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# NEWSLETTER 4 - December 2018

## Christmas wishes

On behalf of the staff, students and Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire, I would like to thank you for your support this year and wish you a very happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Dara McAleer

## St. Vincent de Paul

Senior Infants & their teachers have lovingly made a simply delicious Christmas Cake again this year! All monies raised through the sale of tickets will go to SVP. To be in with a chance to win please call to the SVP Shop in Clifden & buy a ticket for 1 Euro to support a very worthy cause. Thank you to all the parents & children of Senior Infants who supplied the ingredients and equipment!

## Connemara Golf Club

Connemara Golf Club raised €1,000 for Scoil Mhuire this year. We used some of this money to purchase an Izak 9 cube. Izak 9 was developed by Franz Schlindwein who taught maths and science at secondary level for more than 25 years and has a lot of sympathy for those who were turned off maths at school. He believes maths learning is too focused on books and that kids find it dry and boring as a result. In an effort to put some fun into fractions and punch into percentages, Schlindwein has developed Izak9, a hands-on, interactive maths-learning resource aimed at children in the final years of primary school. Physically, the Izak9 product resembles a cube and each cube is focused on a specific task from the maths curriculum such as algebra, sequences and number operations. Children work in small groups to solve the problem at hand with the position of team leader rotated. Every child has physical involvement with the task and there are currently 30 tasks in the Izak9 portfolio.

In addition to the Izak 9 cube, we also used this donation to purchase some Touch Type Read Spell software for in class use. Scoil Mhuire would like to thank Fearghal O'Rourke and the Connemara Golf Club for this wonderful contribution.

## Christmas Shows:

5th class Monday 16th at 2pm  
Infants: Thursday 19th at 13.30.

## What is going on in the Classrooms?

### Spreading the Christmas Spirit

On Wednesday 11th December 3rd class went to the Clifden Day Care Centre for a Christmas visit, they sang some Christmas Carols. Also 5th & 6th classes went to St. Anne's Nursing Home where they will sing & played some festive tunes on the fiddles, tin whistles, banjo, accordion and concertina. The children enjoyed their visits and spreading the

Christmas spirit to the community.

The **Junior and Senior Infants** classes will present their little Magic Christmas show of carols and poetry in the school hall on Thursday 19th December at 13.30.

**Second Class**—took part in the Connemara Radio recording of Christmas Carols and they will also be singing Carols on the Square next week—the day is dependent on the weather. Parents will be notified as soon we know.

**Third class** have been busy learning about space, rockets and ancient Egypt. We have nearly completed their Egyptian art and have become pharaohs. We really enjoyed our visit to the Day Care Centre to sing carols, we even sang in Irish too. We are loving the Climbing Wall! We are enjoying teasing Muinteoir Bairbre about bringing in Elf of the Shelf, as she is very scared of elves! We are praying for the whole world this Christmas.

## Advent Assembly

**Fourth class** are beginning to get into the festive mood. Last Friday Second class and ourselves hosted a special Advent assembly. We came together to pray and sing as a school community in the spirit of Advent.

During the assembly we explained the significance of the Advent wreath and what each of the candles symbolise. Advent is a time of waiting, where we wait for the birth of Jesus, who came to show us God the Father's love.

It was important for us to remind everyone about something which is often forgotten which is that there is more to Christmas than gifts, presents and material things.

It is and should be about love, kindness, helping others and to pray for others who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

*Fourth class*

## 5th class

We are very busy preparing for our Christmas Show—The 5th Factor. We are looking forward to joining St. Anne's for their Christmas party.

We will be baking some festive treats before the holidays. We are collecting for our St. Vincent de Paul hamper. We finish each day with choosing a random act of kindness for the month of December.

## 7th & 8th class

All the staff and children in 7th & 8th wish to acknowledge everyone who supported our recent fundraising events for the purchase of new equipment for the multisensory room. A special word of thanks to Rang a Se, to the Ballyconneely & Clifden Bingo Committees who facilitated raffles for the fundraiser. Nollaig Shona go leir!

## 6th Class

The fundraiser for 7th & 8th class is going really well and will continue until the end of next week. We are still collecting for our Hampers for the Homeless which will be handed over to St. Vincent de Paul next week. We enjoyed our visit to St. Anne's Nursing Home where we sang and played Christmas Carols for the residents.

## Climbing Boards

Scoil Mhuire would like to thank the Parents Association for funding the new climbing boards that you can see on our website. These are an ideal way to introduce children to climbing activities in a safe environment.

## OVERVIEW 2019/2020

|                 |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DECEMBER</b> | 20th Early closing. 12.15 for infants and siblings. 12.30 for everyone else.<br>20th December to 6th January: Christmas Break |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  | Swimming starts for 3rd & 4th class                                                                                           |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> | Week of 10th February: PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS & Book Fair<br>17th to 21st February: Mid Term Break                           |
| <b>MARCH</b>    | 28th March: First Penance<br>16 & 17th March: Bank Holiday & St. Patrick's Day                                                |
| <b>APRIL</b>    | STANDARDISED TESTING<br>15th to 26th April: Easter Break                                                                      |
| <b>MAY</b>      | 6th May: Bank Holiday<br>9th May: First Holy Communion                                                                        |

| AWARDS for the weeks 6/12/2019 | STUDENT OF THE WEEK                  | BEST EFFORT                       | SPECIAL PERSON                     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| JUNIOR INFANTS                 | Alisha Kelly O'Malley<br>Ava Linnane | Hollie Bohan<br>Louis Hayes       | Ally Naughton<br>Evelyn Ward       |
| SENIOR INFANTS                 | Jakub Dros<br>Cameron Keogh          | Kaycee King<br>Daithi McNamara    | Mary Foyle<br>Halle Joyce          |
| FIRST CLASS                    | Cara Francis<br>Dylan Prauer         | Jake Lambert<br>Flynn O'Malley    | Ella McDonagh<br>Megan O'Rourke    |
| SECOND CLASS                   | Shane Conneely<br>Caoimhe Foyle      | Lily Shanahan<br>Aoibhin O'Malley | Aine Coneys<br>Nicole O'Neill      |
| THIRD CLASS                    | Reenu Joby                           | Barry Loveland                    | Ava Mitchell                       |
| FOURTH CLASS                   | CLASS AWARD<br>Lily Hartman          | CLASS AWARD<br>James Lacey        | CLASS AWARD<br>Megan Griffiths     |
| FIFTH CLASS                    | Jamie Linnane<br>Cara O'Donoghue     | Holly O'Toole<br>John Tevlin      | Michal Wysocki<br>Lucas O'Halloran |
| SIXTH CLASS                    | Mia Barry                            | Jude McEvaddy                     | Robyn Foyle                        |
| 7th Class                      | Ciaran Coohill                       | Matthew Freeman                   | Adam Heanue                        |
| 8th Class                      | Luke Walsh                           | Ella Coohill                      | Faye Walsh                         |
| SPECIAL AWARDS                 |                                      |                                   |                                    |