



BUNSCOIL FUN!

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12
NOON FOR
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Sciath na Scol Final

This year our Bunscoil Mhuire boys qualified for the Sciath na Scol final. They did really well all year but their luck ran out in the final. The team that they played was called Ovens. The match was played in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. They were beaten by a better team on the day but we are still very proud of them. Nearly all the children in the school travelled up on buses on the day. We all had big banners and flags to support our team. Mr. O' Leary, Mr. White and Mr. Hickey were the coaches. Our captain of the team was Jake O' Brien. At the end of the match the team got a plaque. Hopefully we will win the cup next year!

By Sinead O' Brien & Ciara Kiely (Mr. White's Fifth Class)

We trained in the G.A.A. club for a while for the Sciath na Scol. We did drills and played matches at the end. We had matches most weeks and we won them all until the final unfortunately. It was still brilliant to play in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. We had most of the school and parents there to support us. We still got medals and a plaque! After the match we went up to the G.A.A. club where there was a party thrown in our honour. We got chips, scallops, pizza and wedges from Doyles! We are training for the hurling now so hopefully we will be as successful over the year

this time but hopefully we will win the final!!! " I played corner forward in the final", said Conor. "I was a sub but I had the chance to play as a defender but I really didn't want to play as defender", said Niall.

By Conor O' Neill & Niall Sheehan (Mrs. Shelly's Fifth Class).



SIMON FOOD APPEAL

Every year we get as much food as we can for Simon community. We get food that doesn't go off. We try to get the food for people in Cork City that will have a very difficult Christmas. Bunscoil

Mhuire like to do this every year. Bunscoil Mhuire think we should show all the children in the school to be helpful and kind, especially when we know five children a week are losing their

homes. Please be kind and help children get their homes back.

By Hannah O'Keefe



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Great Things going on in Bunscoil Mhuire!

- ☺ Another Successful Cake and Book Sale!
- ☺ The Big Knit for Age Action by Sixth Class!
- ☺ Avril and Alex run away with Munster Medals!
- ☺ Diabetes Awareness Campaign 2013!
- ☺ School Choir sing at turning on of Christmas Lights!

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A FEW WORDS FROM MR. O'NEILL

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff and pupils of Bunscoil Mhuire.....It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the magical time of the year that is Christmas. Where has this term gone? We are in the second week of Advent as I write this article! The great weather we had in November has certainly shortened the winter so far. This has been a busy term here at Bunscoil. It is a year that sees Mr. O'Leary retire from the teaching staff at Bunscoil. Tony has been a primary school teacher since the late 70's. He started teaching in the Christian Brothers' School in Youghal before joining the staff at the newly amalgamated Bunscoil Mhuire. Tony has always been very generous in sharing his exceptional musical talents and his love of sports with generations of pupils. He has been a valued member of the Resource teaching team at Bunscoil for the last number of years after being a class teacher at many grade levels over the years. He will be truly missed and we all wish him many long and happy years of retirement. Go n-éirí go geal leat! The Stork has had a very busy year at Bunscoil Mhuire. He must be exhausted!

Comhghairdeas ó chroí to Lisa Fitzgerald on the birth of her baby boy, Aidan, to Kate Flanagan on the birth of her baby boy, Rory and last but not least, to Máire Hickey on the birth of her baby girl, Emily. Go maire sibh go léir bhur nuacht!

Many thanks to Susan Conway, Sinéad Kenefick and Cathy Osborne who have and continue to provide excellent care for the pupils of the above mentioned teachers while they were and are on Maternity Leave.

Many thanks also to Ms. Kenefick and all the staff and parents and especially all the pupils who participate every Wednesday in the Walk On Wednesdays initiative which is a great success and a healthy and environmentally friendly way to get to the school in the morning. Maith sibh go léir agus comhghairdeas do rang Mr. White who won the golden boot award recently!

On Friday the 6th of December we had a great Cake Sale at Bunscoil. It was good to see so many people sitting down enjoying a coffee, a scone and a chat! A sincere thank you to all the parents, teachers and pupils who helped make the day a

great success. All the funds raised are going to replenish the coffers of our Sports Fund, which are low due to the great success of the girls and boys football teams with the boys reaching the Sciath na Scol final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh recently. We also came back with a huge haul of medals from the Cross Country running in Conna. Maith sibh ar fad!

Tenders have been requested for the replacement of the outside lift and construction of a new lift, which will begin in the New Year. The new lift will be an internal one and it will not be exposed to the elements unlike the present lift, which has caused it to malfunction and to be broken on far too many occasions.

At Bunscoil Mhuire we strive to provide a first class education for the pupils in our care. This is why we have undertaken a School Self-Evaluation in Numeracy and Literacy. This is a Department of Education and Skills approved method of setting goals and raising standards in education throughout the country. We also have the full support and backing of our Board of Management. In the school year 2012/2013 we focused on Numeracy. We constantly track the outcomes from our standardised tests (Sigma-T in Maths and the Micra-T in Literacy). We also used teacher observation of pupils' work, teacher discussions at staff meetings and feedback from self-evaluation questionnaires from both parents and pupils. We have excellent initiatives in Maths already in Bunscoil. "Ready, Set, Go Maths" was introduced into the Junior Infant classes in September 2012. All the Senior Infant teachers have now completed training in this programme. "Mata sa Rang" was introduced into First Class in September 2013 and the Sixth Class pupils are streamed for Maths into three groups based on their mathematical ability.

There has been a substantial investment made by our Board of Management in the acquisition of maths resource materials for the school. As a school we have decided to prioritise the following areas for improvement over the next couple of years.

Recall, retention and application of number facts (previously known as Tables).

Maths Language - provide clarity and consistency throughout the school.

Problem Solving.

We are also beginning to look at Literacy. This is year one of our Literacy Self-Evaluation. As you are aware we have many strengths in Literacy here at Bunscoil.

Jolly Phonics was introduced in 2004.

Reading Recovery began in 2007.

Literacy Lift-Off from Junior Infants to Second Class.

Group Reading and Peer Tutoring in Third Class to Sixth Class.

Attainment levels in literacy are above the National Average.

Pupils read fluently.

Pupils use their literacy skills competently in all of the curriculum areas.

Pupils enjoy reading.

Pupils spelling skills improve as they progress through the school.

As a staff we have agreed to prioritise the following areas for improvement:

Comprehension (Year one).

Oral Language and vocabulary development (Year two).

The writing process (Year three).

We will keep you informed of progress because with your help, co-operation and support we can work together to benefit your children, our pupils.

All that remains for me to say is to wish each and everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy and a Prosperous New Year!

Nollaig shona daoibh agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir....!

PS. I hear there are visits to the Pantooh yes there are!!!!

And a special visitor to the school on Thursday.....!!!!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION CAKE SALE

Many people brought in homemade cakes and books for the cake sale. It took place on the 6th of December in the school hall. We sold tickets to the parents which were €3 each. It included a free cup of tea/coffee and a scone with butter and jam. The senior end of the school went first to buy some cakes. The parents association helped to set up the event and some of the sixth class helped sell the cakes. Some parents came to the school hall to buy some cakes and books. It was very successful and fun. Everyone enjoyed this annual event and we all went home with full tummies!!! (Mrs. Shelly's Fifth Class).

The Parent's Association (P.A.) of Bunscoil Mhuire held their annual Cake Sale in the school

hall. Thanks to the generosity of the parents, teachers and children, it was a resounding success yet again. The morning started well with the children delivering the many wonderful items baked the previous night. Soon the classes started to file in and buy the delights on display. At 10.30am the first of the parents, grandparents and friends arrived to sample the delicious scones produced in the school kitchen by Mrs. Eileen McCarthy, Mrs. Geraldine Mulcahy and Mr. Tony O'Leary, to whom we are most grateful. The P.A. was ably assisted by some very capable 6th class helpers who sold cakes, manned the children's book stall and sold raffle tickets. The P.A. made a small presentation to Mr. Tony O'Leary

during the morning. Mr. O'Leary is retiring shortly and his baking skills on Cake Sale day will be sadly missed. His musical talents have enhanced practically every event in Bunscoil Mhuire for years. We wish him health and happiness in his retirement. Our excellent raffle was sponsored by members of the P.A. and some kind local business people. We would like to thank all of you for your continued support. We raised approx €1,300 on the morning which will go to replenish the school sports fund. A big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way and made the Cake Sale such a huge success. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

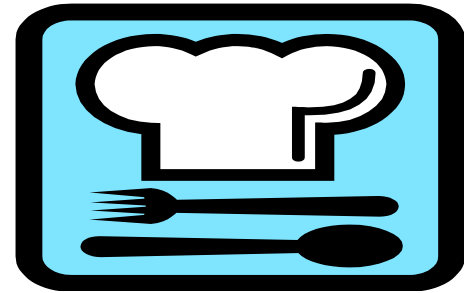
TOP CHEFS IN THE MAKING

Every Tuesday parents from the Parents' Association come into our school and teach fifth class how to cook. There are three groups. Each group has its own week. On the first week we baked scones. We had to bring in flour, butter, caster sugar, one egg and milk. Our favourite part was mixing it all together with our fingers. It was great fun and delicious. On the second week we made microwaved scrambled eggs on toast. It was easier and faster. All

you needed was one egg, salt and pepper, some milk and butter. We cracked the egg into a bowl and beat it. Then we put it in the microwave and mixed it halfway through cooking it. It was nice! On the third week we made gingerbread men. We brought in flour, butter, brown sugar, one egg, golden syrup, bread soda and ground ginger. We put the flour, butter, sugar and bread soda into a bowl and mixed it. Our favourite part was putting the sugar, golden

syrup and the egg into it and mixing them. It was very yummy! We can't wait to make more!!!

By Conor O' Neill, Dean O' Shea & Jason Coleman (Mrs. Shelly's Fifth Class)



THE BIG KNIT FOR AGE ACTION

During the month of September our class participated in the Big Knit Campaign to raise money and awareness for Age Action Ireland. We knitted 72 tiny hats in aid of Age Action. These hats will be placed on Innocent fruit smoothie bottles and sold in shops across Ireland from November on. Thirty cents from the sale of every bot-

tle will go to Age Action. Many of us had never had the opportunity to knit before. Once we got the hang of it, we found out that knitting is incredibly addictive. We knitted in class, during our lunch breaks and even brought our needles home. We also learned how to darn and sew when decorating our hats. We can't wait to see what

kind of hats will appear on the smoothie bottles in our local stores over the coming months! The Big Knit has been a great class project and we hope that our hats will make some small difference to Age Action.



Ms. S. Conway's Sixth Class

AVRIL AND ALEX WIN MUNSTER MEDALS!

We went to Limerick Race Course running with the Athletic Club. My friend Emma and I got medals for the county team. She came 6th and I came 8th and my friend Rion came 12th. We all got medals. Noel Curtin trains us at Youghal Athletic Club. He did warm ups with us before the race. We train three nights a week, even in the rain! It's never cancelled, even if it's Christmas I bet it would still be on! Alex came 34th in the race. There was no Under 9's category so she had to race up an age! Running is a good sport because you can keep fit! If you want to join the Athletic Club you can. We could ask our friends to join, it would be good

if there were more of us for the cross country races. I love the speed work the best. We run fast around the loop and stop at a marker and walk back to the start and go again! The best thing about the club is that it's fun. In Castlemartyr my sister Alex and her team mate Avril (not me!!) were running in Under 9's girls. They won a silver medal for their team! In Castletyons I came 10th individually and I was 6th on the Cork team so I got a county medal. I have five Munster medals altogether. Alex has two of them!

I was running in the All Ireland Cross Country Finals in Waterford! I came 18th individually,

8th on the Munster team and 6th on the Cork team. I got a gold medal for this because Cork came 1st in the County team!

By Speedy Cashman (Ms. Ryan's Fourth Class)

WELL DONE TO AVRIL AND ALEX FROM ALL THE PUPILS AND STAFF AT BUNSCOIL MHUIRE!!



WORLD DIABETES DAY 2013

It was World Diabetes Day in November. This is the fifth and final year of the 2009-2013 campaign on "Diabetes Education and Prevention".

Here is a little bit of information about Diabetes; Diabetes happens when someone's body does not have enough insulin. A car needs fuel to give it the energy to keep working. Our bodies need fuel to give them energy to keep working. We get the fuel from our food. Carbohydrates in food get changed into glucose, the main energy that our bodies use. This change happens in our gut and in our liver. Enzymes help this change (they are not the same enzymes at the ones in washing powder!) These enzymes come from

several different parts of our body including the pancreas.

There are currently 371 million people living with diabetes. That's a lot of people! There are two types, Type 1 and Type 2. With Type 1 the diabetic has to inject insulin a few times a day. With Type 2 it is usually diet and exercise that matter most. Sometimes people who don't exercise properly and who eat a lot of unhealthy food can develop Type 2 diabetes, so it is a good idea to try and exercise and eat good food to help prevent it ever happening.

Diabetes will not stop you from becoming a top sportsman or sports-woman, musician, or whatever you want

to be. If your eating is well planned and you do plenty of exercise, and follow any medication plan your doctor gives you, there is no reason at all why you cannot carry on trying to follow your lifetime ambitions.

By Tomasz Mrocwa & Abbie Power (Mr. White's Fifth Class and Ms. Smith's Sixth class)



HURLING WITH SEAN AND DECLAN

We are doing hurling for the school every Wednesday after school at 3:15p.m. Billy O'Connell and Johnny Bulman train us. We train up in the G.A.A. pitch. We practice our hand passing, blocking, picking up and striking for about twenty minutes and at the end we have a match for

twenty minutes. We are training for the Sciath na Scol. Members of the Youghal Intermediate team will help out with training. "I play left half forward", said Sean. "I play right back or right half forward", said Declan. "We have a great team because we are on it!! Ha

Ha!!!! said Declan and Sean. We are going to have loads of matches next year so we have to practice a lot but we will enjoy every minute.

By Declan Daly & Sean O'Riordan (Ms. Ryan's Fourth Class)



ALADDIN CHRISTMAS PANTO

I am so excited because I am going to the Christmas Pantomime in Cork city! We will be going to the Cork Opera House! I am going to see Aladdin! I am going on a bus and I have lots and lots of sweets to take with me. A lot of my friends will be going also. We will leave on the bus early on Thursday morning. I can't wait to go!

By Kelly Flavin (Ms. Conran's Senior Infants)

We are going to the Panto on the 13th of December at 9 o'clock in the morning. We are going to see Aladdin. We went to see a

panto before and it was really good. There was this fella who was really tall and he went into a washing machine and then came out small!!!! The girl with the red hair on the stage threw sweets out at us! We caught loads! There was an abandoned ship that came in and all the mermaids got stuck in the net and then their dad came to save them. "The best part was when they threw sweets out", said Caitlin. "My best bit was when the mermaid and the man kissed and she signed a form and the girl said that she will have legs for ever and ever and then

her dad found out. The fairy owned her because she signed the piece of paper so she couldn't go back to her dad anymore. One day she went into a shell and sang in the shell in front of her cousins and dad for the last time"! Said April. All the teachers and the S.N.A.'s loved it as well. *By Caitlin Hennessy & April Lewis & Melanie (Mrs. Shelly's Fifth Class)*



GREEN SCHOOLS NEWS

Recently the school held a recycling drive organised by the Green Schools. We were asking if you'd bring in any unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and soft toys. You put them in a bag and brought them down to the playpen. On Friday morning, the bags were collected by Lenrec Recycling Company who will give the school money based on how many bags were collected. Altogether we collected 170kgs of recycling. In the next week or two we will find out how much that is worth and get our cheque. Thank you to everyone who brought in bags.

The Green Schools Committee has four new members from 2nd Class who joined us on the committee this year. Members from the other classes have been on the committee since last year and are sticking it out until we get our next Green Flag in June.

Don't forget about our Christmas Raffle. The winning class gets a goodie bag. To win, remember to do these things when you're leaving your classroom at break time: 1) Turn off your lights, 2) Close your doors and windows and 3) Put your whiteboard projector on standby. Who will be the winners???

Merry Christmas from everyone on the Green Schools committee! Thanks for reading and remember: **Turn down the heat, Turn off the light, your energy bills will go down alright!**

*By Eimear Hayes & Laura Kovacs
(Mr. White's Fifth Class)*



SCHOOL CHOIR Turning on lights

On the 30th of November the school choir sang at the turning on of the Christmas lights at Barry's Lane. Santa was there to turn on the lights and he also went into a huge snow globe to take pictures with the families. While that was happening the school choir sang lots of

Christmas songs. We all wore Santa hats. There were lots of people there to listen to us sing. It took a short amount of time to learn all the songs. We practised with Mrs. Mulcahy and Mr O' Leary in Mrs. Mulcahy's room, the playpen and sometimes the hall. We all had

great fun on the day, and I can't wait till the next time we sing for the school choir.

*By Kayla
McCleverty
(Miss Smith's
Sixth Class)*



WHAT I WOULD LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS

Today teacher asked us what we were going to ask Santa for Christmas. Grace said she would like the heart Coolcardz, Cleo said she would like some sweets, Oisín would like a Thomas the Tank Engine train and Hugh would like sweets as well and a scooter. Eve said, "we must write a list and send it to Santa". "How"? said Jack Ryan. Katie said, "we put it in the fireplace and

Santa comes down the chimney at Christmas and gets it". "We have to remember to say PLEASE & THANK YOU too", said Jack Brennan. Teacher told us that manners are free so we can use them as often as we like!!!! "We must tell him how much we love him too", Eve said. Teacher reminded us to leave out something special for Santa on Christmas Eve, Jack R. suggested

hot chocolate, milk and cookies and Brian reminded us about the carrot for the reindeers. WE ARE SOOOOOO EXCITED!

*By The Junior
Infants
Classes*



CHRISTMAS POEMS BY FIFTH CLASS!

Christmas is amazing,
With the fire blazing,
Eating sweets,
It's like heaven for our noses!
I love the presents,
Playing with Logo Billionaire,
All my relatives around,
And magic in the air!
I love Christmas, probably more
than you!
I love it everyday
The whole day through!
*Written by Orlaith Curtin (Mrs.
Shelly's Fifth Class)*



Aunt Edith wants a new cell phone,
Your dog wants a flavoured bone.
Uncle Mart wants new T.V.,
My cousin wants a brand new
watch.
How I know? It's just a hunch.
My sister wants a brand new coat.

My brother wants a new toy boat.
My dad wants some lovely meat.
My mother wants 5 minutes peace
She's barking up the wrong tree
for that...
All she is getting is my old hat!
*By Caoimhe Crowley (Mrs.
Shelly's Fifth Class)*



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN SWEDEN & POLAND

In Sweden Christmas is celebrated very like it is here in Ireland with Christmas trees, wreaths and decorations. The most important day is Christmas Eve. There is always lots of snow and people go skiing and use bob sleds and sleighs! One of the foods eaten is called Smorgasbord, it's a type of meat dish. The best part about Christmas in Sweden is that the children there get to have their presents delivered first because Santa comes from Lapland in Northern

Sweden!! GÖD Jul!!

By Brian Coleman (Ms. Ryan's Fourth Class)

I come from Poland and we celebrate Christmas mainly on Christmas Eve. Everybody goes to church to pray and when we come home we say a prayer and eat our Christmas dinner. This is my favourite part of Christmas. It is all about your family. After dinner we all sit down to watch Christmas movies! For our din-

ner we eat a type of meat pie and everybody eats a special soup made from turnips. We call Santa Claus another name as well. It is also a Polish name. It is Mikołaj.

By Dominika Lutowska (Ms. Ryan's Fourth Class)



CHESS

We play chess in Ms Osbourne's room for this year. 6th Class do chess every Tuesday and Thursday while the younger classes do chess in the other days of the week. Chess is on at big breaks. When another class are playing chess the big chess pieces are brought out to the yard and there are turns for every class. While playing

chess indoors you will try and win for points-the more the points the more of a chance of getting into the tournaments! (This doesn't apply for outdoor chess). You should sign up to learn some skills and importantly have a great time. This is my last year of chess in school so I am going to make the most of it!

By Adam Dempsey



CHRISTMAS JOKES WITH PAUL !!

Q: What did Santa say to Mrs. Claus?

A: It looks like Reindeer!

Q: What is the name of Santa's wife?

A: Mary Christmas!

Q: What's the name of Santa's dog?

A: Santa Paws!

Q: What happens to the beach at Christmas?

A: The Yuletide comes in!

Q: What does Santa say when he is talking backwards?

A: Oh, oh!

Q: What do elves learn at school?

A: The alphabet!

Q: What do elves do after school?

A: Gnome work!

Q: Why does Rudolph have such a red nose?

A: Because he has an awful cold!

Q: What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?

A: Santa Pause!

Q: Where do snowmen go to dance?

A: A snowball!!!

Q: What never eats at Christmas time?

A: The turkey! It's always stuffed!!

Q: What's brown and sneaks around the kitchen?

A: Mince Spies!

By Paul Hennessy (Mrs. Shelly's Fifth Class)



THANKS! THANKS! AND THANKS AGAIN!

We must say an ENORMOUS Thank You to all of the parents that have been giving up their time so generously to help us in the Junior Infant classrooms. We really do appreciate all the time and effort you have put in. Thank You for sharing your time & your talent, you played

an invaluable role in our Ready, Set Go Maths programme.

The Junior Infants

A big THANK YOU to the Parents' Association for all the hard work they put into the cake and book sale this year.

Another big THANK YOU to all the parents who taught our fifth class students how to cook!



AMAZING PROJECTS ON EUROPE FROM FIFTH CLASS!

A few weeks ago Mrs. Shelly's fifth class did projects on Europe. We each had different countries from Europe. We had two weeks to complete them. Sophie Roseanau brought in a Dutch Apple Cake and many different types of cheese. We passed them around the class and everybody got to try a

piece. We each had to present our projects individually. We were then given a score out of 100%. They are displayed outside our class and in the corridor. They really brightened up the corridor. We really enjoyed them and we are hoping to visit the countries we studied in the future. We are all looking for-

ward to doing our next projects!

By Mary Flavin & David Murphy (Mrs. Shelly's Fifth Class)



BUNSCOIL MHUIRE

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Bunscoil Fun!

Mr. O' Brien, Mr. Hickey, Mr. O' Leary & Mr. White Support Movember!



SCHOOL CLOSURES 2013-2014

Christmas Holidays:

School will close on Friday 20th December at 12 noon and will re-open on Monday 6th January.

Mid-Term Break:

School will be closed on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st of February.

St. Patrick's Weekend:

School will close on Thursday 13th March at 2.45pm and will re-open

on Wednesday 19th March.

Easter Holidays:

School will close on Friday 11th April at 12 noon and will re-open on Monday 28th April.

May Bank Holiday:

School will be closed on Monday 5th May.

June Bank Holiday:

School will be closed on Monday 2nd June.

Summer Holidays:

School will close on Wednesday 25th June at 12 noon.

