



St. Paul's National School Christmas 2013 Newsletter

It is Christmas again and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas! Thank you for your continued support of the school and the teachers. With that support we have been able to do all of what you see in these pages – and much more that you won't see, so thank you! Thank you to all for the shoeboxes and hampers. They won't change everything but they will bring some laughter and smiles at Christmas time. Small things, kind thoughts and great generosity will do far more than we could imagine by helping to bring a little hope and goodwill to people at difficult times. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication to our children. The staff and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and peace and happiness in 2014. Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 6th of January 2014!

Morag McGowan



Ms. Kelly's Junior Infant Class



Ms. Prendiville's Senior Infant Class



If you would like to donate your child's Christmas Play costume to the school we will make it available to children who may need it next Christmas!

Christmas Shows

Classes from Junior Infants up to 2nd treated their parents and families to a Christmas show. Well done to all the children who worked very hard with their teachers to ensure the shows were a great success. More photos to follow on the next page!!

Please remind your children that they should walk their scooter/bike once in the school grounds for their safety and the safety of others.



Ms. Dennehy's Junior Infants



Ms. Talty's Junior Infant Class

Christmas Fair

Christmas kicked off with a bang on the 8th of December with our Annual Christmas Fair organised by the St. Paul's Parents' Association. There was lots of fun to be had for both children and adults alike. Santa was busy in his grotto meeting the children and taking note of their Christmas present requests. Rumour has it, he had a word with Ms. McGowan afterwards informing her that all the children in St. Paul's are on Santa's Nice List - Phew! There was also face painting available for the children along with some yummy chocolate treats! Lots of parents enjoyed relaxing with a coffee and a bun while listening to the wonderfully talented St. Paul's choir recite a medley of Christmas songs - many thanks to the children from 3rd to 6th class who performed in the choir and also to Ms. Daly and Ms. Kinsella for their fantastic directing skills. We are very grateful to all the families who donated second hand books and cakes to be sold at the Fair. The cakes were sold out by the end of the day and any left-over books were sold to Chapters Book shop in Dublin or donated to Enable Ireland. Between sales at the Fair and raffle tickets, a whopping €9,200 was raised for the school. This money will go to very good use in the school and thank you to everyone involved in these donations. Finally we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our magnificent Parents' Association for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to both the Fair and the school. We are extremely lucky to have such a fantastic Parents' Association. They are always looking for more volunteers and if any parent would like to get involved, please send them an email: stpaulsratoathpa@gmail.com



Our School Choir along with Ms Kinsella and Ms Daly

Hallowe'en 2013



Ms McCarthy's 4th Class

The Children of St. Paul's (and their parents) put huge effort into Hallowe'en dress up day! Children were encouraged to bring in €2 in aid of Temple Street. We are delighted to report that €1,186.77 was collected and has been sent on to the Children's Hospital. The children and their teachers participated in a parade in the school yard where all the costumes could be appreciated. Whether it was a super hero or a princess, a witch or a vampire, own creations big or small, all the children (and staff!!) looked fantastic and had a spooktacular time!!



Ms Kieran's 6th Class



Ms O'Sullivan's 5th Class

Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Some of our 2nd Class Children who supported the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

St. Paul's took part in the TEAM HOPE Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year and as always the children showed their incredible generosity by donating 330 shoeboxes. This year TEAM HOPE is sending the shoeboxes collected from Ireland to children in parts of Eastern Europe and Africa. Please take a look at their website for more information.
<http://secure.teamhope.ie/csa>

The True Meaning of Christmas

C stands for Christ. If we leave him out of Christmas it is like celebrating a wedding without the groom.

H stands for the hope he gives us - hope of a life without end.

R stands for the revolution he began: turning hate to love, war to peace, and everyone into everyone's neighbour.

I stands for Israel, the land where he was born, But it also stands for me, For Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, But it would all be in vain unless he is born in me.

S stands for the salvation he brought: Those who lived in darkness saw a great light.

T stands for thanks - thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son. The best way to say thanks is to make room for him in our hearts.

M stands for Mary who brought him to birth, She will help to bring him to birth in us also.

A stands for the angels who at his birth sang: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people of earth. It was the sweetest music ever heard on earth.

S stands for the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. Now Christ is the star we follow. His light will guide us through the night Until the sun of eternal day dawns upon us.

Book Week - November 2013

It was decided this year that our Book Week theme would relate to Roald Dahl as the B.F.G is celebrating its 30th birthday. At the start of the week each class was given the Roald Dahl challenge where they had ten challenges to complete. The children took the task very seriously and each class passed with flying colours, while having lots of gobblefunk and fun along the way! Children arrived to school dressed backwards, talking backwards and out to prank someone! One poor teacher thought she was being given a lovely Oreo cookie as a treat from a student, only to find that it was filled with toothpaste! Fifth and Sixth class wrote some wonderful Roald Dahl inspired short stories and revolting rhymes, while some younger children were only discovering the wonderful books that Roald Dahl has written. There was plenty of time during the week for the children to browse and read the books at the Book Fair and older classes visited younger classes to read to them. Clifford also came on his annual visit to the Junior and Senior Infants. He brought a lovely story for the children and played a game of Hide & Seek - although he is so big it was hard for him to hide! The week ended with a Roald Dahl dress up day filling the school with Oompa Loompas, Matildas, Fantastic Foxes and some scary Miss. Trunchbulls! As always Book Week was a huge success - children are continuing to develop their love of books while over €5,000 was raised to spend on new books for our libraries. Many thanks to everyone involved for making it a super week!





Our New Active Committee

Each class from 2nd to 6th Class has a boy and a girl on the Active Committee. The Active Committee looks after all the different equipment. There are two yards, junior and senior, we set out all the activities and cones. Each class has its activities in their own yard. We also want people to be more active and to play fair and also follow the rules. Each year we have Active Week. Active Week is when we do lots of different things like Water Day, Fun Day, Athletics and GAA Day. The Active Committee help with all of these activities.

By: Aimee Doherty

Ratoath College Christmas Village

Classes from Junior Infants up to 2nd Class visited Ratoath College Christmas Village. The children enjoyed the Sweet Factory, Christmas Bakery, Science Zone, Letter Writing and of course meeting Santa and the Elves.



Ms. O'Connor's 1st Class

Recycle Mobile Phones with St. Paul's

We continue to collect phones to allow us receive a cabinet for our new defibrillator so if Santa brings new phones this Christmas we would be delighted to receive your old one.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Paul and Linda came in to talk to the children in 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th class about water safety. There are 44 lifeboat stations in Ireland. They are situated in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. They rescue 7000 people per year and 80% of the people can't swim. It costs 150,000,000 to keep the RNLI business running and it costs 15,000,000 for Ireland. The RNLI is a charity business, 99% of the money is donated from the heart not the government. There are 4,500 crew volunteers who don't get paid they just do it because they like rescuing people. They work 365 days in the year through all sorts of weather such as thunder, lightning, rain and storms. If in trouble on any water e.g. lakes, rivers or canals call 999 and ask for the coast guard.

Spot the dangers

Always go with a friend

Find and read safety signs

Emergency? Stick up your hand and shout

By: Ella Hussey and Lillian Brady



Cash for Clobber

261 bags were collected by Liberties Recycling which benefited the school to the tune of €1044

Cycle Safety

4th Class Children were invited to participate in a cycling safety and skills training course delivered by Meath Sports Partnership over a 6 week term. The emphasis of the course was on safety through control of the bike and awareness of surroundings.

Welcome Back

Mrs O'Doherty (formerly Ms Crowe), and after Christmas Ms O'Donnell will be returning as Mrs Hamilton.

Hampers for St. Vincent De Paul

For the 2nd Christmas we decided to support the work of the SVP by preparing hampers to be distributed. We asked you to contribute an item of food to your child's class hamper. We were delighted with the overwhelming response which resulted in 38 hampers being distributed this week by SVP to very grateful families.



Rainbows

We have just completed our second Rainbows programme. We are delighted to be able to offer this 10 week programme to pupils in St. Paul's. A huge thank you to the staff involved who are offering this invaluable service.

Sport

5th & 6th Class boys and girls played football in the Meath Leagues in September and October. They participated excellently in their matches and were a credit to St. Paul's for their enthusiasm and dedication. 4th class children have been learning the basic skills of football and have improved immensely over the last few weeks. Also, the 6th Class boys and girls played an Olympic handball league in preparation for the Olympic Handball Leagues in January and February. Great skills and teamwork were in abundance and we had great fun over the last few weeks. We would like to thank the teachers involved for their hard work and dedication and to you the parents for bringing your child to training and to and from matches.

2nd and 3rd Class Children enjoyed rugby practice this season. Thank you to John from Rugby Ireland who arrived each Tuesday for rugby training.



Ms Cowley's Junior ASD Class



Ms Murphy's 3rd Class



Ms McMahon's Senior Infant Class



Ms NíChinnéide's Senior Infant Class

Santa visits St. Paul's

Congratulations to the following children who missed no days from school this term

Ms Talty's Class: Alice Kinsella, Caitlin Blake, Jeanna Willoughby, Orla Duruanyawu, Rachael Hyland, Brendan Twyford, Calum Boucher, Daragh Nolan, James Nugent Smith, Seán Brown. **Ms Dennehy's Class:** Ava Doran, Ava Lucia Cunningham, Erin Fay, Molly Bizzell, Nicole Byrne, Darragh Mulvaney, Harry Hesse Mason, James Goggin, Martin Hall, Max Palmer, Tieran Fahey Clancy. **Ms Kelly's Class:** Ava Hennessy, Brógan Ryan, Gabriele Sutkeviciute, Louise Byrne, Sadie Prior, Sonia Gieros-Tchorz, Ben Cunningham, Brendan Meagher. **Ms Prendiville's Class:** Katie Doherty, Lauren Mavimpi Kimbondo, Mary-Kate Prior, Megan Murray, Niamh Colgan, Tarah Coyne, Cillian Malone, Gavin Daly, Robert Hayes, Turlough Mooney. **Ms McMahon's Class:** Katie Keenan, Lauren McKenna, Sarah Bergin, Dylan Taylor, Eoghan Shirley, Seán Coleman. **Ms NíChinnéide's Class:** Aoibhínn Gibson, Aria Kinsella, Caroline Leavy, Katie Burke, Laura Kinsella, Lucy O'Reilly, Mazyanne Conlan, Ruby Coatsworth, Saoirse Carrigan, Sophia Collins, Alex Knowles, Callum Willoughby, Evan Sherry, Oran Corboy. **Ms Crosbie's Class:** Analena Stobie, Eabha Brown, Erin Leeson, Lorna Fisher, Mia Foley, Rebecca Ryan, Robyn Redmond, Charlie Jackson, Conor Daughton, Conor Shirley, Ethan Styles, Jack Fennessy Manley, James Burke, Kyle Donohoe, Saul Harris. **Ms NíMhurchú's Class:** Amy Murray, Eve Winston, Megan Fitzmaurice, Ruby Daly, Sarah Forde, Tazim Ibrahim, Zara Lynch, Ceilim Ryan, Darragh Lyons, Harry Dunne, Jack Finnegan, James O'Kane, Reece Doherty. **Ms O'Connor's Class:** Cara O'Sullivan, Caroline Byrne, Charlotte Elwood, Grace Kelly, Kate Raftery, Molly Kearns, Charlie McCue, Conor Godkin, Daragh Grennan, Gerard Leavy, James Kelly, Jonathan McDonnell, Mark Ward. **Mr McCahey's Class:** Abbie Coyne, Ava Fay, Corína Wade, Grace McTiernan, Isabella Ruhan, Laura Kelly, Sarah Berns, Sarah Fox, Aaron Kane, Jacob Mulcahy, James Cullen, Joshua Connolly, Luke Colgan, Seán Harte. **Ms Smyth's Class:** Aisling Stratford, Rylee O'Keefe, Adam Brady, Alex Kinsella, Daniel Boucher, Noah Reilly. **Ms Bates Class:** Caitlin Carrigan, Clara Doherty, Danielle Connolly, Hannah Murphy, Lauren Dolan, Ben Fitzpatrick, Chris Duruanyawu, Darragh Larkin, Finn Boylan, Oisín Cashman, Tyler Arkesteijn. **Mr Kelly's Class:** Áine McCourt, Amy Forde, Andrea Styles, Ava Gorman, Charlotte Hurley, Katie Murphy, Naoise Tyrrell, Rachel Byrne, Zara Collins, Andrew Brady, Liam Corbett, Lucas White. **Ms Broderick's Class:** Aoife Casey, Caoimhe Crowley, Grace Lan Conway, Helen Jenkins, Isabel Leavy, Kate Hayes, Katie O'Neill, Rachel Hue Conway, Robyn O' Callaghan, Shauna Cantwell, Zoe Preece, Conor Yardley, Daire McCourt, Eoin Drysdale, Leo Bergin, Michael Ohoka, Seán Corbett, Thomas Dunne. **Ms Murphy's Class:** Ameilia Campbell, Erin Smith, Adam Leeson, Alan Kearns, Conor Harte, David Stobie, Fionn Nolan, Jack Tormey, Oliver Walter, Ruairi Braiden, Ryan Walsh, Tomas Corbett, Wafiq Ibrahim. **Ms McCarthy's Class:** Aoife Daniels, Ava Killalee Okeke, Blessing Duruanyawu, Emma Dunne, Katie Cotter, Alex Kisher, Andrei Paval, Jack O'Neill, Josh Doherty, Killian Stratford, Mark Kearns, Nathan Kelly. **Ms Burke's Class:** Alannah Cashman, Caithlin O'Connor, Ciara Coleman, Elizabeth Martin, Grace Hennessy, Matilda Ruhan, Adam Murphy, Alex Hesse Mason, Callum Brady, Christopher Haskins, Dylan McCue, Harry Reilly, Ryan Foley, Senan Byrne, Vincent White, Will Lanigan. **Mr Burn's Class:** Aimee Doherty, Karen Mavimpi, Aaron Prendergast, Adam Sherry, Andy Marshall, Benjamin Fraser, Joshua Mulcahy, Lucas Longhi, Max Daly, Mintaras Matijosaitis, Samuel Carroll. **Ms Curtin's Class:** Ella McGoldrick, Emma Burke, Conor Wardick, Daniel Barker, Evun Grant, Josh Donohoe, Ryan Doherty. **Ms O'Sullivan's Class:** Claudia McKeon, Demi Mooney, Roisín Corbett, Sarah Cullen, Adam Carolan, Bogdan Baturov, Finn Turner, Kevin Dat Conway, Mathieu Sevestre, Ross Coatsworth. **Ms Kinsella's Class:** Eve Drysdale, Leah Barniville, Daniel Doody, Matthew Hayes. **Ms Daly's Class:** Hannah Dowling, Nadine Fogarty, Samantha Brady, Sophie Scattergood, Tara Ferguson, Daniel Ohoka, Daragh Casey, John Redmond, Luke Tynan, Marc Donnelly, Max McGreevy, Radu Olaru. **Mr Harte's Class:** Niamh Larkin, Conor Phelan. **Ms Kieran's Class:** Lauren Kelly, Rachel Doherty, Tracy Kimbondo, Varsha Joseph, Luke Huynh Hurley

Message from Father Christmas! Ho Ho Ho!!

Everyone here at the North Pole is very busy preparing for Christmas Eve. Mrs. Claus is mending my red suit as I had so many holes in the knees from sliding down all of those chimneys! Mrs. Claus and I have been checking our list and it seems that all the boys and girls in St. Paul's are on the good list! The elves and I have been busy building toys and getting my sleigh ready for the big trip. We are looking forward to visiting Ratoath, Ashbourne and the surrounding stopping at your house. Don't forget to hang your stocking out and get to bed early on Christmas Eve!!





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St. Paul's would like to thank all our Sponsors who were so generous and who helped make our Christmas Fair a great success!!!