

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Music in the School
- Student Council
- Visitors
- New teachers
- Class photographs
- News from each class

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Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B)

Newsletter

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

• Christmas 2016

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 Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh is a school with a marvelous tradition of providing the boys of Bishopstown with a well rounded and holistic education. Each year, this is at the forefront of our planning—ensuring that the boys receive opportunity, not only with regard to the standard curriculum but also in relation to other learning that we believe

to be important.

The past 12 months has flown by but I must say that it has been very enjoyable here in our school. The work of the school staff must be commended, for it is they who create that wonderful feeling of inclusiveness and belonging that permeates our school. I want to put on record my thanks to them and I know I speak on all your behalf by doing so.

As you know, our Parents' Association has for many years done tremendous work for the boys of our school.

Unfortunately, at present, we do not have a committee in situ. We need parents to step up and take on roles on the PA immediately so as to make sure we provide for our children as we always have done.

Finally, I wish all of the families in the school a happy and holy Christmas. It is a privilege to work with such wonderful families and we do realise here how lucky we are to work where we do. I hope Santa is good to all of the boys, they have been very good (most of the time !!!!!).

Brian Cuthbert

Handwriting Competition

As you are aware, we place a huge emphasis on handwriting in our school. We feel it is very important that every child produces his best work all of the time. From the early days in Juniors right through to 6th class, proper handwriting technique is practiced daily.

We hold in class competitions annually and this past week, each teacher presented awards to the various winners in each class. The overall winner was David Harte in 5th class. All winners' work is displayed on the handwriting notice board in the new building. Please come and visit.



Junior Infant Class News

Ms. Kavanagh

Every Thursday morning we enjoy a trip to Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh's very own iPad room. This is an invaluable resource that we get to enjoy in the school and it is the boys' favourite activity of the

week. The boys use the apps to reinforce the phonic and maths learning they do in class. It is definitely one of their favourite activities each week.



Autumn Walk

In September we went hunting for signs of Autumn around the school. The boys found plenty of golden and brown leaves on the ground and we had great fun comparing the different leaves everyone gathered!

Ms. Dodd

We learnt all about road safety in Junior Infants. All the boys received a yellow vest to keep them safe on the way to school. We love drama in Junior Infants! Here we are performing Goldilocks and the Three Bears!!



Senior Infant Class News

Ms. Spillane

A Visit from Pepsi the Helper Dog

We had a special visit from a gorgeous helper dog named Pepsi. Aaron's mum Elaine very kindly brought him into our classroom to meet the boys.

They learned many interesting facts about helper dogs, their roles with people with various disabilities and how they are trained up for their important job. The boys enjoyed petting Pepsi who was very obedient and friendly.



The boys loved Pepsi



Heroes Day

The boys in Senior Infants looked amazing dressed up as their favourite superheroes for Heroes Day in October. They really got into character! The fundraiser was in aid of the Mercy Hospital. Thank you to all who contributed to such a worthy cause.



Mr Murphy

Our Snowmen.

In December, our class made festive Snowmen using socks, rice, ribbons, buttons and googly eyes. The boys got great enjoyment out of making them and they were delighted with the finished product. The snowmen were easy and enjoyable to make, looked excellent in our classroom and the boys were thrilled with their work. Art is definitely one of the favourite classes we do each week in Senior Infants.

First Class News

Miss Ní Chrualaoí

We have been learning all about stories/ narratives and we looked very closely at the story of The Gingerbread Man. We read the story, sequenced it and wrote it in our own words. We made 'wanted' posters

for the nasty fox and in art class we each created our own gingerbread man. We have started learning to play the tin whistle and have learned Bee tune, Siren song and Bag tune. This has been great fun! We painted snow globes

and made some cool Jack Frost pictures using tinfoil to create a winter wonderland in our classroom.

We're really enjoying Project Spraoi with Conor. He has taught us all about healthy eating.



Mr. Kenny

Guess the 2D shapes in PE

During PE In October, we looked at bringing our Maths work to the hall. The boys worked in their table groups and tried to make as many 2D shapes as they could remember from Maths

class. Each group had to try to remember how many sides and corners each shape had before they made the shape with their own bodies. The boys had great fun in making their shapes.

Getting ready for Christmas

The boys have been busy

with a picture of each boy's face on their own elf. We then wrote an acrostic poem on SANTA and also completed some artwork by making a Santa face and beard with cotton wool. Christmas is definitely the favourite time of the year for the boys with so much fun art work to do.

Second Class News

Ms. Winslow

We had the best fun playing dodgeball with Brendan during PE. We set up different stations and dens for shelter and attacking. We enjoyed hiding behind the blue barriers and just

popped our heads up to avoid a hit !Only three boys survived the dreaded dodgeball ! Impressive lads! Look at these fabulous paintings! We discussed which colours we could

use to convey a cold dark winter day and looked at different examples of winter art. It's difficult to convey wind and stormy conditions but I think the boys managed to achieve this very well.



Mrs. Hynes

We learnt about Wilson Bentley in English. He was the first person to discover

that no two snowflakes are the same. The boys then created their own snowflakes in class. We

also learnt about symmetry in Maths and the boys recreated the second side of their faces.



Third Class News



Mr. O'Sullivan

The boys learnt all about the different planets in our solar system. They studied the work of Chris Hadfield, a retired astronaut who was the first Canadian to walk in Space. We also learnt the song 'Space Oddity' by David Bowie. The boys then

worked in groups, creating space pictures. They were given a printed picture in the middle of their large sheet and had to create a painting around this picture. The results were amazing and the boys thoroughly enjoyed this art lesson.

The boys were delighted when I informed them that they were going to have pen pals this year. They are writing letters back and forth to their pen pals in St. Brigid's B.N.S. and are thoroughly enjoying the process. We have just finished writing our second set of letters and Mr O Mahony's 3rd class should re-



ceive them just in time for the Christmas holidays

Ms. O'Connell



For the month of November we were very fortunate to have U.C.C. students every Tuesday for a P.E. session. They taught us how to do the Haka and we learnt so much about team work!



In November 3rd class worked in groups to compile some projects on explorers. Some of the boys wrote about explorers from the past namely Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong and Tom Crean and other boys wrote about Clare O'Leary and Pat Falvey who are two modern day explorers who coincidentally both hail from Cork! On Monday the 5th

of December last we were very lucky to have Pat Falvey in our school for a visit. He told us all about his expeditions with his teddy, Freddy, to the top of the world's highest seven summits as well as the North and South Pole. What an amazing man!



Fourth Class News

Mrs. Corkery

The boys in Mrs. Corkery's fourth class were very busy drawing their very own 'Lego Self Portrait'. It was a very interesting and fun project which the boys really enjoyed. Well done boys!

The boys are very excited to be part of the school band

this year for the Christmas concert. They have put a lot of effort and practice into preparing five tin whistle songs to perform on the days of the concert. We know you will thoroughly enjoy the performance.



Mr. Carroll

Lt. Cmdr. Neil Manning of the L.E. James Joyce visited 4th class on November 11th soon after his humanitarian mission in the Med. He told boys stories of what he had witnessed, the places he had visited and how they caught and captured the traffickers. He showed the boys a number of photos and video clips of his travels. The boys from 4th class certainly have

a better understanding of the refugee crisis in North Africa and the lengths that people will go to for a better life in Europe.

In November, our 4th class soccer team played in a tournament at Middleton F.C. against eight other schools. We played four group matches, winning three and drawing the other

one. We beat St. Josephs, Mardyke in the semi-final before losing out to Gaeilscoil Middleton in a very close game. The final score was 2-1. Michael Brady was the top scorer in the tournament, closely followed by Christopher Harrington, Deckie Fitzgerald and Fergal Cotter. William Snapes and Bobby Kelleher were outstanding in defence. Ronan Canavan pulled off some fantastic saves. The boys really enjoyed their day out.



Fifth Class News

Ms. Curzon

We used a poem by Arlo Guthrie titled "When Mooses Come Walking" as our inspiration for this winter art scene. The intention with all the different shades of blue was to become sensitive to increasingly subtle colour differences in nature.

We briefly investigated Moose, their size, diet and habitat. They look quite funny at times and this really came across in the artwork. After much discussion about the plural of "moose" which is "moose" we talked about the use of what we call "poetic licence". The final results provide fabulous colour along the 5th class corridor.



Mr. McConnell

The boys in Mr. McConnell's fifth class particularly enjoyed their English writing this term. The genre they learnt was narrative writing, which can involve writing stories, fairy tales, myths, legends, mysteries etc. Here we can see them hard at work planning their own individual narrative tales.



Sixth Class News

Ms. Henchin

Sixth class explored and studied the work of Irish artist Eoin O' Connor and used his unique style as inspiration for our paintings.

Another piece of art work by sixth class are the wonderfully colourful winter scenes. We experimented with shading and colour here.

**Mr. O'Hanlon**

Student teachers from the PE Department in UCC taught our 6th class boys over 5 weeks. They learnt dances, warm ups and stretching.



The Student Council

In September of this new school year the boys in 5th and 6th class elected the members of this year's student council.

There are members from both 5th and 6th class. Representing sixth class are Ross Daly, Eoin Meers, Jack O'Callaghan, Robert Butler, Myles Fitzgerald and Ali Khan. 5th class are represented by Dáire Cuthbert, Alex English, Kevin Murphy and Liam O'Mahony. The job of the Student Council is to provide the students with a voice so that student ideas can be relayed to Mr Cuthbert.

Their first task this year was to greet the parents of the 2016 infant classes at the school Open Night in November. The boys were available to answer questions about the school and led a number of guided tours for the parents. The boys did indeed look splendid in their formal school uniform and school blazer and the parents were thrilled to have the senior boys show them around.

The Student Council has also organised an annual talent show over the last few years. "Spiorad Na-

omh's Got Talent" is now a firm favourite each June.

Many different educational activities are also organised and last year the student council organised a number of charity events under the direction of Mr. Cuthbert.

The Student Council gives all students a voice and makes sure no one is unheard. We hope this tradition continues for many years.



Open Night at SSN

A very successful open night was held in November for the parents of next year's Junior Infant classes. Nearly one hundred people arrived for the evening as there has been a huge demand for places in next year's classes.

The Senior Choir, resplendent in their school blazers entertained the parents to open proceedings, singing a selection of songs under the direction of Ms. Spillane.

Mr Cuthbert addressed the parents, outlining to them the facilities of the school, the after school activities, and the general ethos of the school.

All the staff attended the open night as well to talk to the parents.

The members of the student council were also on hand, guiding parents to seats, answering questions about the lives of the students, and giving

guided tours of the school.

The boys looked very well in their school blazers and all parents complemented them on their maturity and composure.

We hope to have a full intake of Junior Infants next September, proof positive of the continuing popularity and excellence of Scoil an Spioraid Naomh.

School Sports

Soccer

The school soccer team have been training very hard every Tuesday at lunch time, under the guidance of Mr Carroll and Brendan Driscoll. The boys are training in preparation for the FAI 5 a side tournament in March.



GAA

Sciath na Scol Football

Once again this year the teams in the top sections of Sciath na Scol were mixed up and divided into 4 groups of 5. After a narrow defeat to Scoil Críost Rí, we defeated Youghal, Gaelscoil Carrigaline and Rushbrooke to qualify for the section two semi-final. Despite a spirited performance we lost out to a physically stronger Scoil Lourdes, Carrigaline team who went on to win the final easily. Trials and training for the hurling competition will take place in February.



Extra Curricular Activities

Art classes

After School Art Club

The after school art club resumed again this year and Mr O Sullivan is delighted with the work so far. The art club ran for 6 weeks in September and October, with 30 boys attending every Tuesday after school. In these classes, the boys learn to develop their artistic techniques, working in a variety of different mediums – oil pastels, watercolours, pencil, clay etc. Work produced by the after school art club will be showcased on the windows in the main hallway throughout the year. The classes will resume on Tuesday January 17th and places will be filled on a first come first served basis after the Christmas holidays.

Soccer

Every Friday after school Mr. Carroll runs a soccer club in the school hall.

These classes have proved very popular and the boy's soccer skills are improving weekly. Soccer classes will continue for 3rd and 1st class after Christmas.

French

After school French classes take place every Wednesday afternoon and are run by Miss Ni Chruaí. Classes are based around learning useful French phrases and building up vocabulary. Fun games and songs are a big part of these lessons. Classes will resume after Christmas.

Lego

The After School Lego Club is a new club in the school run by Mr O Sullivan. It was run for 6 weeks in September and October. The classes are designed to teach the principles of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The club will

provide your son(s) with a unique opportunity to learn, build and play with LEGO® bricks. While children are having fun, they are also developing important life skills such as problem solving, communications and spatial intelligence, whilst also enhancing their self-confidence and self-esteem. Each week there is a new theme in Lego Club and some of the themes explored so far are: Minecraft Lego, Lego City, Lego Big Builds, Lego Star Wars, Lego sports. The club will resume on Thursday 19th of January and places will be filled on a first come first served basis after the Christmas holidays.



The School Choir

We were extremely proud of our school choir who were invited to perform in the annual Jubilee Concert in Dennehy's Cross Church on December 1st. They gave an outstanding performance. This was noteworthy for the fact that Mr O Callaghan has been absent for a number of weeks so Ms Spillane double jobbed by both conducting and ac-

companying the choir. The choir is comprised of boys from 4th, 5th and 6th class. They performed 3 songs for the Jubilee Bells Concert which was in aid of Cork Simon Community. €1110.42 was raised on the night for this worthy charity. The boys will perform in a number of other events

in the new year, the highlight being the C  ir F  eile in City Hall in April.

Well done boys!



Guitar and Accordion Classes



Piano Accordion

Colette Morley teaches piano accordion on Wednesday. Since September the boys have mastered "Shepherd Song," "Fis Waltz," "Twinkle Twinkle," "Edelweiss," "Silent Night" and many more. They performed exceptionally well at the Christmas Concert as part of the school band.

Guitar

Ms Nelligan and Colette Morley teach guitar on Thursdays to both beginners and improvers. The focus of these classes is to learn chords and play tunes mainly from the "Whistle Along" book. Intermediate players deviate a little from this, learning tunes such as "Fields of Athenry," "Cockles and Mussels, and "All of Me".



All the boys have worked very hard so far this year.



The Christmas Concert



At the end of this term, we will all gather with great excitement in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh's halla for the wonderful annual Christmas concert.

The school choir will open the show with some well-known Christmas carols, followed by each class from Junior Infants to Sixth class displaying their own individual Christmas dramas.

At the time of writing this article, all classes are busy with their preparations.

Songs are being rehearsed, lines are being recited, costumes are being gathered. All systems go for the big day!

The concert will run for three consecutive days. It is planned that the children's first performance will be on Monday, 19th of December. This will be a dress rehearsal and also an opportunity for the whole school to enjoy watching as spectators.

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st per-

formances are set aside for parents and families. Tickets are made available at reception and at the halla entrance.

By the time you read this we hope



that everyone will have enjoyed the festive fun!

New Teachers



Tom Kenny



Peter Murphy

St. Vincent De Paul Food Appeal

We all look forward to Christmas each year, but there are many in our society who are less fortunate than we are. The Society of St. Vincent DePaul has run Christmas food appeals for many years, and we in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh try to help in some small way.

Each year, we make an appeal to the



parents of SSNB to bring in non-perishable goods. These will be organized into hampers in school and will be given to people in most need of them in the

local area.

The food collection is organised in early December, with the help of the student council, Brendan and Norma. The hampers will be made up the week before the school closes so that they are ready for the Christmas season.

Visitors to the school



Niamh McCarthy visited the school this year. She finished second in the Discus competition in the Paralympics.



Pat Falvey, mountaineer and explorer visited the school in December. He is the first person in the world to complete the seven Summits twice. What an achievement.



Johnny Dunleavy, the captain of Cork City FC recently brought the FAI cup into our school. Many of our boys go to games in Turner's Cross regularly and were delighted to get their hands on the cup. Johnny stayed for an hour signing autographs and posing for photos. Mr Carroll's 4th class are going to a home game in March/April.

Lord Mayor's Visit

One of the great traditions unique to Cork City is the annual visit of the Lord Mayor to the city's primary schools. Generations of children have enjoyed these visits, and the opportunity to leave the classroom for a short while.

This year's Lord Mayor, Councillor Des Cahill visited the school in early October and was given a suit-

ably enthusiastic welcome. The Lord Mayor spoke about the city and our pride in the history and institutions of Cork. His question and answer session was particularly well-received.

Of course the fact that the Lord Mayor requested that the children receive no homework that night was especially welcome and the Lord Mayor left the school with cheers ringing behind him.

It is of great benefit to the children that Cork's first citizen visit them in this way. Long may this tradition continue.



Our Classes 2016-2017



Mrs. Kavanagh's Junior Infants



Ms. Dodd's Junior Infants

Our Classes 2016-2017



Ms. Spillane's Senior Infants



Mr Murphy's Senior Infants

Our Classes 2016-2017



Mr Kenny's First Class



Ms Ní Chrualaoi's First Class

Our Classes 2016-2017



Mrs Hynes' Second Class



Mrs Winslow's Second Class

Our Classes 2016-2017



Mr O Sullivan's Third Class



Ms O'Connell's Third Class

Our Classes 2016-2017



Mrs Corkery's Fourth Class



Mr Carroll's Fourth Class

Our Classes 2016-2017



Ms. Curzon's Fifth Class



Mr McConnell's Fifth Class

Our Classes 2016-2017



Ms. Henchin's Sixth Class



Mr O'Hanlon's Sixth Class



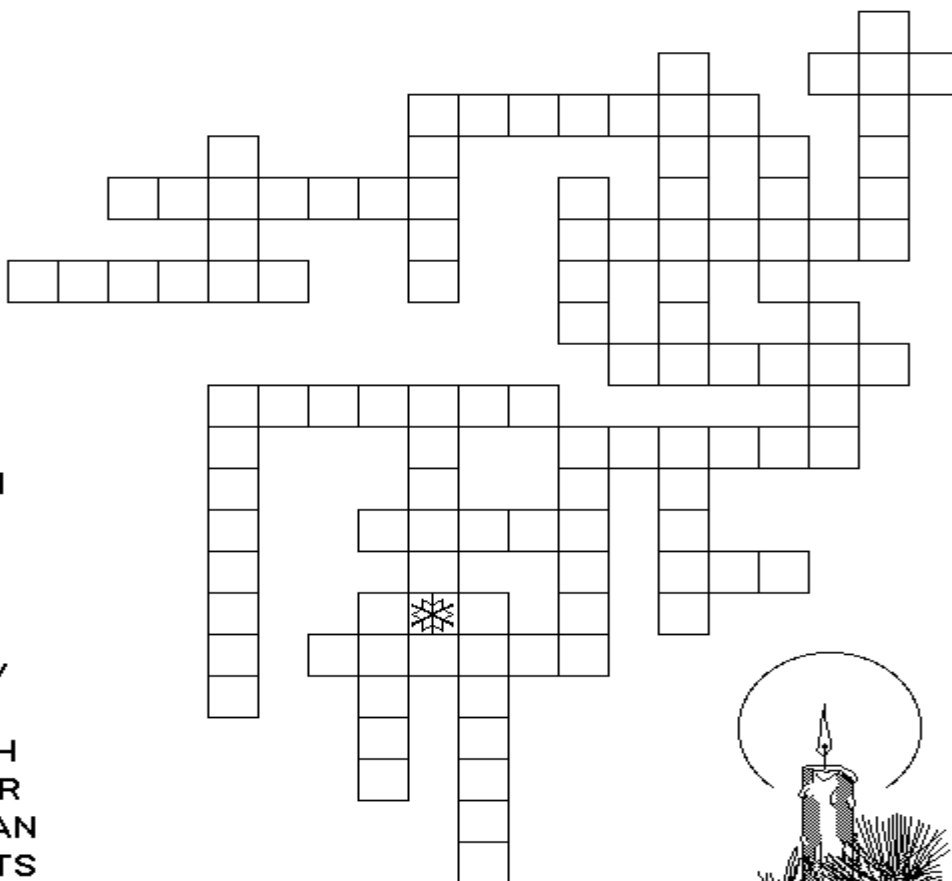
Christmas Activity Page



Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

ELF
TOY
GIFT
BELL
TREE
STAR
SANTA
COMET
CUPID
VIXEN
CANDY
FROSTY
WREATH
DASHER
DONNER
SLEIGH
DANCER
CHIMNEY
BLITZEN
RUDOLPH
PRANCER
SNOWMAN
PRESENTS
REINDEER



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