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NEWSLETTER 3 - November 2016

Back to School Mass

We celebrated our return to school with a Mass on the 7th of October at 10 am in St. Joseph's Church Clifden.

School Cross country

Oisín Maher represented the school in the Cross Country School championship and qualified for the finals with a sixth place finish out of over a 150 starters. In his debut appearance in the finals, Oisín just outside the Connaught qualifier places. Well done Oisín!

Sea week and Sea week soccer

We entered four teams in the Sea week 5-a side and they all performed admirably. All of them reached the quarter finals. Our girls were beaten by a very strong boy's team and as they were the only girls team to get to the knock out stages I feel that they can consider themselves winners. We have two teams in the semi-finals which are due to be played on the Bank Holiday weekend. Good luck boys!

As part of this programme we will have ecologist/artist Gordon Darcy and marine biologist Dave McGrath visiting Scoil Mhuire. We look forward to hosting these enthusiastic teachers.

Literacy interventions

Scoil Mhuire has invested a significant amount of money and time in early literacy interventions. We have available to us a graded reader system known as PM readers which we use as part of an intensive programme of Reading and Writing, which gives the pupils lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. We have also invested heavily in teacher training to implement a programme called Reading Recovery. Reading Recovery is an early intervention designed to reduce literacy problems through early intervention.

Arts week

The children were given the opportunity to engage with a huge variety of Arts ranging from drumming to theatre. The benefits of this week may be intangible and unquantifiable, but they are real. Learning to create and appreciate the Arts may be more important than ever to the next generation as they grow up. A special word of thanks has to go to Brendan and Eily for their hard work and dedication, thus ensuring that schools remain at the centre of the Clifden Arts festival.

Parents Association

The PA are going to survey the parent body shortly with regard to improving their service. I'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude as a school community to those who have volunteered

Dates for the diary

October 17: School Photos

October 18: Baboró Theatre in Clifden Town Hall

October 26: Gordon D'Arcy (Sea Week)

October 27: Dave McGrath (Sea Week)

October 28: School closes at 3pm for Halloween Break.

November 7: School reopens after Halloween Break.

November 12: Ceremony of Light (Confirmation classes)

November 19: Enrolment Ceremony (First Holy Communion class)

February 11: First Confession

April 6: Confirmation

May 6: First Holy Communion

and contributed so much to Scoil Mhuire. The PA funds a wide range of initiatives and resources in our school. Over the course of the last academic year alone the PA has funded our music lessons with Marie Walsh, our school website, musical instruments for the band and swimming lessons. Well done to everyone involved!!

ICT in Scoil Mhuire

Scoil Mhuire is going to begin formal ICT classes by the second term. The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire has bought laptops so that the children can use them in class and the Parents Association is providing us with an excellent tutor.

Buddy Bench

As part of raising mental health awareness, we've installed a Buddy Bench in our yard. If a child feels alone or needs someone to talk to, they simply sit on the bench and others will join them. These are our Buddy Bench rules:

Baboró

International Arts Festival for Children

We will be attending a concert organised by the Baboró International Arts Festival- Graffiti Classics: 16 strings, 8 dancing feet, and 4 voices with one aim: to make classical music wickedly funny and fantastically exhilarating. Graffiti Classics burst the elitist boundaries of the traditional string quartet with their hilarious all-singing, all-dancing musical comedy cabaret show.

Scoil Mhuire will be attending on Tuesday the 18th of October and there is a cost of €5 per child.

The Buddy Bench IS:

A very special place that reminds you to be your kindest self.

A place to sit and decide what looks interesting for you to play on the playground.

A place to include people in your play and make new friends.

A place to say "YES!" to friends who ask you to play.

The Buddy Bench is NOT:

A place to hang out and play with friends you already have.

A place where you say "NO!" to a friend who invites you to play.

A place where being mean or hurtful is OK.

A place where excluding others is OK

Award Winners	Student of the Week	Best Effort	Best Person
Junior Infants Mrs. V	Aoibhín O'Malley–Norman O'Connor		
Junior Infants Muínteoir B	Cormac Heanue–Rebecca Wallace		
Senior Infants	Ava Mitchell	Kane Delappe	Clodagh Lee
First class	Emily Conroy	Aidan Tevlin	Emma Madden
Second class	Ella Coohill/Tiernan Lee	Cillian Mannion	Georgia Lambert
Third class	Laura Malone	Oisín Foyle	Jack Acton
Fourth class	Seamus King	Eve McCarthy	Mikey Conroy
Fifth class	Billy Carey	Meibh Dickinson	Conor Knight
Sixth class	DJ McEvaddy	Mihály Pal	Rachel Malone
Seventh class			
Eighth class			
Special Awards	Ellieann O'Toole, Mikayla Folan, Ellen Conneely, Billy Carey		