

THE ARTS

~MUSIC~

SCHOOL CHOIR & BAND

Ms. Cullinan, Ms. Drew and Ms. Kearney are the Co-ordinators of Scoil Bhríde's school choir. Our new member of staff Ms. Fitzgerald is also actively involved in the school choir and preparations for Christmas are well under way. The school band has also been established.

MUSIC THERAPY

Over the past number of years Ms Margaret MacKenzie Gleeson (Mus. B, M.A, L.R.S.M., L.G.S.M., Dip. I.T.E.C., C.T.M) has been working with us, on a voluntary basis to provide Music Therapy for our ASD pupils. Margaret has had a very distinguished music career here in Ireland and abroad. She is a musician, music therapist and holistic therapist and has formerly worked for both the BBC and RTE as a solo pianist, accompanist and orchestral player. Margaret has held teaching positions at Limerick School of Music and Dublin College of Music. She was Head of Music in Alexandra School Dublin and in Newtown School Waterford. During the 1980s Margaret worked with the Department of Education as an examiner for individual candidates, school choirs and orchestras at post-primary level. In addition, Margaret has extensive experience in working in the fields of special needs and special educational needs. She has worked with children with Down Syndrome, Multiple Disability, psychological, behavioural and ASD conditions. We are delighted to announce that Margaret has once again, very kindly volunteered to support our teachers involved in the development of our school choir. We would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work Margaret has already contributed to the school, and to thank her most sincerely for her interest in and support of our school choir.

CHARITY CAROL SINGING

The Christmas Carol Singing will take place in Dunnes Stores in Edenderry on December 21st commencing at 11 am and finishing at 12.30pm. All support would be greatly appreciated. This year the funding is for Scoil Bhríde Primary School.

~ART~

Congratulations to Ava-Jayne McCormack who won first prize in the local Credit Union Art Competition. Ava Jayne went on to compete in the county level competition and won second prize. We are all very proud of her! Best wishes to all the boys and girls who entered the Sight Savers Art Competition.

SCOIL BHRÍDE PS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Congratulations to all our boys and girls who successfully participated in the Christmas Cards for Schools Initiative creating their own original Christmas Cards to send to family and friends over the coming weeks.

~DRAMA~

Preparations are well underway in all classes for the annual Christmas Concerts. The concerts will take place on Thursday December 15th when all our budding actors and actresses will take to the stage!

THANK YOU

Ms McDonagh, Arts Co-Ordinator, would like to take this opportunity to thank all who responded to her appeal for art and drama resources printed in the last newsletter. All materials and resources donated were much appreciated and will be used in the teaching of visual art and drama lessons throughout the school.

SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Newsletter Issue 4
December 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It has been a very busy first term at Scoil Bhríde Primary School and I'm sure this newsletter will give you some impression of the broad range of both curricular and extra-curricular activities that we have engaged in. I would like to pay particular tribute to the wonderful staff of the school who provide absolute excellence in teaching and who willingly give of their own time to provide your children with exciting opportunities for extra-curricular development. As we come to the end of term one of this school year, I welcome the new members of our school Board of Management and the new members of the Parents' Association. I look forward to 2012 at Scoil Bhríde and to continue working with you to ensure the best possible education for your children. On behalf of all the staff and myself, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous new year.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh go léir!

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NOTES FOR PARENTS

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Scoil Bhríde PS would like to welcome all the new members of the school's Parents' Association. We would also like to thank the Parents' Association for kindly funding the buses for the Christmas outings.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

We would like to welcome Mrs. Colisa Halligan and Mr. Willie Forde as the new Parents' Representatives on the Board of Management for 2011-2015 term of service.

SHARED READING INITIATIVE

All the pupils from Junior Infants up to Third Class are participating in the Shared Reading Initiative. The older pupils read different books to the younger pupils and they discuss what the book is about and their favourite parts. Shared reading is a fun way to encourage reading enjoyment.

NATIONAL LITERACY & NUMERACY STRATEGY

In line with the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, staff at Scoil Bhríde are currently engaged in preparatory work to amend the timetabling of English and Mathematics from the beginning of the new term. As outlined in the Strategy, schools are advised to increase the time spent on literacy skills by one hour and the time spent on Mathematics by 70 minutes per week. Additional information will be made available to all parents as it becomes available.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All of the staff at Scoil Bhríde PS took part in a First Aid Information Evening and they have also completed an In-Service Training Evening given by a Regional Advisor from the Professional Development Service for Teachers.

BASKETBALL

Ms. Kearney is delighted to report that basketball practice is continuing to be a great success. Basketball practice is held every Wednesday after school and the children are learning lots of new basketball skills. We look forward to hearing more about their progress in the New Year.

FIRE SAFETY TALK

Pupils from Ms. Hannon's 2nd and 3rd Class and Mr. Spain's 3rd Class were given a fire safety talk on November 25th by Edenderry Fire Officers. Each child was given a certificate and a 'Safety Team' pack which helps children learn about fire safety in the home in a fun and effective way. All the children were also given a fire safety checklist to carry out at home. Parents are reminded to send these back into school before December 15th.

MATSY MANGAN MEMORIAL DONATION

Scoil Bhríde PS would like to thank the organisers of the Matsy Mangan Memorial for kindly donating €1,500 to the ASD units here at Scoil Bhríde. This is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS OUTING ARRANGEMENTS

The children from the ASD units will be going to Glendear Farm for a Christmas treat on Wednesday December 21st. The cost of this outing is €14. Junior and Senior Infants are attending the Christmas Pantomime *Aladdin in The Helix* on the 19th of December. The older class levels are going on the 20th of December. The cost of the production is €12.50 per child. These fees can be paid to the class teacher on or before the 15th of December. Pupils are reminded to wear their School PE Tracksuit along with their coats and have a packed lunch with a drink. This production promises to be both very colourful and memorable. Normal school hours apply for the children in the ASD Units and pupils in 1st/2nd/3rd class. Junior and Senior Infants will arrive back at approximately 2pm.

FIRE DRILL

All children at Scoil Bhríde PS took part in a fire drill on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th of November.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Scoil Bhríde took part in the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal with Team-Hope. We would like to thank parents who have contributed to this appeal. Over 200 shoeboxes were collected for this worthy cause.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Mr. Spain and Mr. McDonnell have recently been appointed as Science Co-ordinators at the school and are currently in the process of getting new recycling bins for each of the classrooms. This will be a great step in trying to achieve a Green Flag for the school in the future.

JACK AND JILL FOUNDATION

Mr. O'Regan would like to thank parents for their support with the Jack and Jill Foundation. He would also like to inform parents that the school's target has almost been reached and your continuous support is greatly appreciated. If the school reaches its target, we will receive a new Interactive Whiteboard.

SANTA VISITS SCOIL BHRIDE PS

Santa Claus is coming to town! Santa is visiting all the children at Scoil Bhríde PS on Friday December 16th. He is due to arrive at the school at 11.30 am. Ho Ho Ho!

SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week was a great success at Scoil Bhríde PS. All classes participated by doing fabulous and fun experiments which involved carrying out Balloon Tricks and finding out if eggs bounce!

AVON BREAST CANCER AWARE

Scoil Bhríde would like to thank all the parents and families who supported Avon Breast Cancer Aware. The total amount raised was €191.56.