

*Scail Naomh Comhghall, Coininsi*  
St. Comgall's N.S., Connons, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Summer 2013



*We are thankful to have reached a new summer that we hope will be filled with new and exciting experiences – Enjoy some much-needed rest!*

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**School Year 2012-2013:** As another eventful and enjoyable school year comes to a close at St. Comgall's, I say sincere thanks to the children who worked so hard and were so good humoured and well-behaved during the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, you, the parents, yet again, for your undying support, continuous encouragement, cheerful friendliness, co-operation and commitment to the school at all times. Without your help and support all the great activities and facilities we enjoy here at St. Comgall's N.S. would just not be possible.

**Second Green Flag:** We were thrilled to be awarded our second Green Flag from An Taisce in May 2013. The second flag was awarded at a ceremony in the Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne in recognition of our efforts to learn about energy conservation, to carry out projects based on our new-found knowledge and then to integrate energy issues into our daily school lives. We are very proud of all the work we carried out to receive this flag and success, was due, in no small part, to the hard work and commitment of all pupils and staff. Indeed, we were delighted that Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh was present on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June to help us raise the flag and join in a memorable day of celebration!



**School Attendance:** Congratulations to Katie Somerville in the junior classroom who achieved almost 100% attendance record and was awarded a Gold Attendance Certificate for this academic year. We also say well done to Amie Somerville who was awarded a Silver Attendance Certificate for an equally impressive attendance record. Good attendance enhances positive educational development in children and crucially impacts positively upon pupil achievement. Children, who attend school regularly, learn more and are more successful in school. I again urge parents to make regular school attendance a priority for your child/children in the forthcoming year.



**St. Comgall's Parent Association:** The commitment and support of our Parent Association is central to helping us to provide the best possible educational experiences for our pupils. Therefore, once again, sincere thanks to our all parents for your financial support as a result of fundraising through the raffle and cake sale. Thanks to those parents who planned and prepared for those busy events and who worked so hard to present a most beautiful lunch in the school on 'Green Flag Day'. I appreciate the time, energy and supplies that you donate to our ever-involving ideas. I appreciate your involvement as parents and I do not take it for granted.

**Recent School Visitors:** Heritage Officer - In May Ian Patterson visited with his wonderful collection of **birds of prey**. Ian is a licensed keeper of these types of birds and brought along species such as a Barn Owl, a Long Eared-Owl, a Kestrel, a Buzzard and a Peregrine Falcon. We listened to very interesting facts about the birds and were allowed to try on the falconer's glove and have a bird fly to it. Truly amazing! The Fire Safety Officer - As part of the Fire Safety Awareness programme in schools, Alan O'Dowd from Clones Fire Station paid a visit to the school in June and delivered a talk which was designed to enhance the level of awareness in pupils of 'Fire Safety' in the home and to raise their level of understanding of 'Fire Safety' in the community. Librarians - Laura and Anna-Mai dropped out to see us, this month, from Clones library to highlight the importance of reading during the summer and to encourage the children to become involved in a Reading Challenge in the library during the holidays.



**Sacramental Preparation:** Congratulations to Lilly Fitzpatrick, Shannon Murphy, Colin Maguire, Caoimhe Connolly and Erin Crudden who received First Holy Communion on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. We thank Mrs. Pennell and parents who played a very positive part in the children's sacramental preparation with the 'Do this in Memory' programme and we wish them well as they continue on their faith journey into third class.



**Achievements:** Looking back we congratulate the children on their excellent participation in academic, artistic and sporting fields. Congratulations to Colin Maguire, Tara McCaffrey and Chloe Maguire who were recent 'Merit' award winners in the 'Write-a-Book' competition. Well done indeed to Leah Maguire, Caoimhe Connolly, Michael Connolly and Oisín Murphy who also received 'Highly Commended' recognition for their efforts. Well done to all pupils who submitted excellent books for this competition.

We were treated to a delightful performance of 'The Christmas Jigsaw' at Christmas. As always our pupils bewitched us all with their wonderful acting, dancing and impressive makeup and costumes. Congratulations to the pupils, and thank you again to parents for being such an enthusiastic audience. Well done again to the staff on another remarkable production success.



**PE and Music Matters:** Participation in various disciplines was encouraged in PE this year. Earlier in the year all children received gymnastics coaching from Catriona Boyle of Killevan Gymnastics Club. Then after Christmas, Gaelic football coaching with Anne McKenna promoted further development of Gaelic football skills in all classes. Indeed, we are fortunate to be in a position to develop high-quality physical education provision for our pupils and to be able to support new sporting talent. Next year the pupils will travel to Monaghan for further swimming coaching and Irish dancing will be taught earlier in the school year. Tin whistle lessons with Fran McMahon continued throughout the year and pupils learned to perfect many lively tunes. We thank Fran for his expertise and enthusiasm in teaching these classes. We are delighted that he is available to teach our pupils again next year.

**Sports Day:** On Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, we had our sports day down in Connons Community Centre grounds and the atmosphere was lovely. All the children enjoyed the games and seemed so happy and kind and friendly towards each other. We'd like to think that that must be a reflection on the atmosphere in the school itself. Thanks for all the cheers of support for all children ... and what wonderful colourful costumes paraded round the yard for our fancy dress to end the day! Looking good Amie and Chloe!



**School Tour:** We headed off, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, to Baysports in Athlone for another fun-filled school tour. The activities there included watersports, a boat trip, a survival skills exercise at a crannóg and other challenges involving problem solving, teamwork and planning skills. Not only were the sessions educational, but most importantly, for the children they were active and exciting. Many thanks to Róisín and Geraldine for their company, help and good humour – an entertaining day was had by all!



**Summer Reading Challenge:** Reading for pleasure is an important element in the reading initiative being run in Clones library this summer. The Summer Reading Challenge invites children into libraries to keep up their reading skills and confidence during the long holidays. The theme this year is Creepy House – the children can discover the secrets of Creepy house by joining the adventurers and exploring the Creepy house, simply by reading six books from the library. Further follow-up activities and events will be held in the library to further promote pleasure in reading and boost children's confidence and self-esteem. Overall, it sounds like a great activity, so head to Clones Library during the holidays for some fun, free reading!!

**School Uniform:** Can I remind parents to purchase both the school uniform and school tracksuit for next September, in Hicks of Lisnaskea. As we strive to show pride in our dress and appearance, it is important to purchase the whole uniform (particularly tracksuit bottoms) from this shop in order to maintain consistency in the colour and style of school clothing throughout the classes. Following are prices for this year:

<b>Hicks, Lisnaskea: School Uniform (£)</b>		
Jumper	£11.99 - £13.99 ( <i>depending on size</i> )	} <u>Deal</u> all inclusive <b>£30</b>
Trousers	£11.99 - £13.99 ( <i>depending on size</i> )	
Skirt/Pinafore	£8.99 - £13.99 ( <i>depending on size</i> )	
Shirt	£4.99	
Tie	£3.50	
<b>Tracksuit (£)</b>		
Bottoms	£8.99 ( <i>small</i> ) £11.99 ( <i>large</i> )	} <u>Deal</u> all inclusive <b>£40</b>
Polo Shirt	£7.99 ( <i>all sizes</i> )	
Sweatshirt	£11.99 ( <i>all sizes</i> )	
Jacket	£16.99	

**School Staff & Management:** I would like to extend a special word of thanks to Mrs. Pennell for devoting her time to enriching the lives of the children in her care. Thanks also to Chairman of our Board of Management, Joe Kirke, for his guidance and support on board issues during the year. Thanks to members of the Board of Management for their attendance at meetings, for the interest they showed in the school's management and policy issues and, in general, for promoting participation and partnership in the running of St. Comgall's N.S..

**Summer Break:**  
*The school will reopen at 9:20am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 September 2013. Happy holidays!*




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Caítriona Donnelly (Principal)