



NUACHTLITIR Ó SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA CHOLMCILLE NAOFA



Eanair 2018

> Dates for your Diary

January 30th : Staff meeting closing 1.30pm

February 15th + 16th : Mid term break

February 22nd : Galway Community College Open Day @3.30pm

February 27th : FAI Spar 5-aside soccer competition

March 1st : Confirmation



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Uí neart go cur le chéile

Ath-bhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir. Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Let's hope 2018 is a great year for all the school Community of Castlegar We look forward to working with you in the coming year to help the children of Castlegar continue to develop to their full potential.



This month (January) is registration month for the coming school year 2018/2019. We would be very grateful if you would inform any family living near you who has an interest in sending their child to Castlegar next September, to contact the school to fill out an application form, or do so yourself, if you wish to start your child with us in September 2018

NEWS...

Galway Community College (Móinín na gCiseach), the secondary school and Post Leaving Cert (PLC) college in Wellpark, will be coaching our students in basketball this term. The coaches will be students of the college who are undertaking coaching training. The basketball will take place in school every Friday morning for five weeks starting on the 23rd Feb, the Friday after the mid-term break. 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th will be participating.

We entered four teams into the St. Columbas Credit Union Quiz last week to put their knowledge to the test. One of our teams went all the way and won the quiz! We are very proud of all our students who represented the school so well. Here are two lovely photos of the winning team!



Digital Learning Framework

We are continuing to take part in the Department's pilot project on digital technology. All classes were visited recently by Michael Mc Namara from the PDST ICT team who demonstrated some brilliant apps that we will be using in our project work.



Half in—Half out Day

School will close at 1.30 today as teachers have a staff meeting regarding new Children First child protection procedures which have been brought into circulation by TUSLA recently. All staff in the school have previously had child protection training and everyone in the school recognises how important it is to put children's safety above all else.

Children First

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Nativity and School Mass

Our Junior Infants Nativity Play was a huge success! Thank you to all the parents who helped out with costumes and learning off lines! The children got a great buzz from being 'on stage' in front of a crowd of their parents and peers. They even made it as far as performing in our school Christmas Mass in the church! Well done to all involved, especially their teacher Ms Ó Conaola.

SCHOOL NEWS

Junior & Senior Infants: We welcome back Ms. O' Connor. We have been learning all about the polar regions of the world through play and imagination. We have even been painting using ice! We are learning poems about Polar bears and penguins.

1st & 2nd Class—We welcome back Ms. McCormack. We have been learning all about weather and how it is recorded. We have explored weather forecasts in our power hour and done experiments! The story of Tom Crean was very interesting for our class to hear about.

3rd & 4th Class—We have been enjoying having a student teacher teach us for some classes the last few weeks. The artists we have studied this month are Kandinsky and Warhol. We are enjoying doing maths stations everyday to improve our numeracy! We have been creating e-books about our class.

5th & 6th Class— We have started the novel "Wonder". This is the chosen 'One Book One Galway' novel for 2018. We are really enjoying the story and it is making us think about how we view and treat other people. The book explores themes such as bullying, difference and friendship. It's a real page-turner!



Headlice

We would ask all parents to check childrens' hair regularly for headlice.

Prevention is best so hair should be tied back and many parents have reported some success using preventative sprays that contain tea tree oil.

TABLE 1: DETECTING LICE

Follow these 3 simple steps:

1. Wet the hair to make it easier to see lice and prevent them from moving quickly.
2. Use a bright light and a magnifying glass when checking for lice.
3. Separate sections of hair. Slowly comb each section with a lice comb. Pay close attention to the hair behind the ears and near the neck. Because nits cannot move, they are more likely to be seen.

If you don't see lice or nits, the symptoms are due to other causes.

Adapted from references 2, 7.

TABLE 2: PREVENTING HEAD LICE

Avoid head-to-head contact when playing.

Do not share clothing such as coats and hats. Never use someone's comb or hairbrush.

Bring your own pillow and towel when sleeping over at someone's house.

Do not use beds, couches, pillows, and carpets that have recently been in contact with a person who has head lice.

Hang coats separately. Never place a coat on top of another coat.

Wash clothing in hot water, and dry using the high heat cycle on your dryer. Place items that are not washable in a sealed plastic bag for 2 weeks.

Vacuum frequently, including furniture, stuffed animals, and car seats.

Soak all combs and brushes in very hot water (130°F) for 5 to 10 minutes.

If 1 member of a household has head lice, others need to be observed for signs of head lice. Use treatments only if head lice are detected.

Treat all members of the household and then check for lice 1 week later.

Adapted from references 1, 2, 6, and 7.

Ni neart go cur le chéile

Afterschools :

The children are very lucky to have a range of afterschool classes on offer this year and many more to come next term including French, computers, and choir! This term we have :

Monday : Dance with Ms Kelly

Tuesday: Guitar with Richie and SCP Homework Club

Wednesday : Homework Club with Ms Kelly and NUIG volunteers

Thursday : Yoga with Ms Mc Mahon



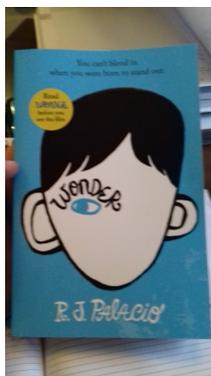
Dogs Trust
Aoife from Dogs Trust is visiting our school to talk to all the classes on Monday the 12th of February. She will be delivering a new dog safety program to children and they are really looking forward to it!



One Book One Galway

Last week children from 5th and 6th class participated in the official launch event for this years "One Book, One Galway" initiative which aims to promote reading among primary and post-primary pupils. The Mayor of Galway City was there and the Liam McCarthy cup was also in attendance!

Every child throughout Galway City is going to read the same book- "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio and there are a number of activities planned for next term throughout the city to support the reading of the book, such as a trip to the cinema to watch the movie adaptation and a quiz based on the book.



Parent's Association Raffle:

The Parent's Association Christmas Raffle was a great success and raised over €400 for the purchase of an external storage box for our defibrillator. Many thanks to all those who contributed so generously through the purchase of tickets or the donation of items for the trolley.

FOGRAÍ

Welcome and Goodbye For Now-

Since Christmas we have had some changes to our staffing in the school. We would like to thank Ms O Conaola and Ms Keane for their tireless work on behalf of our students and wish them well in the future. We welcome back Ms O Connor and Ms McCormack to J.I+S.I and 1st+2nd classes respectively.

We are extremely lucky in our school to have such wonderful professionals on our staff both presently and in the past.

THANK YOU



Sacraments

The Confirmation will take place on Thursday the 1st of March.
The Communion will take place on Saturday the 14th of April.
The school, diocese and parents are all working together to prepare the children for the sacraments. The school choir is hard at work preparing for the big days!

Don't forget to check out our new school Facebook page for the latest news from school. The page is very active and a nice way to keep in touch with your child's educational experience.





Artwork from around the school



**SN Cholmcille
Naofa**



**Joint Parents and
Children's Christmas Arts
and Crafts class**

We were delighted to welcome Phillida Eaves, a local Galway artist into our Junior and Senior Infants classroom to work with parents and children to create a lovely piece of Christmas Art that they could take home with them. Thanks to the parents who could make it on the day! It was a lovely occasion and a unique relaxed setting to work alongside your child and create something special.

*Seanfhocal na seachtaine
Is glas iad na cnoic I bhfad uainn*

**Childrens' Christmas
Cards**

The children did amazing artwork and produced fabulous Christmas cards for family and friends. Maith sibh.

Carol Singing in the nursing home

Just before the Christmas holidays, 5th and 6th class students visited the Caiseal Geal nursing home down the road from the school. The children got a wonderful warm welcome from all the residents and staff who were delighted to see us!

Canon Reilly gave the crib and all in attendance, a lovely Christmas blessing. We sang carols for half an hour and afterwards the children chatted with the residents about what life was like when they were in primary school themselves. It was very interesting! This was a lovely experience and we will be sure to link up with Caiseal Geal again in future!

