

6th Class Visit to Glenstal Abbey

On 9th February, 6th class paid a visit to the beautiful Glenstal Abbey. The visit was hosted by Fr. Cuthbert (Michael) Brennan a past pupil of the school. On arrival they were taken to the Barrington Room where they were treated to hot chocolate and marshmallows. They were very lucky that the weather was in their favour so they were able to take a nature walk through the woods with Br. Anthony Keane who is very knowledgeable about the flora and fauna of the area. They were also shown around the Abbey and taken to the main chapel and the icon chapel by Fr. Brennan. Before leaving the Abbey they had a lovely dinner in the canteen. A big thank you to Fr. Brennan and the monks of the abbey for the warm hospitality.

Parents Council Fun Table Quiz

The annual Fun Pub Quiz took place on Friday 18th February in Sean Collins' pub. There was a big turnout on the night and all the funds raised on entry fees and ticket sales were used to help defray the cost of staging our annual show. Thanks to everyone who turned up on the night, who donated spot prizes and who supported the event in other ways. Thanks also to the Collins family for their hospitality and to our Parent's Council for organising the quiz.

Hurling

Our mini-7's team won the West section of the competition and went on to represent the West in the County competition. However, in spite of playing very well they were unlucky not to progress out of the county. Well done to all of the players and to Stephen Lavin for training them.

Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale held a blitz for all of the primary schools in the surrounding areas. Our team played great hurling and emerged as winners of the competition. They were very well entertained by the school who provided refreshments for all of the participating teams.

West Mini 7's Competition

By Killian O'Shaughnessy

During the middle of April we went back to Mick Neville Park in Rathkeale to play in the Mini-7's. First we played Shountrade and beat them well. Then we moved on to the next round where we played Croagh and we came out victorious. We then moved on to play Raheenagh in the final. It was a tense game and we were evenly matched. It came down to the last minute where our goalkeeper, Bryan Curtin, pulled off a superb save in the last minute to win us the game and the tournament. We were jumping with joy that we had won that tense match and better still the tournament.

Sarsfield Cup Panel

By Luke Mackessy

On the 1st February we went back for trials in Rathkeale to get on the West panel. Michael Murphy, Óran Collins and myself were the people from the school who got on the panel. At first we played the City team. Up to half time it was neck and neck. However, in the second half we pulled ahead comfortably as a team. At the end we won easily enough. Three months later we played the South team in a hard, tough battle for the Sarsfield Cup. We won 1-6 to 0-4 after a very physical match. We got a photo taken at the end with the West team and we all celebrated with our team mates in good style.

Table Tennis

By Cathal Scanlan

On the 1st February we started practicing for table tennis and playing competitions during break times to see who would be the 10 players to get on the school teams. On the 24th February Luke Mackessy, Bryan Curtin, Gearóid Kirwan, Michael Murphy and myself went back to Shanagolden to play in the Community Games County competition. We won the first 2 games and then we had to play our B team in the final and after a hard battle we won the game and became County Limerick Community Games Table Tennis Champions.

After we won the competition we did a practice session with Dan Summers, an experienced table tennis player. Then we started practicing at night time with the 2009 Table Tennis team who had won bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games finals. Thanks to the parents who came to the hall and supervised our practice sessions. Finally on the 16th April the Munster

finals took place in UL. When we got there the Cork and Clare teams didn't turn up so we got straight into the final with Kerry and we won the match. This meant that we were now Munster Champions and were going to Ferbane to play in the All-Ireland finals.

After this we got ready for the All-Ireland finals by practicing in the school, playing against each other and against our teacher Mr. O'Riordan. The finals took place on the weekend of 26th May. On the Saturday we played against the Leinster team and we were narrowly beaten by them. That evening we went back to our hotel in Athlone and we all got together later to watch the Munster Rugby match in the Creggan Court Hotel. On Sunday we played the Ulster team and we won this match to bring home bronze All-Ireland medals to Adare.

School Tour to Cork

First class to Sixth class went on their school tour to the Glen Resource and Leisure Centre in Cork City on Friday 13th May. In spite of the terrible weather both before and after, they were lucky that the day turned out to be dry so they were able to partake in all of the outdoor activities. Everyone agreed that this was one of the best school tours they had ever been on as all of the activities were very well organised and great fun. They had a meal in McDonalds that evening and a chance to do some souvenir shopping after. By the time they arrived home they were all happy but exhausted after a very enjoyable day out.

Fishing in Adare

By Darren Whittaker

Fishing is a popular sport in the Adare area. The River Maigue is primarily a trout fishery and in it you can catch brown and rainbow trout. There are also salmon and pike in the river. There is lots of wildlife such as otters along the river banks and there are many varieties of birds as well. There are many good places to fish in the area but my favourite is the Railway Bridge on the Kidimo Road.

Juniors and Seniors School Tour

On Thursday 16th June the Junior and Senior Infants went on their tour to The Old Rectory, Croom. It was a lovely sunny day so they were able to play outside on the trampolines, slides and swings. They also played tennis, soccer and basketball and were busy building a castle in the big sandpit. There was a treasure hunt through the woods and then they got to bake cookies in the kitchen which they were able to take home to Mum and Dad later on. They also got to pet some farm animals such as donkeys, calves, rabbits, pups and horses. The high light of the day was the famous egg drop where they had to wrap an egg to make sure it didn't break when it was dropped out of a second floor window. The boys had a super day out and they all returned to the school tired and happy.

Harty Cup Win Ard Scoil Ris

Well done to our former pupils who achieved success with Ard Scoil Ris in the Harty Cup and the White Cup. The boys brought the cups to the school and were given a rousing welcome by everyone. Well done to all of the boys and thanks for coming to visit the school with the cups.

School Play

This year the boys performed "The Magic of the Musical" on the 13th and 14th April in the Village Hall. There was a great turnout on both nights. The hall looked magnificent thanks to the artistic talents of Joan O'Halloran and her team of parents who painted the sets. It was a fantastic show full of colour and memorable songs from well-known musicals and all of the boys (and Mr. Lavin and Mr. O'Riordan) performed brilliantly. A lot of hard work was put into the show by the boys, their teachers, the producer Gerdie McGlynn and by the Parent's Council. Well done to everyone involved in another successful show. Broadway here they come!

Beetle Drive

The annual Beetle Drive was held on Friday 11th March in the school hall and once again was a very successful and enjoyable evening. There were lots of prizes on offer and the competition was intense to complete the beetles. Thanks again to our Parent's Council for organising the evening.

Fence Painting

The Parent's Council and some of our parents gave the fence along the front of the school a face-lift recently as part of our effort towards the Tidy Towns competition. Thanks to everyone who helped out. Due to your efforts and to Tommy Houlihan, our Caretaker, the school and its grounds are looking very well.

First Communion and Confirmation

This year we had First Communion on 14th May in Holy Trinity Abbey. Afterwards all of the children, their parents and relatives came up to the School Hall for the annual Communion Breakfast which was hosted by our Parent's Council and the parents of our school. There was tea and coffee and all sorts of cakes and sandwiches for the adults and the children were given goody bags and soft drinks. This was the 55th year that the breakfast has been hosted in the hall and as usual everyone was highly complimentary of the hospitality they were shown.

Fifth and Sixth classes received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 26th May in the Holy Trinity Church. Canon O'Shea performed the ceremony.

Recycling of School Uniforms and Sports Gear

A recycling day was organised in the school on Tuesday 28th June by the Parents Council and once again was a great success. This is a great way of passing on uniforms and sports gear and of reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

Sixth Class Graduation

We bid farewell to Gearóid, Eric, Killian, Óran, Luke, Dan, Michael, Lorcan, Damian, Darren, Paraic, Joel, Christopher, Aleksander, Emmet, Kurt, James, Jack Canty, Bryan, Cathal, Oisín, Conall, Seán Fitz, Jack Fitz, Seán O'Donoghue and Samuel, our sixth class boys who are moving on to secondary schools in the city and county. A graduation ceremony was held on 27th June to mark their departure and to present them with awards to honour their achievements during their years in the school. We would like to wish all of them well in the future and we hope that they will have great memories of their time here. We hope that they won't forget us and they will be welcome to call back to see us at any time. Slán go fóill lads!

Swimming Lessons

First to Sixth classes went to Askeaton Leisure Centre for 8 week of swimming lessons. The lessons were very well organised and the instructors were very professional and patient. The boys really enjoyed themselves and benefited from the lessons.

School Sports Week

Sports week was held from, the 21st to 24th June and was co-ordinated by Stephen Lavin. The boys got to do athletics, basketball, tennis, golf, rounders, gymnastics and soccer to name just a few of the activities. Due to the bad weather on the Friday the Infants hurling match had to be postponed to the following Monday. It was a very hard-fought match and in the end the result was a draw. The skill levels were very high and every ball was hotly contested. Patsy Hall has been training these boys for the last few months and he is very confident that these boys have bright futures ahead of them in the green and white of Limerick and the black and red of Adare.

On the Friday an Ice-Cream Funday was held in aid of Downs Syndrome Ireland and this was very well supported.

Adare Garden Fete

The staff of the school and Anne O’Riordan manned the book stand at the Garden Fete on the 19th June and they took in over €2000 for the fund-raiser.

Soccer

Congratulations to Michael Keane, 3rd Class who was voted the U8 Desmond League Player of the season. Michael is a member of the all-conquering U8 Adare F.C. team who won the League and Cup this year. The other members of the team from the school are Cathal O’Neill, Gavin Collins, Darragh Collins, Hugh Lawler, Mark Twomey, Michael O’Mahony, Aaron Leahy, Aaron O’Sullivan, Alec Ahern, Louis Morrissey, Gavin Normoyle and Ronan Griffin.

David O’Mahony, a past pupil and brother of Michael (3rd Class) was voted the U14 Player of the season. David plays for the U14 Adare team.

Many of our boys play with Adare F.C. and have been vital members of various teams in the Desmond League competitions. Well done to all of them.

New Extension to the School

Under the leadership of the Board of Management Chairperson, Paddy Mulvihill, we embarked on an extension to the administration area of the school. The work began mid October 2010 and was completed at Easter 2011. We thank you the parents and students for your patience and co-operation during this time.

In addition to phase 1, which changed the secretary’s office, principal’s office, staffroom, WC’s(one of which is now a disabled toilet), made an additional small classroom for language and group work and also made the school wheelchair accessible we completed phase 2 which was a wind breaker on our front door-entrance and which now makes the entrance from north as against west. The additional space in the reception area is a fantastic facility in the school.

Without the drive and enthusiasm of Paddy Mulvihill this project may never have happened – we owe a big thank you to the Board members who give of

their time for the good of the school. The project progressed under the watchful eye of Project Manager, James Canty who made sure that everything went well. The builder Conor O'Kelly did a fantastic job with a very high standard of workmanship and finish on both phase 1 and phase 2. A big thanks also to Dermot O'Connell of O'Connell Electrical Contractors who donated 2 solar panels to ensure that we have a supply of hot water in the school.

Deirdre O'Riordan

Congratulations to Deirdre O'Riordan who recently give birth to a baby boy, Cian.

Green and White Magazine

It's great to see a past pupil and future Limerick star, Declan Hannon featured in the Green and White magazine's most recent edition.

Dell Computers

Thanks to Robert Browne, a Dutch company, Elsevier, based in Shannon donated 5 computers to the school. Every time that they update their office they donate their old computers to schools in the area and due to Roberts contact in the company, Maurice O'Connor, we were the lucky recipients this time around.

The Quiz Team

By Emmet Lawler

In early February Oisín, Óran and Lorcan and myself were one of the teams representing the school in the West Limerick Schools Credit Union Quiz competition. We won by five points and qualified for the Chapter final, which featured the winners of the Limerick and Clare sections. We were unlucky to be beaten in the final which took place in the Castletroy Park Hotel.

In May we were one of four teams from the school competing for the Rathkeale and District Credit Union shield. Going into the final round we

were one point ahead of the nearest team so it all came down to the last round. We won by two points and claimed the shield as well as a trophy for each of the team members. Victory!

Table Tennis B Team

By Dan Curley

Every day during the winter we would go to the hall to play each other in table tennis. The top ten players were picked for the teams, the top 5 for the A team and the next 5 for the B team. The B Team players were Killian O'Shaughnessy, Seán Fitzpatrick, Jack Fitzgerald, Dan Curley and Óran Collins.

Our first competition was in Shanagolden for the Limerick Community Games finals. After beating St. Senans we were through to the final where we found out that we were playing the Adare A team. This was a tense game but the A team emerged winners after a hard battle. We all received silver medals for our efforts which were presented to us by Killian O'Shaughnessy, our captain. We were disappointed that we didn't win but the silver medals hung proudly around our necks as we made our way home.

Desmonds Trip to England

By Óran Collins

The Limerick Desmonds left Dublin on 22nd April for England. We got a bus straight to the Manchester City Youth training ground. The facilities were excellent with two indoor pitches, two grass pitches and three astro turfs. After our two hour training session we went to our hotel to have dinner. Despite going to bed late we were all up at 7.30am to get breakfast. We then got the bus to the training ground again for another 2 hour training session. When we were finished we headed to Wolves Stadium to watch them play Fulham. It was a very exciting match and ended as a draw. After the match we met Wolves captain, Karl Henry and got his autograph.

The next morning we were up again at 7.30 am to get breakfast. We then got a bus to take on three teams from Liverpool. Although we won only one game we were still happy with our performance. After the matches we went to a shopping outlet and then left for the airport and our trip home. We all had a great time and were sad when it was all over.

Parents Association

2010/2011 School Year has come to a close and it has been a very active one for the Parents Association. At our AGM in October Sinead Lawler handed over the chair to Carmel Normoyle. Sinead held the post for the previous three years and contributed greatly to the development of the Association in that period – A big thank you to Sinead. We have a very active Parents Association who greatly enhance our sons time at the school. The main events that we organised over the last few months were:

October

Fancy dress Halloween Party in the School Hall where the boys and their teachers were treated to a day of fun with all sorts of spooky games, story telling, pumpkin races, face painting and trick or treat goodie bag culminating in a very entertaining magic show.

December

Santa Clause arrived to the school in style in December and visited each classroom. He promised to organise playground markings for the school yard once the building work was finished. These markings will be laid over the coming weeks. Santa very jovially posed for photos with each class and all the boys received a photo along with a selection box.

February

Once again we held a very successful fundraising Fun Pub Quiz in Sean Collins Bar. The night was extremely well supported by parents, teachers, their families and friends. This is a very important fundraising night for our annual show and helps greatly towards the cost.

March

The School Hall was packed to capacity for our annual Beetle Drive which was held for all pupils and their siblings. This once again was a real fun night for all families and I'm not sure how many of the boys and girls managed to hold on to their Easter Egg until Easter Sunday!

April

School Show

Our School Show is one of the highlights of the school year and this year the boys once again made us all very proud parents. A big thank you to Joan O'Halloran who designed the sets for the show, and to the Mums who very ably assisted in the painting of these for the "Magic of the Musicals"

production at the Village Hall held on the Wednesday and Thursday before Easter.

Greyhound Night for the Church Restoration Fund

Thanks to all the parents who supported Sinead Lawler in her organisation of the night at the dogs in aid of the Holy Trinity Abbey Church restoration fund. A great night was had by all the families of the parish and boys from our school played their part by walking out the dogs for the various races.

May

55 years and still going strong - the annual Communion Breakfast for all the First Communion children in the parish and their families was a wonderful day. Again thanks to all the parents involved in making this event happen.

June

School Fence

On Monday 13th June around 7 parents tackled the painting of the very long school fence. This grew to around 10 of us the following day and to our delight we managed to paint inside and out over the two days. A huge thank you to all those who helped – we'll never be out of a job!

School Book Sale

The schoolbook sale took place a couple of weeks ago in the girls school where all parents were able to get their booklists sorted for the start of the new school year. We also organised a get together for the parents of the new junior infants where they got the chance to meet other new families and purchase their books over a cup of coffee in the school.

6th Class Graduation

Farewell to all of our 6th class boys and their parents. On Monday the boys graduation ceremony took place in the school hall and the Parents Association organised tea/coffee in the new school extension for their families.

Uniform recycling

Continuing what is now a very successful event we will hold our uniform recycling event today, Tues 28th June 2011.

We've had a very busy, successful and fun year as parents – please come along to the Parents Association meetings whenever you can make it – we

run around four meetings a year. The Association really does positively enhance your boy(s) and your experience in the school. A big thanks to all our wonderful parents who helped in any way with the events over the last year - the boys and their teachers REALLY appreciate it.

Farewell to those parents who were so involved in the Parents Committee for so many years and whose sons are now moving on to Secondary School – sincere thanks for your time over the years.

Hope you all have a happy and sunny summer! – until next term.....

Carmel Normoyle
Chairperson

Principal's Note

To the teachers, SNAs, Breda Liddy, Tommy Houlihan and Ann Conway I would like to say thanks. I would also like to wish our sixth class the very best of luck in their new schools and to say that if at any stage in the future we can assist them, we would be delighted to do so. I would also like to welcome our new pupils to the school and I look forward to meeting them again when we return on Tuesday 30th August.

Thanks to our Board of Management for their help and advice during the year. Their input has been of great benefit to the school.

Thanks to the Parent's Council who have given of their time during the year organising events and projects for the good of the school and the pupils. We are very appreciative of their hard work and efforts throughout the year.

There are many parents who like to help, bring new constructive ideas, making donations, putting us in the way of promotions in their work places, people who do not wish to see their name mentioned but have the good of the school at heart and wish to help the boys of Adare get as much as possible out of their education. Thanks to all of you.

Finally, we would like to wish all of our students and their families a very enjoyable and safe summer with school re-opening on Tuesday 30th August.