



Dec. 2016

Can you believe that 2016 is nearly over? It seems like just a moment ago, I was putting the finishing touches to the September issue of Acorns. Maria's time with us is almost up; we will miss her Spanish classes and positive outlook. She has been helping us to prepare for the annual Parish Carol service which takes place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Shhh - her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday is this Sunday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.



**WE ARE TAKING PART IN RED FM'S**

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FOR CORK SIMON. ON DEC. 21<sup>ST</sup> ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ARE ASKED TO WEAR THEIR WHAKIEST CHRISTMAS GEAR AND MAKE A DONATION TO CORK SIMON.**



**WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS FOR CLONAKILTY RED CROSS BRANCH ADVENT BOX.**

**Our very own Red Cross member Amy Calnan has these words for us all -**

At Clonakilty red cross we are collecting for Penny Dinners. As a Red Cross youth member, I am asking if you could please donate as they help feed 1000 people a week. They need donations to be able to continue this service. We are collecting non-perishable foods. I have placed a box in the hall if you would like to donate. Huge thanks for those who have already given to us. Last day for items is Wed next December 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Amy Calnan

**Update from our Inspiration Wall**

The Board of Management has completed its collation and assessment of all the wonderful ideas submitted for the project in the Summer term.

Since the last edition of Acorns, the BOM have prioritised a number of the suggestions from the Inspiration wall. This has not been an easy task, but we don't see it as a one off, as we can continue to refer to this list over the next few years.

What has been inspiring about this wall is that many of the ideas are ones which can enable parents to be actively involved in supporting their children's learning. Examples include gardening tasks, DIY jobs, cookery, computer skills....There are certainly many parents who would be adept in supporting such activities!

Also, it has been great to have achieved some of the items on the list, particularly having a dynamic website now up and running.

Just to give you a bit more of an idea of the range of suggestions which we are including in the plan, we have listed some examples below:

- A range of practical tasks have been suggested, such as a sign for the school by the old school.
- Improving communication within the school community, between BOM, PA, parents and also the wider community.
- Other suggestions relate to building the school community, such as having an open day when grandparents attend.

- 6<sup>th</sup> class students to create a mural to reflect their school experiences.
- Having regular articles and photos of the school in local publications.
- Increased computer use by all students.

Linda Coyle, Parent Nominee BOM.



Michael And Orlaith at the PA Halloween Disco

### **Payments for school activities**

**A number of parents still have not paid for swimming lessons that their children took part in during September and October. This year the BOM took the decision to separate these payments from the contribution for running costs. Payment for swimming and other activities is not voluntary. Swimming is part of the PE curriculum. The school**

**is not in a position to pay the balance of the outstanding invoice to the Quality Hotel until the remaining lessons have been paid for. This is not position that the school management like to be in. We ask that those of you who have not yet paid this bill do so before we return in January. Bank details for transfer can be found on the school website - [www.darrarans.ie](http://www.darrarans.ie). Please remember to put your surname and townland with your transfer.**

**WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN THE PRIMARY SCIENCE FAIR AGAIN!!**

**Lucy Hodnett brings us up to date on our participation so far.**

Primary Science at the BT Young Scientist. Every year 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes apply for the Primary Science Fair at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. We do a different project every year. It all started a number of years ago, when a mad scientist called Seamus came to our school to give us science lessons. He was amazing and we learned loads. He never actually taught my class because we just moved into 4<sup>th</sup> class when he stopped coming to give us science lessons. When we were in 4<sup>th</sup> class a woman called Sorcha taught us science for a year. She was brilliant too. We did a lot of physics with her. Our project in 2014 was 'Do any cows have blue eyes?' We did a lot of pictures and even dissected eyeballs. It was great fun! Last year we did

'Why do crabs walk sideways?' We went to a pier in Ring and did a lot of our project there. This year, instead of going to the RDS in Dublin, we are going to Limerick. We all hope it will be just as good as Dublin! Our project is 'What effect do different liquids have on our teeth?' We are going to test a couple of different liquids e.g. Coca Cola, tea, milk, or Calpol. We are already amazed by what these substances are doing to the eggs (we are using eggs as the shell is similar to the enamel on our teeth.)

To get to the RDS on time we leave for Dublin on a bus at 5.30am. We stop on the way to get a snack. When we arrive, we set up our stand. Different groups stay there while the others look around the RDS at different projects or shows. At the show in the RDS there is a really cool robot called Titan that we all love to see.

During the exhibition. Judges come around to each project and give feedback on our work. They ask questions and read all our research. We have always had very positive feedback so we hope it will be as good if not better this year. When the exhibition is finished we all go back home on the bus, tired but happy that we had such a fantastic day. I think we're very lucky to get the opportunity to go to the exhibition each year.



## RTE 'WONDER WHAT'

Recently RTE paid a visit to Carbery Group in Enniskeane, they made a programme about the production of many of our favourite cheeses. This show was aired on Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.20am. It will be repeated on RTE JR and will also be available on the RTE Player. This show is of particular interest to Darrara pupils and their parents because of the close ties that we have to the factory through local farmers, and parents and family who are employed there.



## NEW OPENING TIMES JAN. 9<sup>th</sup> - DON'T FORGET

Morning supervision starts at 8.40am  
Classes start at 9.00am  
Infant classes home time is 1.30pm  
1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class home time is 2.40pm.

## A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A REST

Maria will be back in college in Valencia when we return to school on January 9<sup>th</sup>. There are other exciting changes taking place with our staff. Mrs. Walsh will return to a Learning Support role after 6 years in the Infant Room. She will step aside as Deputy Principal for the duration of her time as shared teacher as this role entails spending 2 days a week in other schools. Ms. Courtney will take up the

Deputy Principal baton on a temporary basis. Ms. Beechinor will become the class teacher in the Junior Room. We welcome Jackie Cowhig as our new secretary - she will be in the office 9am - 11am 5 days a week. Liz will be with us until May.



As a closely-knit staff, we welcome the opportunity for our colleagues to experience new challenges and further their careers. Children benefit from the differing learning styles and the whole community is energized by new ideas and perspectives.



## ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH?

Our annual fund raising swim takes place at Ring Pier on 26<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm sharp.

Will you take a dip? Will you sponsor a swimmer? Can you help with refreshments at the pier or in Kitty Macs? Will you join us for a winter warmer afterwards?

Sponsorship cards went home last Monday – please return by January 13<sup>th</sup>.

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

If anyone wants our Conference table please let Jackie know on 023-8834160. We no longer need it. It is slightly damaged from the flood last June and will go in the bin if we cannot find a home for it. It seats 10 -12 comfortably. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

Remedial work on damage caused by the flood will commence early in the new year. We are replacing water damaged furniture and a number of fire doors and some kick boards.

## THE DREADED HEADLICE

Firstly, let me say that headlice are now a fact of life with school going children. Many schools are finding it difficult to get rid of the cycle. Here are some important points to bear in mind while we all cringe and have an attack of the heebie-jeebies.

- THEY ARE NOT A SIGN OF BAD HYGEINE
- THEY CANNOT JUMP BUT CRAWL FROM HEAD TO HEAD.
- THIS IS WHY WE INSIST ON LONG HAIR BEING TIED UP
- THEY ARE IMMUNE TO MANY TREATMENTS
- 53% OF PEOPLE NEVER ITCH.
- LIFECYCLE IS 10 DAYS SO YOU NEED TO TREAT AGAIN AFTER 7/8 DAYS.

- MOST EFFECTIVE REMOVAL IS NOT A CHEMICAL TREATMENT BUT A WIRE COMB AND PLENTY OF CONDITIONER. REPEATED AFTER 7/8 DAYS.



- EVEN THE SHORTEST HAIR IS NOT IMMUNE.
- EGGS AND LICE CAN LIVE FOR 24HRS ON BEDDING, CUDDLY TOYS AND HAIRBRUSHES SO THESE NEED TO BE WASHED.
- SCHOOL IS NOT THE ONLY PLACE THAT THEY CAN SPREAD.

Please let us know if you notice lice or nits in your child's head. We will never identify the child but will text the parent body and maybe with vigilance and perfectly timed treatment across the community we can break the cycle and get rid of them from our school – for this year at least!

## School bag Maintenance

We are often surprised by the weight of pupils' school bags. Children have a habit of filling their bags and carrying the same unnecessary items to and from school. Teachers will ensure that books are removed for the holidays. We ask that you also clear out the

school bags – paper and toys can languish at the bottom of bags and in the various pockets – leading to immensely heavy bags.



## The two Ms. Courtneys



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**Our boys and girls love to play in the puddles and mud. This imaginative play is very important for developing social and resilience skills for later life. Stones and leaves become currency, sticks**

become cities and rocks are huge boulders. We wouldn't dream of putting a stop to these games. More and more studies are showing that lack of imaginative play can lead to stress and anxiety in the pre-teen and teen years. The downside of this type of play is the occasional dip in the muck. If you have spare tracksuit pants - in small sizes particularly - we could do with them for falls on mucky days. A bruised ego is nothing compared to sitting in wet pants for the day. As we try to make as much use of the pitch as weather permits it might be a good idea for all children to have a change of socks in their bags. On the flip side, we have a huge box of various items of blue uniform which have been donated over the years and we will never use - come and have a rummage and take whatever you need.

## **BEST WISHES!!!**

On behalf of the all our staff and the Board of Management I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2017 for another year of

learning, friendship and community.

**Bláthnaid**

