



NUACHTLITIR Ó SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA CHOLMCILLE NAOFA



Deireadh Fomhair/Samhain 2015

> Dates for your Diary

Friday December 4th—
Ciaran Cannon TD visits
school for Digital Schools
of Distinction Award

**Thursday December
17th—Junior & Senior
Infants Nativity play in
their classroom**

Friday December 18th—
Christmas Mass and 75th
Anniversary celebration
in Castlegar Church

**Tuesday December
22nd—school closes for
Christmas holidays.
School will reopen on
Wednesday January 6th
2016**

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Ní nearl go cur le chéile

It's hard to believe that our first term in school is almost at an end—so much has happened already that time has flown!

Everyone in Castlegar NS has been working so hard, even the children! There are lots of various projects up and running, from fairies to fruit tasting, computers to guitars. It has been a very busy term but very enjoyable also and we look to 2016 with enthusiasm and optimism.

We hope everyone enjoys the build up to this exciting time of year and has a fun time preparing for the festivities!



SPORTS NEWS... ..

The Cross Country championships have been postponed for November. They will be taking place next February instead.

Handball training and matches will be starting after Christmas so make sure to get practicing. We have enjoyed great success in the past with some

excellent handball players so hopefully this year we will be celebrating again.

Tom and Gerry continue to train the various class groupings in and out of school. A massive thank you to them as they dedicate a lot of time to us.

Camogie training will be



taking place after school again after Christmas.

Thanks to all who help out with training and organising sports for the children. It is much appreciated.

SCHOOL NEWS...

Parents Classes in your local area

The Parents' Class in Ballybane Library on Thursday mornings is still going strong! The last outing was to the Eye Cinema to see *Brooklyn*, where the ladies had a great day out.

A festive Christmas morning will take place on Thursday December 3rd in the library with mulled wine, mince pies and lots of treats.

All are welcome.



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If you are interested in joining a class in your local area, please contact Ms Doherty on 087 9403984—there are Computer, English, Cookery, Woodwork and many others to choose from.



Remember to keep
checking our school
website
www.castlegarns.ie

Junior & Senior Infants—Mrs O'Connor has been teaching the children about their five senses. They are tasting different foods and learning about what animals produce particular food. They are learning about healthy and unhealthy foods and they made fruit smoothies...mmm!

1st & 2nd Class—Ms Seagrave's children are having great fun doing 'station teaching' for maths. They call it *Mighty Maths Monday* and this month they are learning about measure. They have made lovely artwork from the book *Handa's Surprise*—come and have a look outside their room..

3rd & 4th Class—The children in Ms Kelly's room studied the concept of heat for Science Week. They did experiments and small projects to reinforce learning. In maths, they are learning all about symmetry and symmetrical objects. They made Rice Krispies buns too as a treat!



5th Class—Ms Gaughan's class are doing narrative writing. The children love writing stories and had a visit from the author Margaret Tonery. They are also doing very difficult division tables for Maths!

6th Class—Ms Winston's 6th Class are very busy with history projects for the Easter Rising of 1916. They learnt all about the volunteers and places of note around Galway that are connected to the Rising. They will be going on a walking heritage tour of the city with the Galway Civic Trust to see these places in person.



Fairy Doors Project in Castlegar NS

We are very excited about our Fairy Door project that we are currently engaged in here in school. Our 5th & 6th Classes have been very busy creating, constructing, marketing and selling fabulous Fairy Doors.

The children are working in conjunction with the Parents' Association and they are enjoying great success with the project. The Fairy Doors are available to buy in school in your choice of colour with/without a nameplate. All funds raised go to the school.



Digital Schools of Distinction

We were very lucky to win a prestigious award from Digital Schools, which recognises our commitment to integrating the use of ICT throughout our school work. Mrs McMahon has done a tremendous amount of work with the children and indeed, throughout the school, ensuring that our ICT provision is top notch. We received a free colour printer for use for the school for the year with our award. To celebrate, Ciaran Cannon TD will be visiting our school on December 4th to raise the Digital Schools Flag. Well done to all!



Ní neart go cur le chéile

Afterschools activities and classes

We are very fortunate to enjoy such a wide a range of activities after school in Castlegar NS.



Ms Seagrave and Ms Kelly facilitate the Ogras club every Thursday. The Ogras club is a great opportunity for children to supplement their learning of the Irish language in a fun and interactive manner.

We have two Homework Clubs—the School Completion Programme facilitates a Homework Club on Monday afternoons and we have volunteers from NUI Galway assisting Ms Kelly on Wednesdays.

Richie Byrne, our guitar tutor, continues to teach guitar lessons every Tuesday and the children are making fantastic progress.



Mrs McMahon's ICT class is having lots of fun every Wednesday, using an app called Hopscotch to learn computer programming.

If you are interested in any of the after school activities, please enquire in school or from your child's teacher. Some classes may not be available to particular age groups.

Castlegar NS celebrates 75 years

Our school celebrates 75 years since it first opened its doors to children from Castlegar parish. There have been lots of changes down through the years, and it is a timely reminder to celebrate these changes and look towards the future with hope and optimism. We will be holding a small celebration with our Christmas Mass on December 18th in Castlegar Church. All families and interested members of the community are welcome to attend.



FOGRAÍ

New Road in Castlegar

There has been much discussion about the proposed road through Castlegar. If you would like to send in any submissions for consideration, please send to galway@arup.com.

Absences

If your child is absent for any reason, please do not forget to send a note to the teacher giving a brief explanation. We are asked by the Educational Wel-

fare Officer, Linda Quinn, to give explanations for absences.

Christmas events

Mrs O'Connor's class will be staging a short Nativity drama in their classroom on Thursday December 17th. Parents are invited to attend the play. Instead of performances, Christmas Mass will be held for all children and parents in Castlegar

Church on Friday December 18th.



Appointments with teachers

If you would like to discuss any issues that arise with

your child or have any concerns, please ensure that you make an appointment to see your child's teacher as the first port of call. If necessary, the teacher will pass your concerns on to the principal and the matter will be dealt with. We enjoy positive interactions with parents and we hope to promote this positivity throughout the school.



SN Cholmcille Naofa

Reminder!

If you were unable to attend your child's Parent Teacher meeting, please make an appointment to see the teacher for an update on their progress.



Mrs O'Connor is collecting 2 litre plastic milk cartons. If you have any empty plastic cartons, please bring them in for an exciting project, thank you!



Literacy Lift Off Power Hour

We are inviting any interested parents into Ms Seagrave's class to work with the children for the Power Hour—they are asked to listen to children read in groups. This takes place Tuesday to Friday from 9:30-10:30am.



Parents' Association

The Parents' Association is doing great behind the scenes, as always. They had a great response to the Flowers Bulbs fundraiser with lots of families and people from the community purchasing the bulbs.

The Parents' Association is also assisting with the 5th & 6th Class Fairy Doors project. The members have been most enthusiastic with suggestions for marketing and selling the Fairy Doors. It has been a fun project and thanks to all parents who helped out with the work.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Well done to all the members of the Student Council who worked very hard designing and producing business cards for the Fairy Doors project. A massive thanks to Maebh Madden who wrote the accompanying story for the Fairy Doors, it is fabulous!

The Council are also in the process of sourcing sponsorship for camogie jerseys so hopefully they will be successful.



75th Anniversary Celebration Art Project

We are so excited about our new collaborative art project in Castlegar NS. To commemorate the school's 75th anniversary, all children from Junior Infants to 6th Class will be working together to design, create and produce a piece of art work. Kathy Ross, a local artist, is coming to the school and is facilitating the project. The art will be completed and unveiled in the school before the Christmas holidays.