



St. Aidan's N.S. Newsletter 2 – October/November 2018

Special Celebration: 30th Anniversary

A MASS of THANKSGIVING, was celebrated on Oct. 19th to mark the 30th Anniversary of the opening of St. Aidan's N.S. Kiltimagh. Fr. Michael Quinn, PP and Chairperson of the BOM, together with Fr. Paddy Kilcoyne, former Chairperson and Fr. John Maloney, former religious advisor concelebrated the Mass. The St. Aidan's School Choir under the direction of Vivienne Lee, Assistant Principal, provided the hymns and psalm from the gallery with George Lee on the organ.

Della Macken, Deputy Principal welcomed the whole school community and invited guests to the Church of the Holy Family. Symbols to represent the 30 years 1988 – 2018 were then brought to the altar. They included 30 Year Candles, The Gift of Dance, Items to represent our School Band 'Banna Cheoil Scoil Aodain', Sports items, Resources of 30 years ago and now, Photographs old and new, Roll Book, School Crest and Mass Booklet from Official Opening Ceremony in May 1989. Pupils, Past Pupils, Parents, Teachers and other representatives of the 30 years were all involved. A Commentary was read by Deirdre McCallion and Aisling Nyland. Also involved in the Mass were former principals, Mairead King and Jim Fogarty as well as retired staff and Representatives of the Board of Management and Parents Association.

Back at the school after Mass members of the Parents Association were on hand to provide refreshments to all the guests. A special cake was organised for the occasion too and all pupils were provided with treats

See last page for a brief look back at the 30 years along with some words of thanks given by Anne Cunnane, Principal, to all who have supported our school through the 30 years and continue to support us today.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

The 2018/2019 Parent-Teacher Meetings take place this week on Tues-Nov 20th, Wednes-Nov 21st and Thurs-Nov 22nd.

This is a very important opportunity to meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss how your child is getting on. In the event that you may wish to speak to the teacher again at another time this year on a matter of concern or otherwise, we would ask that you ring the secretary please and arrange an appointment.

Used Clothes Collection

*finished Wednesday Nov 14th
Next collection will take place during
April and May '19*

Fundraising to Date Thanks to all involved!

The Annual Sponsored Walk which included an option to RUN for the senior classes took place on Oct 14th and raised a total of **€2588**. This is an increase of €200 plus on last year. Sincere thanks to everyone!

The Clothes Collection has raised **€360**
Total raised to date = €2948

Next Fundraiser: Christmas Concerts

Swimming for 6th

A block of 6 lessons for the pupils of 6th began on Nov. 6th and will run each Tuesday until Dec. 11th in the Claremorris Leisure Centre. 5th Class will follow for the next 6 weeks.

Parents Association AGM - October 15th

There was an improved attendance at this year's AGM and this was welcomed. The meeting was chaired by outgoing chairperson, Maria Langan. Liesel Ward, outgoing Secretary and Sonia Gilmartin, outgoing Treasurer both gave their respective reports before Anne Cunnane, Principal was invited to give her report.

- In her report Anne thanked sincerely the members of the PA for their interest in and commitment to the school. She outlined the positive changes that have taken place in the last year and spoke of plans for the current year.
- She spoke of the **Child Protection Safety Statement** that was ratified by BOM in Feb. This followed the carrying out of a **Child Safe-Guarding Risk Assessment**.
- May 25th signalled a change for **Data Protection**. The BOM is obliged to comply with the principles of data protection set out in the **Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and the EU General Data Personal Regulation (GDPR)**. Currently an audit is underway in the school in an effort to ensure that all data is accounted for and is secure. The school **Data Protection Policy** is being reviewed and when completed in line with new legislation it will be brought to BOM
- Other matters spoken about were some changes to the calendar this year, Communion and Confirmation dates, a new **Inspector** for our area - **Mr Michael Whyte** and the purchase of a new literacy programme '**Literacy Lift Off**'
- The **Parents Suggestion List** was then discussed. Many of the suggestions could be grouped and referred to as one. Anne promised to take on board all the suggestions that were within her remit to do something about but mentioned some were outside her control.

See new Parents Association Committee listed further on in this newsletter.

Football Success!

The **Mini 7's Boys and Girls Competitions** were held in Swinford in October with both teams doing the school proud through 3 matches each.

The Boys team was victorious in this leg of the competition and went on to compete in the East Mayo Final in Charlestown on Nov.8th. Kilmovee were worthy winners on this day.

Well done to all involved and thanks to Mr Donnellan, Mr. McVeigh and Bernie for preparing and organising the teams.

Science Week Build a Bridge Challenge

Well done to the boys and girls from 4th, and 5th who represented the school at the recent Science Week Challenge held in the McWilliam Hotel, Claremorris

The bridge built by Clodagh Carroll, Aoibhinn Mc Donagh, Roisin Conlon and Maria Duffy held a weight of 350 grams before collapsing. The winning team of the competition held 412 grams.

Our 2nd team to build a bridge were Darren Brennan, Eoin McGovern, Joseph Heneghan and Kellie Mallee.

Retirement

Mrs Delores Brady has retired as our School Inspector and has been replaced by **Mr Michael Whyte**. On behalf of all of us I wish **Delores** well in her retirement.

Cycle Training for 6th Class

Cycle training for 6th class took place in October over 4 days. It took place on the school grounds and finished with a road trip. This very worthwhile initiative is sponsored by Mayo County Council and is delivered by Gerry Butler.

Gerry spoke very highly of the 6th class pupils and their attention to this very important training programme for cyclists.

See School Website

www.kiltimaghns.ie

Parents Association New Committee 2018

Chairperson : Irene Heneghan

Secretary: Dimps Smyth

Treasurer: Sharon Mulderrig

Sonia Gilmartin

Sinead Conlon

Deirdre Sheridan

Andrea Maloney

Angela Leonard

Fiona Killillea

Annmarie Kane

Hazel Cosgrove

Caroline Cotter

Natalie Gill

Orla Freeman

The following 'back-up panel' are also available to help out if needed

Ann Forde, Annette Geraghty, Teresa Barrett, Deborah Donnelly, Eileen Kelly, Laura McNicholas, Christina Conway, Louise Sharpe, Christina Walsh, Vanessa Ryan.

Christmas Concerts

All pupils in all classes will be taking part in the planned concerts to be staged over 2 days Wednesday, Dec. 12th and Thurs. Dec 13th in the School Hall.

Due to the large number of pupils in the school the items will be divided over the 2 days and there will be 2 shows on each of the days - a matinee performance at 12.45 and an evening performance at 7.30pm.

A programme and further information will be provided nearer the time. There will also be a raffle at each performance.

Maths Week

Thanks to Orlene Mooney who co-ordinated the maths activities, maths puzzles and closing assembly through Maths Week 2018. Some very interesting entries were submitted for the Maths Eyes Competition and the 5 winning entries have been submitted to the national competition. The winners were awarded cinema vouchers and those who took part in the Puzzles Competition received Homework Passes. Well done to all!

Matters of Safety

- 1. Please talk to your child/children about walking on the footpath as they leave the school grounds.** All too often children see an opportunity to get ahead if they come off the footpath and run along the road before hopping back up onto the footpath again. It is an extremely dangerous thing to do as there are cars coming in as well as leaving the school grounds. Three staff supervise at closing time to ensure the children leave the school grounds safely. However, despite daily reminders to stay on the path there are always a few who chance it. *Parents waiting in cars have brought this danger to my attention on a number of occasions.*
- 2. Crossing from the school grounds to a waiting car –** Our rule here has always been that parents/guardians should walk across to collect their child/children at the barrier. **No child should run across the roundabout unaccompanied**

Following the Mass of Thanksgiving, Anne Cunnane, Principal, spoke to the congregation...

'There was great excitement when the school first opened its doors on September 1st, 1988. The new building had everything the previous 2 schools didn't have - a hall for PE classes, a staff room for the teachers, indoor toilets in every room, an office for the principal. Parents only needed to make one drop-off from then as their primary school children were all in the one school. Fr. Cryan together with the Boards of Management of the time had overseen the building and transition. We appreciate this took a considerable amount of time and effort. The end result however was worth the wait and all the work.

What is significant of the first years is that the school had a staff of 12, 6 had been teaching in the Boys School and 6 had been teaching in the Girls School. Together, we were actually over quota by one teacher. The Department ruled on the amalgamation that no staff member would lose their job but if someone were to retire they would not be replaced. 3 years later Sr. Mairead retired and we dropped to 11 staff. Of that original 12 staff only 2 remain today - Della Macken and myself.

Fast forward to 2018 and the school has a staff of 20 through the school day and 2 caretakers in the evening. Well you might wonder how 11 or 12 staff became 20? The Education Act of 1998 promoted inclusivity and equality of access, with emphasis on ensuring provision for persons with disabilities or other special educational needs.

Today schools welcome all children knowing they have the resources and staff to cater for the majority of their needs. Special Needs Assistants support and cater for the care needs of the pupils. As well as this, Special Education Teachers provide a range of school supports to all pupils who experience emotional and learning difficulties. St. Aidan's has 5 Special Education Teachers and 4 SNA's. What a marvellous move forward from one teacher looking after all of the needs of his/her own class all day every day to a system now that provides in-class support, team teaching, station teaching, focused group work and some one-to-one teaching. Teachers no longer work in isolation. They work as a team supported by SNA's, SET's and in-school management.'

And now to say 'thank you'

- To the many members of the Boards of Management whose main function has been and is to manage the school on behalf of the Patron and for the benefit of the children... Thank you!*
- To all the staff of St. Aidan's - past and present - Sincere thanks! In 30 years the school has seen many new faces all of whom have found the St. Aidan's experience very welcoming. The core group of permanent staff really only changed when retirements came about and there have been quite a number of those in the last 10 - 15 years. We love to have our retired staff visit and you are welcome any time but most especially today.*
- It was 2004 before the BOM employed our extremely hardworking secretary - Caroline. And our caretakers Joe and Marion do a wonderful job keeping the school and grounds well maintained - Sincere thanks to all of you too!*
- To the Parents Association formed in 2003/2004 - your interest, support, hard work and commitment to the school is greatly appreciated. We commend your ongoing fundraising efforts too.*
- To the entire Kiltimagh Community - sincere thanks for all your continued support over the years*
- To the local Credit Union, the GAA club, Basketball Club, Handball Club, the ladies of the Knitting Club, The Bocce Courts, The Tourism Committee, the Fire Station staff, Vincent de Paul and others- the links that have been formed by the school with all of you have benefitted so many children. We look forward to you continuing to share your time, skills and resources with us.*
- To our sponsors who have generously sponsored computers, laptops, a sound system, books, sports facilities, sportswear and refreshments you have made such a difference to the schools' resources. Sincere thanks to all of you too.*
- To George Lee and Deirdre Lee - you have always made yourselves available for church services, choir performances, concerts and special occasions - go raibh mile maith agaibh freisin.*

'No doubt I have left people out but today's message to each and every one of you is the same. We acknowledge and thank all who have played a part, however big or small, in the 30 years 1988 - 2018. We were proud of our new building and what it had to offer when it first opened 30 years ago and today we are

30 years more proud of everyone and everything that has grown St. Aidan's since then.'

Anne Cunnane, Principal