



## Fun-filled Exercise for Active Schools Week

Our annual Active Schools Week took place on Monday 17th to Friday 21st June this year and, as always, was a fun, exciting and action-packed week for students, their families and staff alike.

Each morning, with the exception of a rainy Tuesday, started with students, friends, families and dogs doing laps around the running track getting all of our steps for the day off to a good start.

We also had an aerobics fitness class with Laura, again open to the whole school community, in the lower yard for anyone wanting to set the right tone for the day ahead.

Each class throughout the school was provided with a schedule of physical activities both indoors and outdoors for the entire week, thanks to our Active Schools committee, ensuring that each and

every child in St. Colman's took part in a diverse range of sports and physical activities each day. There was ninja gymnastics with our very own Ms. Costello, hurling, obstacle courses, tug of wars with Kathy, football, hurling soccer, rounders, yoga and lots more. We had many different coaches all bringing their own skills to the pupils of St. Colman's.







## Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day was postponed from Friday 21st to Monday 24th June due to an unfavourable weather forecast. This further day of physical activity was a huge success and the perfect way to come down from Active Schools Week. On Sports Day we were blessed with a warm, dry day. The senior classes headed off to St. Loman's GAA club where they participated in team events and the junior classes stayed with their own class up at the school. It was a hugely successful day and the children had a ball!







## Well Done to our Gaelic Sports Stars

Congratulations to all of our boys and girls who took part in the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions this year. A strong, skilled and enthusiastic selection of students from the senior classes made up Boys Football, Girls Football, Boys

Hurling and Girls Camogie teams who represented St. Colman's in matches over the course of the year. Our boys and girls trained weekly, working hard and showing great promise. Our Boys Hurling team won their way into the Division 2

final in Cusack Park where they lost by a single point to Rathwire NS. These boys and all the other boys and girls should hold their heads high with pride given the outstanding way they have performed and carried themselves all year.

### Young Writer Winner

Huge congratulations to our Young Writer winner, Lisa Smyth from Ms. Mulcair's 3rd Class! We had a presentation on June 27th as she not only came first in Westmeath and Ireland in her age category, but also came third in Britain and Ireland with her lovely story, 'Rebuilding Sandland'. We are proud of you Lisa!







# Scór na bPáistí success

A very entertaining night was had by all at the Scór na bPáistí county final in the Downs in Spring. A group of our children ranging from 3rd to 6th class had been working tirelessly to get to this stage of the competition. Fortunately, our Figure Dancers and Instrumental Act wowed the judges so much that they secured themselves a county championship! Our “Terrible Twins” Novelty Act came in at a very close second place and it was safe to say they had the hall in stitches laughing! We are all very proud of each and every child who performed on the night. We also want to commend the children who had taken part in all stages of Scór this year, who have made this experience very worthwhile and enjoyable. Comhghairdeas! A special thank you to all the staff who helped out along the way at each stage of Scór in particular Miss Kelly, Miss Duffy, Miss Morris and Miss Casey.







# 5K Race

Our annual 5K Race and Family Fun Run/Walk on Sunday April 28th was a huge success. Lots of children were busy collecting sponsorship in the weeks before and were excited to get their race numbers the week before. The weather obliged and meant we had a great turn out of almost 400 participants ranging from pupils' younger siblings in buggies to their grandparents who were delighted to be part of such an enjoyable social event. There was great excitement as people gathered at the gates of Shamrocks GAA pitch and set off at 1.30. Everyone followed the route along the Robinstown road to the canal and back to Ginnell Terrace and it wasn't long before the fastest finishers crossed the finish line. There was a great atmosphere as delighted children and their families finished the event together. The children were excited to collect their homework passes which they were delighted to use in the weeks after! The party atmosphere continued at the school where refreshments were very well received by the 5K participants. Children played and ate ice-cream and families sat chatting on the grass. There was more excitement when Mr. Beehan performed the prize giving with parents, teachers, past pupils and of course present pupils among the winners in the various categories. Congratulations to all on a fantastic day for our school community. Special thanks to all the parents and school staff who volunteered and helped in various ways in the lead up to the event and on the day.







# Sixth Class Fundraiser

Our two 6th Classes worked their socks off for a very special lady a few weeks ago.

Caitríona Logan is a past pupil of St. Colman's. Unfortunately she has been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour. Caitríona is receiving ongoing treatment in an effort to prolong her life with her two beautiful children and adoring husband. Caitríona has a 'Go Fund Me' page and lots of people rallying around her to raise money for this essential treatment.

The 6th Classes had exercise stations that they tackled throughout the day in groups. There was a variety of exercise equipment including assault bikes, rowers, spin bikes and our lap track that they used in rotation.

Caitríona's fabulous sister, Sarah, came to cheer us on in the after-



noon. She brought jellies for all the kids which certainly gave them a lift in the last stretch of the day. The 6th Classes raised over €1,300

throughout the day. We are so proud of them. A super achievement and a great support to a wonderful family.







# Crazy Hair Day

Mrs. Ginnell's 4th Class at St Colman's organised a super fun-filled Crazy Hair Day fundraiser for a little boy called Oliver and his family. Oliver was born with a rare genetic condition. His immune system didn't work and he needed a bone marrow transplant to survive. Luckily his sister was a match and they both had to travel to Newcastle to have the procedure. His family needed support through this difficult journey and the 4th class children certainly stepped up. They designed posters and flyers to advertise the whole school's Crazy Hair Day fundraiser! They designed online presentations to inform all the children in St Colman's about Oliver's story and the details of the fundraising event. On the day they distributed and collected fundraising envelopes. They also took photos of the event and counted up all the money collected. The children and families of St. Colman's did not disappoint and the hairstyles were wacky, crazy, stylish and so much fun! The children raised a grand total of €1,500! A huge thank you is sent to all the families of the school from Oliver's family.







# Consider Yourself Stars after Oliver Show!

We are very proud of both of our 6th Classes who put on two outstanding performances of Oliver in Mullingar Arts Centre in March.

Students from Ms. Gilligan's and Mr. Ennis's classes were diligently working on their lines, songs and dances since last October with Marie, Steve and Kathy from the Arts Centre.

All of their practice and efforts paid off on shownight with Ms. Gilligan's class putting on a stellar performance on the Tuesday night and Mr. Ennis's class holding up the excellent standard on the Thursday.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performances and feedback was glowing.

What an excellent opportunity for all of the children involved. We're sure it won't be the last time these stars take to the stage!



## Author Visit

We were extremely lucky to have a very special visitor to our school on June 18th. After we had studied the novel 'The Hawthorn Tree' during the year in class, the author herself decided to pay us a visit and speak to us about the novel and tell us how she became an author.

Marita Conlon McKenna spoke with us about her life story and how she came to write the famine trilogy of novels, which we really enjoyed reading. She spoke about what inspired her to become an author and where her ideas came from.

She encouraged us to keep up our interest in writing stories and being creative. She kindly signed our pieces of art and answered all our questions. We really appreciate the time she took to come from Dublin to Mullingar to talk with us.





# All We Needed Was Love for Grandparents Day

The many thank you cards we received from grandparents here at St. Colman's following our annual Grandparents Day are a testament to the success of the celebration which was held in February.

The event began in St. Paul's Church with a service led by our popular Chaplain, Fr. Phil. Children from Junior Infants through to 6th Classes were all represented in various aspects of the service from Prayers of the Faithful to readings to gifts. The church was full to capacity with our students and their families.

Our excellent choir led by Ms. Mulcair, Ms. Duffy and Ms. Murphy concluded the service with a heartwarming rendition of 'The Beatles' 'All You Need is Love'.

There was only one way to follow such a beautiful ceremony – by all coming back to visit the school for refreshments and more magical moments. Students were delight-



ed to show their grandparents and family members their classrooms, introducing them to teachers and friends and showing them artworks and writing displays on the walls.

As always, St. Colman's was proud and delighted to provide this wonderful experience to our students' grandparents, parents and families.



## First Confessions

On Wednesday 21st February the children from 1st Class along with their families gathered in St. Paul's Church for a very special occasion, as the boys and girls received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In a beautiful ceremony led by Fr. Phil, the chaplain complimented the boys and girls on all the hard work they had done to prepare for the sacrament by learning their prayers and songs.

We are very proud of all the children reaching this important milestone in their faith.

We look forward to supporting them next year as they prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.



## First Communion

Huge congratulations to our three 2nd Classes who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 25th May. They all had a wonderful day. We are very proud of how they conducted themselves in this special ceremony in St. Paul's Church.

## Confirmations

This year's second term was an extremely busy one for 6th Class and it concluded with students receiving their Confirmation in St. Paul's Church on Saturday 9th March.

Both Mr. Ennis's and Ms. Gilligan's classes have been working hard all year in preparation for the big day, learning lots about the sacrament and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. They also selected their confirmation saint name and sponsor, learning about the significance of these choices.

Each child represented themselves admirably on the day and, as a school, we are extremely proud of them.

We hope you enjoyed the well-deserved celebrations with family and friends following the ceremony.





# Handball Teams Win County Championship

On Friday 26th January, twelve of our 5th Class children competed in the Cumann na mBunscoil County Handball competition in Mullingar Handball Club.

The group played a mixture of singles and doubles games in the Under 13s and Under 11s events, and the U11 girls singles, U11 girls doubles and U11 boys doubles teams all qualified to move forward to the Leinster Competition in Croke Park.

The children were each presented with a medal by Mullingar Handball Club's Chairman, Philip Clarke.

On 1st February, our county champion handballers set off to play in Croke Park. The children played really well and enjoyed their day out. Each child/group got the opportunity to experience playing in the 'show court' at least once during the day. They received a handball souvenir as well as being treated to a Supermacs, courtesy of the Mullingar Handball Club, on the way home.

Well done to all of our students who represented our school so well.



# Public Access Defibrillator Now Located at St. Colman's

St. Colman's N.S. now houses a public access defibrillator next to the main school door following a fundraising effort that started earlier in this academic year. The life-saving equipment is for the entire local community.

The seed for the project was sown when volunteers David Stafford and his team from Mullingar First Responders visited the school to provide basic First Aid training at the request of Mrs. Walters.

The Students Council subsequently raised €524.35 as a thank you gesture for the First Responders but the team gifted this money back to kick-start fundraising efforts. The Lunch Bag, which provides the children's hot lunches, offered a further donation which made the purchase of the defibrillator possible.

The defibrillator is located outside the main school door for use by residents of the extended local area in the event of a person suffering a sudden life-threatening incident. Members of staff in St. Colman's have been trained in how to use the defibrillator and Mullingar First Responders will provide further training.







# Uniform Policy

Over the summer months families will be looking at replacing items of their child's school uniform for next year. At this stage we would like to draw your attention to the school's uniform policy which was reviewed in consultation with the Parents' Association and Board of Management in March of this year. A copy of the policy is available on the school website

and the graphic below has been designed as a visual representation of what constitutes our uniform in St. Colman's. The graphic also clearly outlines what is not permitted to be worn, including leggings, make-up and nail extensions etc. We would ask for your full cooperation in the implementation of our uniform policy in the coming school year.

**ST. COLMAN'S N.S. UNIFORM POLICY**

**THIS IS OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM**

- white shirt / polo shirt
- grey skirt / pinafore / trousers
- green jumper
- green tie (optional)

- white shirt / polo shirt
- grey trousers
- green jumper
- green tie (optional)

**Our PE uniform**  
(Worn on PE days only)

- Crested tracksuit top
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms or Plain navy shorts
- Plain white polo shirt

## The following items are NOT PERMITTED in school:

- Leggings of any colour
- Sports Jerseys
- Nail Extensions
- Fake Tan
- Make Up

## Orla and Kevin

This term we said a fond farewell to both Mrs. Orla Ginnell, classroom teacher, and to our long-serving caretaker Kevin McLoughlin. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Kevin and Orla for their hard work and dedication to St. Colman's and we wish them well in all of their future endeavours.







# What a Show for Seachtain na Gaeilge!

To mark Seachtain na Gaeilge and St. Patrick's weekend, the entire school was treated to a 45-minute concert packed with traditional Irish talent, almost all drawn from school students and staff. The performers did three shows back-to-back during the day so that every class in the school got to enjoy the special céilí concert.

Presented by Ms. Duffy, the concert began with a set by a ceili band comprising teachers Ms. Clarke, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Casey, Ms. Morris, Ms. Kelly and guest musicians, Noel Battle, Philip Clarke and Olive Kilbane. We then had a delightful céilí dance by the Senior Infants classes, led by Ms. Casey. Our solo singer from 6th Class, accompanied by Ms. Morris, wowed the audience, as did two students with their confident, eloquent and dramatic solo recitations. We had a Scór na bPáistí instrumental group, comprising four students on banjo, fiddle and flute who were overflowing with talent, and a fantastically harmonious and heartfelt unaccompanied singing performance by a ballad group also comprising four students. Our figure dancers, eight students from the school's senior classes,



led by Ms. Kelly, demonstrated skill, timing and talent that would qualify for Riverdance. For the finalé, the students in the audience were prepared: it was a school Seachtain na Gaeilge song that all had learnt. Luckily the roof survived! Audiences from Junior Infants all the way up to 6th Class were clapping, singing and jigging along and mesmerized by the talent before them. Some may just have been inspired to take up an Irish singing or dancing class themselves.



## Drama group in Leinster final of Scoil Dramaíochta

It was a case of suspected murder most foul in 5th Class for a few weeks in March as Barbie and Mrs. Doyle fell victim to the wrath of a jealous queen! The offending poisonous banana nearly bid them adieu and only for the collective efforts of some exemplary dancing were they saved from a nasty exit. Before the local gardai are alerted, we are of course talking about our 5th Classes' entry into Scoil Dramaíochta this year with their

musical comedy 'Barbie agus na Seachtar Lepreacháin'. It was a team effort in preparation, with Ms. Clarke and Mr. McCormack on props and songs and Ms. Connaughton, Ms. Skelly and Ms. Brennan, competing for the directorial chair. After a rousing performance in Mullingar Arts Centre, they won their way through to the Leinster finals on Thursday March 21st. Well done to all involved.

