

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



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

Newsletter October 2015

Dear Parents,

The Hallow'een break is approaching and pupils and staff are beginning to engage with the seasonal activities that occur at this time. Pupils need to be reminded of the need to be safety conscious when out and about during Hallowe'en and the winter period.

Mini Sevens (Hurling)

On Thursday last the 15th of October, our mini-sevens hurling panel participated in the annual 'Cumann na mBunscoil' mini-sevens competition in Clarinbridge. St. Joseph's fielded a youthful side with all but four of our sixth class ruled out due to age restrictions. Our panel of ten players embraced the challenge however and performed admirably on the day.

Our group consisted of four teams: Kiltiernan, Northampton, Labane and St. Joseph's. In our first game (against Kiltiernan) after an initial period of hesitancy, our boys settled to the task in hand and produced a workmanlike performance to gain the upper hand. Senan Dunford and Kian Pyne led the way with excellent scores from both. A sterling display from defender Joe Meares inspired his comrades and this ensured that St. Joseph's had established a firm grip on the game by the final whistle. Substitutes Oisín Fahey and Ethan Sexton impressed and added impetus to the cause when introduced. Near neighbours Northampton provided the opposition in the next game. Conor Kilkelly controlled the midfield area providing a platform for our forwards to thrive on. Louis Breslin scored an opportunistic goal, while at the other end of the field goalkeeper Jack Kilkelly and swashbuckling fullback Liam Martyn were in uncompromising mood. Donnie Meehan worked hard and effectively on his introduction. We now had a 100% record and our game versus Labane was the group final. The first half was even with opportunities for both sides. Labane were more clinical with their chances however and thus led at half time. Our boys worked extremely hard in the second half to gain a foothold and good scores from Conor Kilkelly and Kian Pyne raised the spirits. Labane rallied again however and ran out worthy winners.

Overall this was a positive experience for our boys and it will stand them in good stead in future matches. Our panel on the day was: Jack Kilkelly, Joe Meares (captain), Liam Martyn, Senan Dunford, Conor Kilkelly, Kian Pyne, Louis Breslin, Oisín Fahey, Ethan Sexton and Donnie Meehan.



Garda 7's Football Competition:

St. Joseph's on cloud nine after emphatic win in Garda 7's.

St. Joseph's had great success in the Garda 7's competition held in Gort last week. Our panel of 19 all contributed admirably to this great accomplishment.

Our group consisted of four teams: Killeeneen, Kilbeacanty Northampton and St. Joseph's. St. Joseph's topped the group going through to the 'A' semi-final versus a confident Craughwell team. St. Joseph's maintained their 100% record with a dominant win and progressed to the final. St. Joseph's went on to play last year's winners and favourites, Oranmore Maree in a nail biting final that went right down to the wire. The level of sportsmanship and respect for officials by the players was a credit to all involved on the day as St. Joseph's ran out deserved winners.

The group stages offered sturdy opponents and the introductions of 5th class students Iarlagh O' Hanlon, Jack Kilkelly and Liam Martyn all added greatly to the cause while Ethan Sexton contributed brilliantly with a well taken goal from 25 yards. Tommy and Daniel were also dangerous in front of goal when introduced and both had a keen eye for goal. Cathal Fordham, Evan O' Connor and Senan Dunford are all stylish players and used possession wisely throughout the day.

The final provided a real spectacle on how football should be played. Both sides played fast counterattacking football. Great scores from both sides made for great viewing and an exciting game.

Oranmore Maree led at half time by two goals and St. Joseph's had it all to do to turn their deficit around in the second half. Trailing at half time, captain Tadhg Heavey rallied his team at half time which resulted in a formidable second half display. The team made a spirited comeback to win by four points. Kyne Pyne lead from the front and his vision and skill created chances for Aodhán and Tom Kidd to finish off some classy moves by the Kinvara team. Cathal Fordham and Joe Meeres made for a solid pairing in the Kinvara backline and their attributes of both strength and pace was vital throughout the day. Sean Costello and Joshua Medina offered great options coming on off the bench and both made telling contributions to the victory over Craughwell and Oranmore Maree. Joshua Medina's determination to run the length of the pitch to clear the ball off the line in the dying moments of the game paved the way for a Kinvara win. A final goal from Kian Pyne put a gloss on the scoreline as Kinvara ran out deserved victors. Conor Kilkelly's clever kick outs were compared Stephen Cluxton in securing primary possession for Kinvara. His clever passing into the space for the brilliant Aodhán to win the ball proved vital in retaining primary possession. Justin also offered another solid option in goals and made some astute kick outs also. Evan Deveney and Kevin McHugh were out injured for this competition unfortunately but helped with setting up drills and their support on the side line did not go unnoticed.

All in all, it was great day for our St. Joseph's NS and well done to all involved.

Onwards and upwards.



The school Gaelic Football Team

Camogie 7's:

A panel of ten players participated in the mini 7s competition in Kinvara pitch on the 8th of October. The panel was Caoimhe Keely, Alisha Meehan, Eabha Martyn, Cara McGarry, Sadhbh Hanley, Kate Stevens(all 6th class) and Shona Mullarkey, Leah Burke, Roisín Geaney and Cara Mongan (5th class).

On a glorious day the girls faced a strong Kiltiernan side in the first game. Kiltiernan already had one win behind them but the St.Josephs girls gave them a tough game with Kiltiernan narrowly coming out on top at 1-2 to 1-0. Kiltiernan went on to win out our group.

The team composed themselves after the loss and came back to beat Doorus N.S 5-3 to no score! Shona Mullarkey having a fantastic game in the backs while Kate Stevens made a huge impact up front with 3 goals. The third game saw our girls face Kiltartan who had a few very strong players. But with excellent performances from Cara in goals, Caoimhe in mid-field and Roisín solid in the backs, we came out on top 3-1 to 1 goal.

The final game saw us face Ballyturn N.S. After a long day both teams were tiring but with a strong effort from Eabha, Sadhbh,Cara McGarry, Alisha and Leah we held them to a draw.

We are very proud of the St.Josephs team on some great results and look forward to seeing them play again this year.

Athletics: School Athletics 2015

The pupils of St.Joseph’s N.S. have embraced the benefits of a healthy life style in recent years. This includes eating a healthy diet and being active. Fitness levels have improved significantly and our more elite athletes are thus inspired to represent the school with distinction. Accordingly, we have made significant progress in a competitive sense. This year we entered 27 athletes to represent our school in the County Cross Country Championships. All of our teams acquitted themselves admirably in the semi-finals and succeeded in reaching the Primary Schools Cross Country Finals. Despite an extremely high standard our boys and girls recorded excellent results on the day. Our junior girls team came third in the county. Siobhán Geaney and Holly Corcoran both ran excellent races. This was followed up by our senior girls team who secured fifth position in the county semi-finals and seventh in the county finals with notable performances from Sofia Magnetti, Róisín Geaney and Éabha Martyn. The schools boys teams excelled in their respective competitions – both the junior and senior teams securing first in the county. All boys ran superbly well and it would be unfair to single out any individuals. They have truly set the standard for future athletic events! We now look forward to representing our county with pride on Saturday next the 17th Oct in Leitrim. Our athletes have a fantastic attitude and they are great ambassadors for our school where ever they go. We wish them well in their efforts on Saturday.

Junior Girls

- 1. Siobhán Geaney
- 2. Holly Corcoran
- 3. Naoise Flatley
- 4. Leah Hanley
- 5. Ellen Birmingham
- 6. Michaela Magnetti

Junior Boys

- 1. Ruairí Dillon
- 2. Oscar Dunford
- 3. Kai Hayes
- 4. Lorcan Heavey
- 5. Matthew Meares
- 6. Charlie Conneely

Senior Girls

- 1. Sofia Magnetti
- 2. Róisín Geaney
- 3. Éabha Martyn
- 4. Alisha Meehan
- 5. Sadhbh Hanley
- 6. Shona Mullarkey

Senior Boys

- 1. Tom Kidd
- 2. Tadhg Heavey
- 3. Aodhán O’Hanrahan
- 4. Cathal Droney
- 5. Joe Meares
- 6. Senan Dunford

We also had three competitors who ran as individual runners and acquitted themselves very well – Louis Breslin, Seán Costello and Meidhbhín Connolly.

Connacht Cross Country 2015 Report

St. Joseph's N.S. had a number of athletes representing us in the Connacht Primary Schools Cross Country in Leitrim on Saturday last. This is a very prestigious event with only the very best athletes from each county involved. The standard of running was exceptionally high with the majority of the athletes being members of athletic clubs. In the junior girls competition Siobhán Geaney and Holly Corcoran ran very well to finish 27th and 55th respectively out of 135 runners. Our junior boys team performed very well with Ruairí Dillon finishing in the medals (13th position) while Oscar Dunford finished in an excellent 17th position. Kai Hayes, Lorcan Heavey and Matthew Meares produced strong finishes to finish 59th, 70th and 87th respectively in a very strong field of 119 runners. The final event of interest to our school was the senior boys race where we had strong performances from Tadhg Heavey and Aodhán O'Hanrahan who finished 29th and 30th respectively. Joe Meares finished a creditable 67th and Senan Dunford dug deep to finish 82nd. These placing's secured **fourth** place for our Junior Boys team and **seventh** for our Senior Boys team.

This is our first year qualifying for the Connacht Finals and it has been a valuable learning experience. Our athletes have done us proud and hopefully it will inspire other pupils to up the ante and strive to represent our school in future athletic events. We would like to thank all of the athletes who represented us thus far this year. They have been great ambassadors for our school in their attitude, behaviour and sporting performances. We would also like to thank the parents who travelled to the County and Connacht Finals to support our athletes. Thank You.

Meeting with parents: The annual Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on Wednesday 25th of November. The parents /teacher meetings provide a great opportunity to exchange information. If there is any particular talent or interest area that your child has, please let the teacher know about it. If you have a particular concern regarding any aspect of your child's progress and wish to meet your child's teacher outside of the usual parent/teacher meeting, you are asked to contact Hilary, our school secretary, and a mutually convenient appointment will be arranged with your child's class teacher. The co-operation of parents in maintaining the appointment protocol is much appreciated. As parents will understand, it is not possible on health and safety grounds for teacher to leave their class unsupervised. Please note that the Parent teacher's meeting will commence at 2pm and last appointments are 5.30pm.

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. Also the school will not give out the phone numbers of parents.

Dates to remember: Confirmation will take place on Thursday 10th of **March 2016** in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 28th 2015 at 11.00am**

Seamount Musical: This year's production is "***Back to the 80's***" Thursday 12th of November in Kilcornan Community Hall. More details after midterm about this.

The following are items of information which require your attention at this time.

Official Opening Time:

The official opening time for the reception of pupils is 9.10am. The Board of Management cannot accept responsibility for pupils who arrive on the school grounds early.

Attendance:

In the event of your child being absent please inform the class teacher in writing. Please use 'absence notes' at the back of the homework journal. Schools are obliged to monitor school attendance and to report, to the National Education Welfare Board, the name of any pupil who is absent for an aggregate of 20 days in more than one school year. This is a legal requirement on schools and one where there is no discretion. A written note to the class teacher will suffice for junior/senior infants.

Lunch: The school has a healthy lunch policy, which will be reviewed during the coming school year. We will be looking for your suggestions during this process. If you are interested in being part of this process please send a note into the school or send me an email.

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.

NB Chewing gum, crisps and fizzy drinks are forbidden. Nuts are also forbidden due to unknown allergies.

Uniform:

It is very important that all pupils wear their complete school tracksuit or school uniform when attending school. The school authorities will monitor the dress code strictly as it represents the standards set by our school.

Children should have their names on their uniforms, tracksuits, coats and other personal belongings.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that your child:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject

Our commitment to you continues to be to work with the staff to provide a well rounded education that allows each pupil to reach his/her fullest potential. I have high expectations for myself, staff and our pupils. Please help your child(ren) reach his/her fullest potential by ensuring they arrive to school on time and attend daily. While we do not want pupils to arrive if they are ill, I do discourage parents/guardians from taking holidays during the school year as this causes disruption to pupil's learning.

Please speak positively about school and staff members in front of your children. If you have a concern please begin by consulting with your child's teacher. We will work collaboratively to make this year a positive learning experience for your child.

School Mobile: The school mobile number is 086 6067500. For all new families who have joined the school, this is a “text service “for parents.

Please text your eldest family members name to 086 6067500 if you have not already done so.

E.g. Smith John, then your mobile number will be entered into school’s database.

Also please send us an email address to info@kinvarans.ie we send out newsletters etc via email. If you don’t have email please let the secretary know and your child will receive the notes. If any families have changed their **phone details** or **email details** over the summer please also notify the school secretary.

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.

Time change: Sunday, 25 October 2015, **02:00:00** clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to Sunday, 25 October 2015, **01:00:00** local standard time instead.

I wish you all a happy and a safe holiday.

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher (Principal)

