

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa
Bothair an Chlochair
Cinn Mhara
Co. Na Gaillimhe*



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

Newsletter December 2016



***Wishing you all
a holy and
peaceful
Christmas, and
every blessing
and best wishes
for the year
2017.***

Dear Parents,

Nollaig faoi shó go raibh agaibh. Rath agus bláth na hathbhlíana oraibh go léi

Happy Christmas to you all! May 2017 bring you all the peace and happiness you could wish for!

I'd like to start by thanking all the parents who have supported the school and the work of the Parents Association Committee so far this school year. Without the committed, kind and caring parents, guardians, teachers & school staff who are so consistent with their support, our school would look and feel very different.

Your work and co-operation is much appreciated.

We had a fantastic response to the Santa Shop and the Christmas Hamper Appeal.

With your kind generosity, some needy families will hopefully have a happier Christmas. A lot of work goes into gathering, sorting and wrapping hampers. This is quite an onerous task which takes much time to plan and deliver.

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I'd like to thank Santa Claus and his helpers for taking time out to visit our school this week. The grotto looked stunning. Thanks to the parents association who organised all this.

I would also like to thank all of the parents who assisted in Santa's Shop. It was a long day for all of the "Traders" and "Wrappers". Once again there was a fantastic welcoming atmosphere for all. Great success!



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School play in aid of Christmas Hampers:

A mix of girls from 3rd & 4th class put on a school play last Saturday for their friends and family in the school hall. The play was called 'Believe' and it was written, produced and performed by the following girls;

Siobhan O'Connor, Ruby Hayes, Lauren Doody, Katie Meyler, Rose White, Meidhbhín Connolly, Sarah Gallagher, Leah Pyne, Hannah Cela, Aisling Quinn, Lauren Cullinane, Emma Cullinane, Éabha Doody, Brianna Meyler & Abbie Donnelly.

The show was a great success and they managed to raise 85.00 euro in total which they donated to the school hampers fund. Well done to all the girls!!

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Junior/Senior Infants Nativity:

I would like to congratulate Ms Smith, Ms Meere, Ms Ryan and Mrs Kelly for their wonderful presentation of The Nativity. All of the pupils were a credit to you their parents. Most enjoyable!

1st-6th Class Carol Service: The pupils in 1st-6th classes performed their Carol Service this on Thursday 8th of December in the school hall. traditional carols along 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 school musicians delighted everyone with special renditions of Silent Night, There Were Three Ships, Don Oíche Úd I mBeithil and Deck the Halls. We wish all the singers and musicians a very special Nollaig Shona.

The Christmas Eve Children's Mass: will take place in St. Joseph's Church at **5pm** on **Saturday 24th December**. As in previous years, children from 3rd to 6th class are invited to participate in singing and playing Christmas carols during the mass. Children taking part in the mass should be seated in the gallery in the church by **4 45pm**. Children playing fiddles, viola and guitars are asked to be in the church earlier at **4 30pm** as their instruments will require tuning. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

School Art Competition:

This year the school ran a very successful 'Design a Christmas Jumper' Competition. Every child in the school had the opportunity to show off their artistic talents and individual creations. The jumpers were judged on originality, creativity and use of different materials. We had an extremely difficult time judging as all of the jumpers were fantastic. A big thank you to all the teachers for providing the time and materials to create such wonderful jumpers. The winners were; Aisling O'Donnell, Leon Kelly (Junior infants), Eva Pyne, Miguel Medina (Senior Infants), Heidi Fahey, Matthew Sexton (1st class), Leah O' Connor, Maeve Green (2nd Class), Saoirse Cunningham, Donnacha Mullane (3rd class), Charlie Conneely, Katie Meyler (4th class), Matthew Meares, Kate Madden (5th class), Kate Kidd, Shona Mullarkey (6th class).

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Athletics 2016

In recent years our school has embraced cross country running as a core part of our health programme and this has yielded very positive dividends. To this end all classes have been participating in some medium – long distance running this term. Our pupils have also competed in a number of cross country running competitions with great results.

County Semi-Finals:

Our first outing took place on 20th of September at the Galway AAI Primary Schools Cross Country Championship Semi-Finals. We had several notable performances on the day. Róisín Geaney of sixth class won the Senior Girls race with an excellent performance and was followed closely home by Sofia Magnetti, Kate Kidd and Ellen Bermingham. In the Girls Junior race Siobhán Geaney came third and helped her team to qualify for the County Finals while in the Senior Boys race our top performers were Rory Dillon, Osgar Dunford and Louis Breslin. Finally in the Boys Junior race Luca Donjou and Charlie Connelly ran splendidly to qualify for the finals as individuals. Three of our four teams qualified for the County Finals with exceptional team performances. Our athletes on the day were- Senior Girls: Róisín Geaney, Sofia Magnetti, Kate Kidd, Ellen Bermingham, Lorna Bermingham, Holly Corcoran and Fiona Byrne; Senior Boys: Ruairí Dillon, Osgar Dunford, Louis Breslin, Ethan Sexton, Matthew Meares, Lorcan Heavey and Liam Martyn; Junior Girls:

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Siobhán Geaney, Naoise Flatley, Leah Hanley, Éabha Doody, Michaela Magnetti, Katie Meyler and Méibhín Connolly; Junior Boys: Luca Donjou, Charlie Connelly, Lucas Sheedy, Ryan Murphy, Padraic Conole, Donnacha Ganley, and Shane Flanagan.

County Finals:

In the County Finals our junior girls acquitted themselves admirably to finish in fourth place with Siobhán Geaney finishing in fifth position in a field of eighty five athletes. The junior boys race consisted of eighty eight runners and we were represented by Luca Donjou and Charlie Connelly who finished fifty fifth and fifty sixth respectively. The senior girls race was next up and we finished strongly to annex a very creditable third team position. Roisín Geaney finished in an excellent fifth position and was followed home by Sofia Magnetti, Kate Kidd, Ellen Bermingham, Fiona Byrne, and Holly Corcoran. The day was brought to a close with the completion of the senior boys' race. Our best performers on the day were Ruairí Dillon, Osgar Dunford, and Louis Breslin.

Connacht Cross Country Championships

Well done to all athletes who represented our school in the Connacht Cross Country Championships in Sligo this year. To compete at such a high standard is in itself an achievement. Siobhán Geaney ran an excellent race in the junior girls to finish in the medals (tenth position) while her sister Róisín came in twenty fifth in what was an extremely competitive senior girls race. Well done to both.

Cumann na mBunscoil Cross Country

Our school entered the Cumann na mBunscoil Cross Country for the first time this year and had a very productive outing. Róisín Geaney again proved her outstanding ability in finishing second and was followed closely by Sofia Magnetti who finished fourth with an excellent run. We had several other excellent performances on the day. Well done to all!

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Thank You

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fantastic support received from parents in providing lifts and encouragement, coaching, cajoling etc. the athletes on what were exceptionally tough runs. The athletes appreciate that same support and it means a lot when participating in such high class competitions. A special word of thanks to the Geaney family for travelling all the way to Sligo to represent the school with distinction in the Connacht Finals. Thank You All.

Sap Visit:

On Wednesday December 14th 5th class girls from Kinvara N.S were delighted to participate in the first roll out in Galway of GIRLsmart4tech program from S.A.P.

GIRLsmarts4tech is an important outreach program dedicated to inspiring girls to explore technology. SAP co-created the initiative with the University of British Columbia and piloted it in Vancouver.

Long before girls consider careers, before they reach university, and even before they consider their Junior Cert., many girls will have already ruled out technology as a career option. GIRLsmarts4tech aims to reach girls early, before they opt out of science, and show them that a career in technology can mean many things beyond sitting alone at a desk!

During our day in S.A.P, the girls took part in some very interesting and engaging activities: Pipecleaner Challenge, Makey makey circuit Demo (making music using scratch program) UX design process and the highlight of the trip for many learning about and seeing a 3D Printer in action. The girls really enjoyed the day, many thanks to S.A.P for facilitating our visit.



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Christmas Swim:

You are all invited to attend the Christmas Day Swim in Traught at **1 p.m.** If you would like to fill in a sponsorship card I have attached one for you to print out. You can return completed cards to the collectors on Christmas Day.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from all in Kinvara Swimming Club.

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Christmas SWIM fundraiser

The Galway Hospice Foundation is a registered charity established in 1986 to provide hospice/palliative care to terminally ill cancer patients and their families throughout Galway city and county. The Galway Hospice depends upon the generosity and goodwill of the public to fund their Home Care Service, Day Care Service, Bereavement Support Service and Educational Facility. Combined these services cost in excess of one million euro per annum to provide. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the money raised will go to Galway Hospice and $\frac{1}{3}$ to subsidise the cost of teaching local children life-saving swimming skills.

Swimmer: _____ Mobile: _____
Email: _____

Sponsor	Amount €	Sponsor	Amount €

Christmas Swim: Traught Beach, 25th December 1pm

Please return your card and money to the collectors on the day, THANK YOU.
Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir agus athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise!



facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/KinvaraChristmasSwimFundraiser>

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CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM

**Traught Beach, Kinvara
1pm sharp 25th December**

**Sponsorship cards available from
Galway Hospice, Londis,
Credit Union, Costcutter.**

or Contact Clare McGinty-Ryan 087 653 7898

2/3 Proceeds to Galway Hospice



<http://www.facebook.com/KinvaraChristmasSwimFundraiser>

Annual 5km fun run/walk: Annual Family Fundraising 5km fun run/walk is happening from Doorus National School again this year on Sunday 8th January 2017. Registration from the NS at 12 noon, event starts at 1.30 p.m. with a cuppa and some goodies afterwards. Adults €10, free entry for children. Organised by Run Kinvara and Kinvara GAA."

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Dates to remember: Confirmation will take place on Friday 10th of March 2017 in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 20th 2017 at 11.00am.**

Spring Mid-term: the school will be closed Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th of February 2017.

School re-opening: The school will re-open on Monday 9th of January 2017.

School Website: Our Twitter feed is available on our home page where you will find regular updates from around the school. Follow us @kinvarans. If you can't see our new website you may need to press Ctrl and F5 to reload the site.

As you can see from the Newsletter December is one of the busiest and most exciting month 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.

We would like to wish all the children, parents, staff and Board of Management of St. Joseph's a very Happy Christmas. We thank you all most sincerely for all your hard work and support this term. The last term has been a very successful term and everybody has earned a well-deserved rest over Christmas. We wish everybody a very enjoyable break.

I hope that you all enjoy a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous 2017.

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir.

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher (Principal)