



Holy Family NS Newport, Co. Mayo

Newsletter no. 3: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec 2007



Fancy Dress,



Music...



Prize-winning photo, taken by Bronagh Walsh
(see inside for details)



Wind Farms
and
Photography!



Our Autumn/
Winter
Newsletter



September

- Traditional Irish Music lessons, given by renowned local musician Geraldine MacNamara, started on 20th September.
- Noeline Haylett visited the school with Kwami (from Ghana), to tell the children all about her work in Ghana and show how the bicycles donated by the children in Summer will be used. Kwami sang a traditional Ghanaian folk song.
- Computer classes for 3rd and 4th classes started in Maigheo Teic.
- Two Junior Road Safety Officers, James Poole and Sarah Lavelle, were appointed, to promote road safety among the pupils. They set up a noticeboard on the school, and gave a presentation to the school at Assembly. They also wrote a letter to the Mayo News, which highlighted safety issues for pupils walking to and from the school.

October

- Artist Gordon D'Arcy visited the school, and talked about local wildlife to all classes. He created wonderful colour drawings of many local birds and animals.
- Melanie Lorien also visited the school in October. She made straw hats and the children made corn dollies.
- All children attended the West Midlands Theatre Company production of The Firebird, which took place in the School Hall.
- The pupils of 6th class attended the Roolaboola Festival production of 'Shopping for Shoes' in the Linenhall Theatre
- A brand-new audio-visual system was installed in the school hall. Proceeds from the sale of calendars and Christmas Concert videos helped to fund this project.
- Parents and children spent all of September and October collecting stamps from Centra. Enough tokens were collected to acquire a computer, a video camera and tripods, a photo printer and a digital camera—many thanks to all the families who made this possible.

November

- Our hard-working caretaker, Martin Maguire, spent mid-term break giving the School Hall a makeover, with fresh paint and new lighting.
- The children of 5th Class visited Raheen Barr Wind-Farm in Glenisland. They went inside a giant wind turbine and found out how it works, and how electricity can be generated in a more economical and ecological way.
- Children from 1st class upwards took part in the MS Readathon, which encourages children to read, and also raises vital funds for the care and treatment of people in Ireland with Multiple Sclerosis. The children raised €3490 and read 799 books
- The children of Second Class who are making their First Holy Communion in 2008 had their Enrolment Ceremony for First Penance and First Holy Communion
- Lee James of Skipping Workshops came to the school and held a one day Skipping workshop for all classes. After the Workshops, the children put on a wonderful display of the skipping skills they had learned

December

- Pupils from Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class attended the Little Rudolph show in the Linenhall, while the pupils from 2nd, 3rd and 4th class attended a performance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" in The Royal TF Theatre in Castlebar
- The children of 6th class took part in a clean fresh water photography competition. Overall prize was won by Bronagh Walsh. Her winning photo can be seen on the front of this newsletter. Caoimhe Drumm and Sarah Lavelle were runners-up. The winning photo will be included in the Europe Direct 2009 calendar.
- The staff and pupils of the school were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Sr. Consilio, a former teacher in our school. She was a dedicated teacher and contributed a lot to our community over the years. Her funeral mass took place on 5th December, and our senior pupils formed a Guard of Honour after the Mass.
- And, of course we celebrated Christmas with a visit from Santa Claus and our Bi-Annual Christmas Concert!