

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa
Bothair an Chlochair
Cinn Mhara
Co. na Gailimhe*



*St. Joseph's N.S
Convent Road
Kinvara
Co. Galway*

Newsletter December 2013

Dear Parents,

Christmas Hamper Appeal: Thanks to all pupils who brought in items for the Christmas Hampers. Again the generosity of parents/pupils has to be commended. Sincere thanks to the Parents Association for organising the collection of goods for the hampers. Every year a lot of work goes into gathering the items, dividing goods among hampers and organizing the delivery of hampers to the homes of those in need.

I feel it is very important for us all to remember all those in need at Christmas. Saint Vincent de Paul is struggling to meet the increase demands placed upon it by the recession.

Thank you all for your support, your donation will make a massive difference to families and individuals this Christmas.

School Choir: Children from St. Josephs N.S. 3rd to 6th are invited to perform during the special children's mass which will take place at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve in St. Joseph's Church. Musicians will also perform at the mass and any musicians playing on that evening please be in the church for 5 15pm for tuning – all other singers please be in the gallery for 5 30pm as space is at a premium.

Santa Shop: Once again this was a great success. Thanks to all who supported this.
Please see note attached about the Santa shop.

Santa Claus: Thanks to the Parents Association who managed to get Santa Claus to take time out of his very busy schedule and come and visit the pupils of our school on Thursday. I know that this is a very busy time for him but with thanks to the Parents Association for organising.

Farmers Market Art competition: Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the recent Farmers Market Competition. The following were winners from our school: John Tannian, Roisín Geaney, Aidan Bermingham and Isabelle Tierney. Well done all.

Below are a number of issues I would like to bring to your attention this month:

Numbers: It is essential that class teachers and the school office are provided with up to date addresses and mobile phone numbers. These numbers should be written in the homework journals. Please inform the office if you do not receive emails or messages sent from the school.

Uniforms: It is great to see pupils dressed in the full uniform each day. I would like to remind parents to ensure jumpers and all clothing to have their children's names written on them so that in the event of their loss they can be returned to the owners.

We will arrange a day for the collection of lost property.

Safety: It is tremendous to see pupils cycling to school each day. However, it is essential that they wear safety helmets, high visibility vest/belts and obey the rules of the road.

Parents please note: The building work will commence at the ASD Unit next week and this will be a building site. No parents are to park here at any time until work is completed. Thank you for your co-operation.

Use of Internet by Pupils: Many pupils may get a new computer or electronic device for Christmas. While this is a great asset to have, please be advised that children need to be supervised while on the internet. Children can access unsuitable materials and parents need to be aware that bullying can take place on the internet. Always check what your son or daughter is doing and be sure that it is age appropriate. Parents should be aware of how easy it is for their child to access inappropriate material; on the internet. We have found that some young boys and girls are using Facebook. Do you know what your child is posting or reading on Facebook? This area does require parental supervision and responsibility. Cyber bullying can be a potentially serious problem especially for young pupils.

Rules to teach your child: Block it
Save it
Report it
Tell

<http://www.kinvarans.ie/links.html>-Information for parents on Internet safety.

Child Protection Policy: The Board of Management of St. Joseph's has a comprehensive Child Protection Policy in place. The Principal Dominic Gallagher is the designated liaison person. Ms Áine McGrath is the Deputy designated liaison person. Any queries in relation to child protection issues should be directed to Mr. Gallagher or Ms McGrath.

Kinvara Fun Run/walk: to be held on Sunday 5th January 2014 at 12.30pm in aid of Kinvara New Pitch Development. Registration from 11am at GAA Pitch. Entry €10 & children free. Please support this family fun event which will include participants from the Operation Transformation team!

School Nativity plays: The Infant Nativity took place on Thursday 12th December. It was a great success. The Nativity provides a wonderful opportunity for children to experience more of the performing arts curriculum. Ms Ryan, Ms Shaloo, Ms Smith & Ms Lahart would like to thank Bernie all the parents & for their help in the preparation of costumes.

On Wednesday 18th December, the 1st and 2nd classes put on a highly entertaining musical adaptation of the popular poem *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* to a packed hall. The play was a resounding success with catchy songs sung enthusiastically by all the children and accompanied by a fantastic crew on percussion instruments. The children gave it their all when on stage, from toys to children to mice to reindeer not forgetting Bella the dog, Jack in the Box, St. Nicholas and the Snowman, and spoke their lines loud and clear. The snowflake dancers were beautifully coordinated and graceful and kept the audience entertained during set changes. Well done to all who participated and many thanks to those who helped with the props and those who provided costumes or helped in any way.

3rd-6th Class Carol Service: The pupils in 3rd-6th classes performed their Carol Service this morning Friday 20th of December in St. Joseph's Church. The church was full and the audience was treated to a very special carol service which included traditional carols along with some modern carols. A special reading featuring a piece written by former teacher Moya MacEoin about Christmas in Kinvara 100 years ago formed the main body of the festive readings while the musicians from the school orchestra delighted everyone with special renditions of Silent Night, There Were Three Ships and Don Óíche Úd I mBeithil. We wish all the singers and musicians a very special Nollaig Shona.

Party Invitations:

I would ask parents/guardians and children to be judicious and discreet when giving out invitations to birthday parties during the school year. Some children may feel excluded when omitted and parents should not feel that they have to invite entire classes or large groups of children to these celebrations.

Christmas Day Swim: This will take place at 12 noon at Traught Beach. Sponsorships cards are available at the Credit Union, Londis, Costcutters and Galway Hospice or contact Clare McGinty Ryan on 087 653 7898. Fundraiser for Galway Hospice (2/3) and Kinvara Swim Club (Dedicated to teaching children in the locality to swim, which may one day save their life)

Website: Please view our website on www.kinvarans.ie to see pictures of recent events at the school.

Dates to remember: Confirmation will take place on **Tuesday 25th of March 2014** and the First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 24th May 2014.**

Also the next First Holy Communion Sunday Celebration will take place on **Sunday 16th February 2014.**

Spring Mid-term: the school will be closed Thursday 20th & Friday 21st of February 2014.

School re-opening: The school will re-open on Monday **the 6th of January 2014.**

As you can see from the Newsletter December is one of the busiest and most exciting months of the school year. I would like to thank parents, teachers and children who give their time generously in support of activities arranged within and outside the school in preparation for Christmas.

I hope that you all enjoy a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous 2014.

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir.

Is mise,

Dominic Ó Gallachóir (Principal)