

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



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

Newsletter January 2014

Dear Parents,

Cuirim failte mór roimh gach duine ar ais ar scoil tar éis saoire na Nollag.
I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and wish you well for the coming year.

The 8th annual Joseph Browne Spring School of Traditional Music takes place in Kinvara!!

The Joseph Browne Spring School of Traditional Music, now in its 8th year, will take place again this year in St. Joseph's National School from Thursday 20th February to Sat 22nd February 2014. Music classes will take place from 10am to 1pm each morning and 'Bearers of the Tradition' workshops, where students are given the opportunity to interact with members of the traditional music community, will take place on Thurs and Fri afternoons from 2pm to 3pm. The Joseph Browne Spring School provides an excellent opportunity for any children who are already playing an instrument as it allows them to spend three continuous days playing and learning music with some of the best teachers and performers of traditional music in Ireland as well as meeting other young musicians from all over Ireland. Classes are offered in fiddle, tin whistle, accordion, concertina, flute, pipes, guitar and keyboard. A new class for **Harp** was introduced and due to the success of the class will be held again this year. The tutors for the 2014 Spring School include Eileen O'Brien, Áine McGrath, Denis Liddy and Helen Diamond (fiddle) Dermot Byrne (accordion), Terry Bingham (Concertina), Tara Bingham (Flute), Marion McCarthy, (tin whistle), Padraic Keane (Pipes), Garry ó Briain (Guitar) and Geraldine Cotter (Keyboard). It is hoped to include a sean nos dancing workshop on the Thursday afternoon which will open to all participants of the spring school as well as their parents if they wish. More about this later!! Application forms will be available from Máire O'Keeffe and may be returned to her at the school. A benefit concert to help towards the cost of running the Spring School will be held on Fri night 21st Feb where many of the tutors will perform. Watch out for further details and please like us on <http://www.facebook.com/josephbrownespringschool>

Rock & Road: The run will start at 11:15 sharp. Kids should plan to be there (at the pier/outside the Pier Head) 15 mins before to avoid being disappointed. The plan is to put the older kids first (they'll be fastest), and younger kids behind. The roads are all closed to traffic from 10:30 so it's very safe. There is no entry fee. Please feel free to run or walk the 2k with your child.

Please be at the Pier Head at 10.40am sharp on Saturday morning for the race to get started. If people want more information the web site is at: www.rockandroad.ie

Clothes Collection: This will take place at the school on **Tuesday 11th February**-please leave any clothes bags you have before 9.30am.

TRIP TO FRANCE - Kinvara Town Twinning Committee is organising a trip to Locol-Mendon, in Brittany from May 9-12th 2014. All are welcome. Accommodation will be provided for free by host families. This promises to be a great weekend, enjoying Breton culture, cuisine & hospitality and coincides with 'le Trophée Roñsed-Mor', Breton music festival. To register your interest, please email commcenkinvara@gmail.com by February 14th.

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

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.

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

Communication: Please ensure that the school has accurate and up to date details of mobile numbers of parents/guardians so that messages can be sent and received promptly. It is also important that the designated phone is enabled to receive these messages. Practically all communications are now sent by email, so please check regularly.

Traffic Management: I would like to thank the children, staff and parents/guardians for their co-operation with the current school traffic management plan.

However, these are still motorist who do not follow the basic rules.

The front of the school is for "Set Down ONLY" in the mornings. The Board of Management will now write to these people directly as a first step. Parents are requested not to block the entrances to the school and the new car park.

I have received complaints regarding driver behavior . Because of the continued disregard for the safety of others, children's safety is seriously at risk.

On Tuesday last a pupil from our school escaped narrowly from serious harm as a parent wrecklessly pulled across the main road to try and get as close as possible to the school.

Please remember that children cannot anticipate what drivers are going to do-nor can !!

The same motorists park in the yellow box at the front gate!

The same motorists continuously use the "Set Down Area" to have a "chat" or escort their

child to the school. This is not necessary. All we ask is for consideration for the safety of the pupils in our school. It's never too late to prevent an accident from happening. Slow down! Obey the rules of the road!

ASD Unit: The new ASD Unit will open shortly. All staff will park in this area provided. Reminder: this is a staff only car park during school hours. We ask parents not to park or drop off here.

Christmas Day Swim: A total of €2,928.13 was raised by you on Christmas Day 2013. We have decided that €2,500 will go to the very worthy cause Galway Hospice. Thanks to all for contributing to cancer care and the safety of Kinvara children in the water once again. p.s. Ger Ryan has some fantastic photos from the event. Thanks again.

Kinvara GAA Open Day: Sunday 9th February for Junior & Senior Infants at St. Joseph's N.S Astro Turf at 12 noon. Tea, snacks & refreshments for all!

KINVARA CAMOGIE CLUB JUVENILE REGISTRATION DAY will take place this year as detailed below:

The registration date, time, location and fees as follows:

Date: Sunday 16th February 2014

Time: From 11.45am until 1pm

Where: Kinvara GAA Grounds

2014 Membership fees:

Single Child - €45.00 2 Children - €70.00 3 Children - €95.00

SPECIAL PRICE FOR JUNIOR INFANTS - €25.00

Coaches/Officers - €10.00 Social Members - €5.00

A Payment Instalment Plan will be available for families with 2 children or more

School Closures: The school will be closed on **Thurs 20th Feb & Fri 21st Feb** for Spring Mid-Term Break.

Dates to remember: Confirmation will take place on **Tuesday 25th of March 2014** in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 24th 2014**. The next Sunday for the Do this in Memory programme is 16th of February.

Congratulations to: Majella Corless (SNA) and Jude Kearney on the birth on their baby girl Croíadh

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

Is mise,

Dominic Ó Gallachóir (Principal)