moloney, Eamonn Murray, Liz McManus, Christine Tobin, David Corkey,



Eoin O Callaghan, Brian Cuthbert.

Messages

Dress Code:

All pupils are expected to come to school dressed neatly and tidily. The full school uniform must be worn on all days except on P.E. days when the complete school track suit must be worn (pupils will be advised by their teacher as to the day and time of their P.E. class) . Pupils are not allowed to

wear soccer or club jerseys as part of the school uniform or school track suit (this directive will be relaxed on specified dates to facilitate Sponsored Jersey Days or on the occasion of visits to the school of sporting personalities and teams).

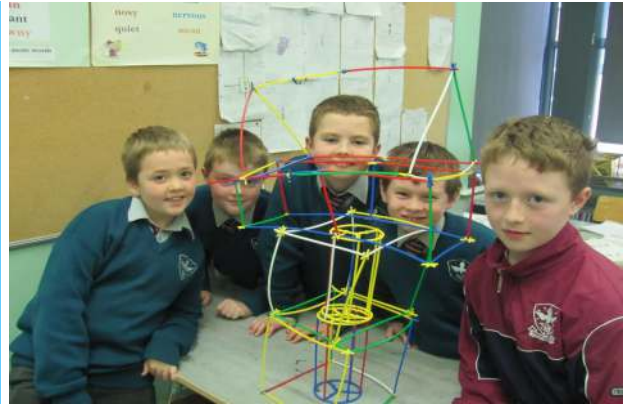
Pupils are encouraged to have their hair neat and tidy with no bleach or unusual styling.

Mobile Phones: A pupil may bring a mobile phone to school for emergency reasons but he will be required to have the phone turned off at all times during school hours. All mobile phones must have easily identifiable marks (in the event of loss). The school cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to any mobile phone.

Parents' Association

" Thank You

The Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh(B) Parent's Association would like to say thank you to all the parents and friends of the school who have helped and supported the various initiatives over the past 12 months. These have ranged from the Bag packing, Communion & Confirmation days, raffles, Halloween & Christmas decorations, Communion blazers & the recent very successful Christmas Family Fun event. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the upcoming events during 2012. Nollaig faoi shona dhaoibh go leir "



The Term in Pictures