

## NUACHTLITIR NA GAELSCOILE (4)

07/02/'18

1. **AN T-EARRACH:** Tá an t-Earrach buailte linn arís! Spring beckons with longer days and the lovely plúiríní sneachta/snowdrops again making a welcome appearance. As always, the Gaelscoil remains a hub of lively and worthwhile opportunities, to ensure that the education we offer is as broad, holistic and inclusive as possible.
2. **IMEACHTAÍ NA NOLLAG:** Although the Christmas holidays are now well in the past, our pre-Christmas events were extremely successful and created a host of special memories. Our annual Carol Service was very well attended and the páistí treated us all to a very special evening of drama, music and song, depicting the true spirit of Christmas. Míle buíochas to each of the múinteoirí who had their classes so well prepared and especially to **An Múinteoir Mícheál**, whose class told the story of the Nativity through drama, as well as to **An Múinteoir Lísa** who led the school choir and **Múinteoirí Móna, Clár, Brian agus Mary Rose** who arranged and led the lovely accompanying instrumental music. **Busking for Charity** relocated to Carlow Shopping Centre, creating a lovely atmosphere for customers and helping to raise €526 for the local branch of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society**. Giving a helping hand to those in need in our own community is very important to us in the Gaelscoil and we are very happy to contribute to the wonderful work done by so many local **St. Vincent de Paul** volunteers. The annual **Maisiú Brioscaí/Cookie Decorating** in Halla na Gaelscoile was a particularly joyous event, with the halla being magically transformed into a beautiful Christmas Grotto, thanks to the incredible organisation of our **Cairde Group** and friends. **Daidí na Nollag** made a guest appearance for the younger children, creating wonderful excitement. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and extended family members coming along to witness the excitement of all involved. Buíochas mór le buachaillí agus cailíní **Rang 6** who baked over 500 cookies for the day, under the guidance of **Kate Ní Bhriain** who teaches Eacnamaíocht Bhaile/Home Economics in the Gaelcholáiste. The results were delicious and devoured as soon as they were decorated! The **Christmas Raffle** was a great success as always. **Frosty the Snowman** made his annual appearance for the draw, much to the delight of all involved. **Rang 6** pupils took on the task of selling the raffle tickets with the main prize, the television, going to **Lauren Pratt** of Seomra 13. All raffle prizes were generously donated by parents and extended family members and we are very grateful for the ongoing support for this and for the many other school events throughout the year. Apart from creating a great sense of excitement throughout the school, a total of €1574 was raised, money which we hope to spend on computers/tablets for the junior classes. Míle buíochas le gach duine a chabhraigh – many thanks to everyone for the wonderful co-operation from all, making these events possible. **Ní neart go cur le chéile!**
3. **GAISCÍGH AN BHIA:** The Food Dudes initiative has just ended for our junior classes (a few days earlier for Rang 3 - 6) with so many páistí willing to try fruit and vegetables which they had not previously experienced. Now is a great time to continue this good work and to introduce more healthy fruit and veg. options, both at home and in the bosca lóin. Good habits formed in childhood impact positively on adult health, making it worth the perseverance often required.
4. **SEÓ MÓR NA GAELSCOILE – RÍ NA LEOIN:** Preparations for our school production of ‘**The Lion King**’ are almost complete for the first public performance which will take place tomorrow, Thursday, in New Ross. This is a competition for Gaelscoileanna named ‘Coirm’ and our múinteoirí and cast will represent our school with confidence and pride. Páistí from **Rang 4, 5 agus 6** have been

working very hard with **Múinteoirí Clár, Jill agus Mairéad** over the past few months and the finished show is a credit to all involved. Thursday's production is limited to 20 minutes but a longer version, also 'as Gaeilge', will be staged in the local **G.B.S. theatre on February 28<sup>th</sup>** as part of the Féile Drámaíochta/Drama Festival. A third staging of the performance will take place in **Halla na Gaelscoile** after the Easter break. This version is in English and will be open to Gaelscoil families and friends. Showcasing a wealth of talent among our pupils, audiences will be treated to a wonderful display of acting, singing and choreography, with a spectacular backdrop and props to create the atmosphere. Special thanks to **Debbie Mc Gann, Mamaí of Jack in Rang 2**, for the great work she did in this regard. Buíochas mór freisin to all the **parents** who helped with the amazing costumes, as well as a group of past pupils currently on **Transition Year** work experience with us who have provided invaluable help with the Face Painting for the show. Further details of the school staging of 'The Lion King' will be available at a later date, it will be an evening of high quality entertainment.

5. **PEACE PROMS:** Preparations are well underway with our school choir for the forthcoming Peace Proms event, under the direction of **An M. Lísá**. This is a special cross border initiative involving many schools coming together for a series of concerts. Our choir will be singing in the Hub, Cillín Hill in Kilkenny on **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 2 o'clock and it is always a very special and worthwhile event. Míle buíochas to An M. Lísá for her time and commitment to the choir and to the choir members from Rang 3 for their enthusiasm and hard work in representing the Gaelscoil.
6. **ÓCÁIDÍ EAGLASTA: Catholic Schools' Week** took place last week and was celebrated here in the Gaelscoil in conjunction with the many Catholic Schools throughout the country. Some of you may have seen our school display in Askea Church, depicting some of the ways in which we celebrate our Catholic ethos. A special school prayer service and a Mass in conjunction with the Gaelcholáiste took place during the week, as well as the very successful Lá na Seanthuistí/ Grandparents' Day. This year was our busiest to date with **Rang 2** having a special Céad Míle Fáilte for their special visitors. It was a lovely occasion for all involved, idir óg agus aosta (Young and Not So Young!) and a day to treasure. **Rang 6** are currently preparing for their Confirmation on March 10<sup>th</sup>. They will spend Friday next, as a **Lá Oidhreachta/ Heritage Day**. They will begin with a visit to Carlow Cathedral that morning and continue to Old Leighlin, where they will visit the Holy Well and Old Leighlin Cathedral. There, they will be met by a guide who will give them a talk on the history of the Cathedral and the local area. They will continue their preparations on Tuesday next, with a **Lá Spioradálta/Retreat Day** with the Graigecullen Youth Ministry Team. Buachaillí agus cailíní from Rang 2 are also busy preparing for their First Penance on February 28<sup>th</sup> (Séipéal Easca, 7p.m.). Míle buíochas to all the múinteoirí for the huge amount of preparatory work for these special occasions and to the tuismitheoirí who support the children in preparing for these important milestones.
7. **CÚRSAÍ SPÓIRT:** Sport has always formed a big part of Gaelscoil life and various classes are currently involved in a broad range of activities including football, hurling, camogie, soccer, swimming, tag rugby, volleyball and gymnastics. Great credit goes to our múinteoirí, as well as trainers from the local clubs and Carlow I.T., for making such opportunities available for all classes. Following consultation with their class groups, members of our school's **Aontas na Macléinn/ Student Council** have requested two sets of goalposts which would greatly enhance our lovely **Fód Spraioi/ Astro Pitch**. Rang 6, along with our hardworking Cairde committee, several parent volunteers and Transition Year students from the Gaelcholáiste, have already spent a weekend bag packing in Dunnes Stores and hope to do likewise in Tesco during the first weekend of March. Between these weekends and our Copper Collection/**Buidéal na mBonn**, we are hoping that the goalposts will become a reality by the end of term. Further donations of coppers will be gratefully accepted!

Míle buíochas to all who have co-operated with our request to ensure that the correct sports uniform is being worn by all on P.E. days. This should eliminate the pressure to have the more expensive brands, including those with logos.

8. **CRUINNITHE**: Parent/Teacher Meetings for children in all **Naíonáin Bheaga**/Junior Infant Classes, as well as for **Rang 4** (S. 12), are currently taking place. Please note that it is always essential to arrange an appointment if you wish to speak to your child's múinteoir. It is not possible for múinteoirí to be available for unscheduled meetings in the morning or during class time. Paula will be happy to arrange this through Oifig na Gaelscoile. In order to ensure safety in the school, all visitors must call to the oifig when dropping/collecting children, or to drop in lunches etc., rather than going to classrooms. The same applies in Clós na Gaelscoile/school playground in the mornings or during breaktime. Please report to the múinteoir on duty, rather than approaching children. We are currently working on updating our school's **Child Protection Policy** in accordance with the latest guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills. This policy will be available through our school website or through Oifig na Gaelscoile when it has been ratified by the Board of Management next month. Míle buíochas le gach duine as an gcomhoibriú. Sincere thanks for your co-operation in this matter, the safety and wellbeing of our buachaillí agus cailíní is paramount for us in the Gaelscoil, as it is for you.
9. **CUAIRTEOIRÍ SPEISIALTA**: All classes from Rang 1 – Rang 6 were treated yesterday to a special production of the Irish legend 'Fionn Mac Cumhaill' by visiting theatre group **Clan Cluana Theatre**, in Halla na Gaelscoile. Special performances such as this are made possible by the continued support of parents through the **Voluntary Contributions** and through supporting fund raising initiatives. The páistí benefit greatly from these extra treats - **míle buíochas le gach duine**.
10. **AONACH NA GAELSCOILE**: A date to be included in the diary is **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April** when the annual Gaelscoil Fete takes place. **SAVE THE DATE!**
11. **TINNEAS**: This time of the year always sees a rise in incidents of sickness with flu and other illnesses. While we always strive to have high levels of attendance for all our pupils, please do not send your child to school if they are clearly not well enough to be in class. A day in the leaba often helps to avoid longer stints of absence and can prevent the spread of infections etc.
12. **SOS LÁR-THÉARMA**: A reminder that this term's mid-term break takes place next week on Thursday and Friday, 15<sup>th</sup>/ 16<sup>th</sup> February. Wednesday will be a regular school day, finishing at 2pm and 3pm as normal. As Easter falls quite early this year, our mid-term for the summer term will for a full week, 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May inclusive. This may suit some families when planning holiday breaks.
13. **COMHBHRÓN**: Sincere sympathy to An Múinteoir Mary Rose on the recent untimely death of her mother, Sheelagh Shore. We offer her our support and prayers at this very difficult time.

### **GLÓR CHEATHARLACH NEWS ...January 2018**

**SEAN-NÓS**: Sean-Nós Dance classes on Tuesday nights at 6pm in Carlow Town Hurling Club. Children & adults welcome. Details 087/2857048.

**CAINT & COMHRÁ**: Interested in informal Irish conversation? Cead míle fáilte to the weekly circles in Carlow Museum on Wednesdays from 10.30-11.30am. Drop in any Wednesday for a chat and a '*cupán tae*'. No charge.

**CÚRSAÍ GAEILGE 2018**: Irish Classes for adults will commence in February in Carlow County Buildings. Elementary on Mondays with intermediate level on Tuesdays. Classes from 7-9pm for 10 weeks. Information meeting on Monday, 29 Jan @ 7pm. Details on [www.gaelchultur.com](http://www.gaelchultur.com) Also from Glór Cheatharlach 085 1340047, 087 2857048.

**Le gach deaghuí,**

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**An Múinteoir Aingeal (Príomhoide)**