

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



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

Newsletter November 2017

Dear Parents,

Credit Union Art competition: Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Credit Union Art Competition. The adjudicators made particular reference to the very high standard from Scoil Iosaif Naofa. The following were winners from various groups in our school: John Durkan, Clíona Byrne, Sadhbh Breathneach and Rose Keegan.

Out of 1,300 entries, 19 schools who participated, four of our students qualified in the top 12. They were awarded a beautiful certificate on their achievement and a cash prize. Their art work is now going forward onto the next stage of the competition. Comhghairdeas!!



Cross Country: Athletics.

The Schools Athletics Calendar has seen St. Joseph's N.S. produce some noteworthy performances in recent years. The boys and girls in our school have become more aware of the importance of being active and accordingly they place more of an emphasis on participating in our schools athletics activities. This year, the County Cross Country Semi-Finals and Finals took place on the 19th and 26th Sept in Renmore. We are fortunate to have a broad range of quality athletes in our school and this enabled us to field strong athletics teams in all four events, namely Junior Girls (3rd + 4th), Junior Boys (3rd + 4th), Senior Girls (5th and 6th) and Senior Boys (5th and 6th). Semi-Final Day brought lots of strong running from our athletes. Our Junior Girls team finished a very creditable fifth place out of twenty eight teams. This qualified them for the finals. Aisling Geaney, Lucy Franklin and Éabha Doody produced particularly strong performances. Our Junior Boys team found the going tougher but Alex Danjou, Sean Gallagher and Darragh McInerney deserve honourable mention for finishing in the top third in a field of 220 athletes. Next up was the Senior Girls event. Siobhán Geaney, following in a strong family tradition finished eighth in a field of 188 athletes. Naoise Flatley and Ellen Bermingham also ran excellent races to finish in the medals. Our strongest team on the day was our Senior Boys team who finished third out of 29 teams. Osgar Dunford (3rd), Ruairí Dillon (9th) and Matthew Meares all finished in the medals while strong performances from Kai Hayes, Luca Danjou, Charlie Conneely and Lorcan Heavey saw the team home. This was a very successful day with many of our athletes qualifying for the county finals on the 26th Sept.

County Finals

Our best performers in the County Finals were Aisling Geaney (who missed out on a medal by one place), her sister Siobhán who finished tenth and in the medals, while Ruairí Dillon and Osgar Dunford finished in 12th and 13th respectively - both in the medals once again). Our senior boys finished in fifth position – just one place outside qualification for the Connacht finals. The standard in these competitions is extremely high, while the course itself is very demanding in testing the endurance and skill of our athletes. Well done to all of our competitors.

Connacht Finals

Our school was represented at the Connacht Finals by four of our top athletes, namely Aisling Geaney (Junior Girls), Siobhán Geaney (Senior Girls), Ruairí Dillon and Osgar Dunford (both Senior Boys). All four finished in the top 20 in Connacht with Siobhán Geaney in 10th, Ruairí Dillon in 11th, Osgar Dunford in 16th and Aisling Geaney in 18th. Well done all – we are proud to have such capable athletes/ambassadors in our school.

We would also like thank all of the parents who supported the athletes at throughout the year. That same support is invaluable to the athletes in particular and it inspires them to push even harder. A special word of thanks to the parents who brought the athletes to the Connacht Finals in St.Brigid's of Roscommon – Joanne Geaney, Brendan Dunford and Fionnuala Taylor.







School Portal: By now all families in the school will have received an email about the school access portal. We kindly ask that all families set this up sooner rather than later. Any queries please email the school.

School Fees: Just a reminder that school fees are now overdue for payment.

Santa Shop: This will take place at the school on **Friday 15th of December.** I thank the Parents Association for organising this event. The Santa Shop is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to select their special gift. ***“It’s not the gift of the lover it’s the love of the giver”***

See note below from Parents Association:

The Parents Association will hold its’ annual **Santa Shop on Friday December 15th** . This is a very exciting and educational experience for the children at our school. The children have the opportunity to buy presents for their loved ones and at the same time learn about budgeting, saving, counting and spending money. This experience gives the children a unique sense of independence and responsibility.

The Parents Association have put wrapped box for all gift contributions into each classroom since **Thursday November 23rd.**

How it works..?

Parents may have unwanted gifts in a box/drawer at home and our Santa Shop would be grateful for these contributions. We are NOT asking parents to purchase new items for this event – the concept is to encourage the recycling of new or **gently-used** items.

Examples of items include:

jewellery*, toiletries, ornaments/bric-a-brac, kitchenware, frames, DVDs, CDs, paintings, books & toys. We would ask if teddies etc. are offered to ensure they are safe for use and are in good condition. Presents for the men/boys in the children’s lives are in big demand and we always struggle to meet that demand – any help in this regard would be fantastic! **We also welcome empty jewellery boxes to enhance the gift-wrapping.*

Each year we use the money raised through this event to pay for Santa’s visit to the school, as well as contributing towards meat vouchers for our Christmas hampers.

The Santa Shop is almost upon us and all our elves are very busy getting ready for Friday 15th of December!!

Santa Shop:

Please note children will not be allowed to spend in excess of 5 euro – they can buy two gifts for 1,2 or 3 euro – last year children brought in full wallets of money and we would hate for any child to mislay cash as a result of the Santa Shop so please ensure they know that 5 euros will be more than enough.



Christmas Hampers Appeal : Each year the children collect, with the help of their parents, food and festive items to help make the Christmas break more enjoyable for those people within our community who need a little bit of help.

Last year we delivered a large number of hampers – our feedback from the recipients is that it is not so much the hamper themselves that help them out but knowing they live within a community that cares about their well-being matters most – we hope with your support we can reach as many people again as we did last year – we also include meat and fuel vouchers through money raised from the Santa Shop.

This year we will use the Santa shop boxes in classrooms for the dual purpose of collecting hamper items and Santa Shop products from Friday Dec 1st .

Suggested Items :

Practical:

Tea Bags

Coffee

Drinking Chocolate

Biscuits

Sugar

Flour

Cereal

Tinned/Packet Soup

Seasonal:

Tin of Biscuits

Crackers

Napkins

Candles

Stocking fillers for children

Chocolates

Packaged Christmas Cake (small)

Packaged Christmas Pudding

Tinned Vegetables	Children's Selection boxes
Tinned Fruit	Snacks and Nibbles
Jams	Small luxury items
Tinned Fish	Pre-packaged cakes with expiry date beyond December 28th
Pasta	
Rice	
Sauces	
Jelly	
Packet desserts	
Gravy	
Cordials	
Gluten-free foods	

This list is not exhaustive - please send in anything suitable that you can.

Important: We would ask that nuts of any sort and alcohol are NOT donated.

Thank you all in advance for your generosity!

St. Joseph's PA

Seamount Musical: Congratulations to Seamount College on their wonderful performance of "Grease ". It is great to see so many of our past pupils taken to the stage and performing so well. Performing on stage is very worthwhile and benefits each pupil in so many ways.

School Closures: The school will close at **12 noon** for all pupils on **Friday 22nd of December** for the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Cards: We ask that Christmas cards would not be given out in school. Some children may feel excluded when they do not receive a card.

School Orchestra:

I would like to congratulate Ms O'Keeffe and her orchestra on their wonderful performance at the Christmas Lights Ceremony on Saturday last. Their performance greatly enhanced the Christmas spirit. Well done all.

Christmas Tree: I would like to thanks Ms Purcell, Ms Harrison and Ms McGrath for decorating Christmas stockings for the tree in Kinvara. The pupils really worked hard on this project. They were all wonderfully creative and decorative . Maith sibh.

Dates to remember: Confirmation will take place on Friday **9th of March 2018** in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 19th 2018 at 11.00am**

Allergies/ Medication: Please inform the school of any allergies which your child may have and any prescribed medication which they may require during school time. It is essential that our records in relation to this are kept updated.

School Visits: As stated in school's Code of Behaviour, an appointment must be made with the school secretary. We also request that each visitor report to the office.

Please use the *sign in sign out book* if you have to collect your child before home time.

Carol Service: This will take place on Wednesday 13th of December in the school hall for 1st to 6th class pupils. Parents are invited to attend. Carol service will commence at 11.30am.

Junior & Senior Infants Nativity:

The junior & senior infants nativity will take place on Friday 15th of December in St. Joseph's Church at 2pm.

A must see performance!

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher (Principal)