

# Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S.

Newsletter Nollaig 2015





As the first term of 2015/2016 draws to a close we reflect on what has been another busy term and give you a flavour of some of the events which took place in the school.

**External Speakers/Volunteers/Coaches:** Maurice Leahy has been providing hurling coaching to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Classes every second Monday since 7<sup>th</sup> September. John Dillon provides football coaching to 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes every second Thursday since 17<sup>th</sup> September. Ann Mahony and Honor Flynn have given classes on Mondays and Fridays since October in Music and Dancing. Two people from the Parish Mission addressed the senior half of the school in October. Sr. Nuala, a Franciscan Missionary, spoke to 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes on 16<sup>th</sup> November, about Missionary Work in India and Sweat Shops.

**Cumann na mBunscol:** Our boys participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Football on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October. Although they put in good performances, they did not win any of their matches.

**Pattern Thrasher Performance:** A group of our pupils travelled to Ballyheigue to entertain an audience which gathered in the Community Centre to celebrate the Pattern Thrasher Gathering on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. They

put on a very entertaining show of music, song, dance and storytelling which received much praise from the organisers and audience.

**Parents' Association:** The Parents' Association held their AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Three new officers were elected. Muireann O'Neill, Sandra Carey and Caroline Houlihan took up roles. Officers for 2015/16 are as follows:

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Siobhán Hennessy
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Áine Elbell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mairéad O' Connor
<b>Assistant Secretary:</b>	Muireann O' Neill
<b>P.R.O.:</b>	Anne Harty
<b>Assistant P.R.O.:</b>	Sandra Carey
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Costello
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Caroline Houlihan

Our sincere gratitude to the above parents for volunteering their time and energy and we wish them every success in the year ahead.

**Hallowe'en Party and Disco:** The Parents' Association organised a fantastic night of fun on Friday night 30<sup>th</sup> October for pupils. Photos of the madness and mayhem can be seen on the school website, [www.sliabhamhadra.ie](http://www.sliabhamhadra.ie). Entry was free and refreshments were provided for parents in the Library.

**School Calendar and Christmas Cards:** The Parents' Association arranged for Anthony Kearney to photograph the pupils for the school calendar. The calendar costs €8 and makes a lovely Christmas gift for grandparents or extended family. Pupils designed their own Christmas Cards which the P.A. had printed and sold to the pupils.

**Credit Union Art Winners:** Congratulations to our talented artists who won prizes at the Clanmaurice Poster Competition. We had a total of 13 winners. We are very proud of their achievements. Thanks to the local Credit Union for all the work they put in to organising it. Winners were: Kayla Walsh, Holly Boyle, Joshua Collins, Ellie Boyle, Ava O' Leary, Mikey Dineen, Shane Sheehan, Ryan McGrath, Evan Kelly, Donna Kiely, Cathal Collins, Lauren McGrath and Joshua Diggins. Well done to Cathal Collins whose picture won first prize at Chapter Level. He was awarded a certificate and trophy at a ceremony in Manor West Hotel in December.

**After School Music Classes:** T.P. McNamara teaches Traditional Irish Music after school every Wednesday from 2:45 to 4:30 pm. Pupils are making steady progress. T.P. will be available for music classes again after Christmas for those who wish to avail of them.

**National Flag:** Sgt Denis McGarry and Gunner Noel Lynch, members of the Irish Army delivered the National Flag to the school on 12<sup>th</sup> October. They spoke to the pupils about respect for the National Flag and the history of it. At the ceremony, pupils sang Amhran na bhFiann and played music. It was a very special and uplifting experience. The Flag will be raised on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**Christmas Mass:** Fr Brendan celebrated Mass here in the school on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. Parents, grandparents and extended family members joined us for this special annual event. The Choir accompanied by music teacher, Ann Mahoney and Mrs Goulding, enhanced the celebration with their sweet singing and musical performance. Thanks to all the staff who helped to prepare pupils and the school for the Mass and to our wonderful Parents' Association

who provided refreshments afterwards. Míle buíochas to Patrick and Paul who organised traffic for us.

### **Charity:**

Here in Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S. we try to develop in our pupils a sense of empathy with those less fortunate than ourselves. In September we organised Jersey Day. The pupils contributed €255 and it was decided to give this to the Syrian Refugee Fund. Majella Forde, visited the school and accepted a cheque on behalf of the Irish Red Cross. She explained to the pupils how the money would go directly to aid workers in the countries of Europe accepting Refugees. She also outlined how she got involved with the Red Cross and what her duties entail as an ambulance driver and crew member.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, we dressed up for Hallowe'en and raised €155 for **Barnardos**.

A total of 113 shoe boxes were filled by pupils for **Team Hope** and there was great joy when they were handed over on 4<sup>th</sup> November to Margaret Kennedy.

**Swimming:** Fifth and Sixth Class Pupils completed a course of six swimming classes in Ballybunion Leisure Centre recently. The Parents' Association subsidised this and the cost to pupils was only €25 each which included the cost of the bus.

**Transition to Secondary:** Sixth Class were taken to Causeway Comprehensive on November 16<sup>th</sup> as part of their transition to Secondary School.

**Work Experience:** Aodhán and Darragh Enright, Darragh Goulding, Annie O'Carroll and Alannah Whelan are past pupils who completed work experience

here over the past term. Aoife O'Carroll, who is studying for a degree in Early Childhood in I.T. Tralee, has just finished a ten week block of work experience in Mrs. Goulding's Infant Room.

**Lenrec Clothes Collection:** Lenrec collected Clothes on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. We received a cheque for €283.50. A big thank you to all of you who supported this endeavour. The next collection will be on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 so start collecting again after Christmas, please.

**B.O.M.:** The new B.O.M. for 2015/16 is as follows:

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Muirís Ó Laoire
<b>Patron's Nominee:</b>	Fr. Brendan Walsh
<b>Community Reps:</b>	Ailish Segal and Gerard Slattery
<b>Staff:</b>	Breda O' Dwyer and Denise Wren
<b>Parents:</b>	Noreen Farrell and Gerald Lynch

I wish to thank Mary Wallace and Stephen Tobin for their dedicated service to the Board in the past and welcome Gerard Slattery and Denise Wren.

**Bud's:** The pupils participated in an art competition for Bud's. The theme of the competition was "What my community means to me". We had three winners from the school. 1<sup>st</sup>: Aimee O' Carroll and her picture was framed and is on display in the school.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Aisling McHale. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Shannon Quinlan. Well done to all three girls.

**Fire Safety:** Billy Brosnan, Fire Officer with Ballybunion Fire Brigade came to the school on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and gave a workshop Fire Safety to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes. He helped pupils to identify possible fire hazards in their own homes and how they might help to reduce the risk of house fires. Each pupil was requested to complete an audit of their home with the help of a parent or guardian. Please ensure that these are completed and returned to the school.

**Healthy Eating:** We celebrated "Healthy Eating Week" as part of our health promotion programme at the end of September. This year the emphasis was on the importance of physical exercise. The bell rang at 12 O' clock each day to signal 'Drop Everything and Move' time. The pupils dropped everything and danced in their classrooms to some popular music.

It was great fun! They also got some exercise to do at home with their parents. A selection of leaflets on healthy lunch options/physical exercise, are available in the Health Promotion area of our school corridor. Please feel free to take any leaflet that interests you before or after school. The sugar content of popular foods is also on display.

**Ipads:** The Parents' Association set out some time ago to raise funds for the provision of i-pads in the school. They were very fortunate to be able to source a businessman who very generously donated 15 brand new i-pads to us. We are greatly indebted to this man who wishes to remain anonymous. More details on this will follow after Christmas.

**Website:** Please check out our website, [www.sliabhamhadra.ie](http://www.sliabhamhadra.ie) for news, pictures and information about what is happening in our school.

**Sacraments:** Confirmation is scheduled for Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 3:30 pm. in Causeway. First Holy Communion will be on Sat., 7<sup>th</sup> May at 12:30 in Ballyduff.

**R.S.E.:** Kathleen Wallace, from ACCORD will speak to Sixth class pupils on April 20<sup>th</sup> on Relationships and Sexuality Education. She will speak to the parents of 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils on 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

**Placement:** Melissa Kiely will be on placement from Mary Immaculate College in Mrs. Butler's room for 6 weeks from March to April.

**SNA:** On August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, Brian Spillane, who had worked as SNA here in the school for just one year, bade farewell to us as he took up a position closer to home. We would like to thank Brian for his contribution to Sliabh a' Mhadra N.S. during the course of the year he spent here and wish him well in the future. He has been replaced by Sarah Ross. Congratulations to Sarah.

**School Re-opens:** The school will re-open on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at 9.00 a.m.



### **Principal's Christmas Message:**

Míle buíochas to all the members of the school community - i.e our pupils, our teachers, our SNAs, our secretary, our cleaners, our Parents' Association, our Board of Management and all who have worked hard in the interests of the school in the past term. I extend a special thanks to you the parents. You make everything so much easier by your co-operation and support. May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and may 2016 bring many blessing to you and your family.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Breda O'Dwyer.

*Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir*