

## **Scoil Inse Rátha, Little Island NS.**

**Dean do Dhicheall**

### **Newsletter February 2012.**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back after mid-term break. There has been a lot going on in the school this month and great credit is due to our committed staff for all they do. This month we have had staff members out at a quiz at night time with the pupils, out in the evening after school with indoor hurlers and in the school over the mid-term preparing the school and preparing work for our pupils! Thank you to all the staff for this. Of course, our brilliant students bring the best out of us – they are so good and represent all of our school so well when they are out. Thanks to the boys and girls for making us proud.

**Mr. McEvoy:**

We have our big night to celebrate Mr. McEvoy's career on this Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8pm in The Radisson Blu, Little Island. Mr. McEvoy taught in the school for nearly 37 years and we look forward to gathering together to thank him for all that he did for the school. There are a very limited number of tickets available from Jacinta in the office until Friday.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class Indoor Hurling:**

Our boys from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class took part in an indoor hurling competition this month. They played really well and did us all proud. Well done boys!

**Swimming:**

Swimming starts this week for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes. Our Parents Association have subsidised the cost to make it as affordable as possible. There is no grant from the Department of Education to help pay for this even though swimming is part of the school curriculum. It is working out at less than €5 per lesson (including bus to and from the pool) and there will be a ratio of 15:1 of students to instructor. The children always enjoy swimming and are sure that they will have a great time and learn a very valuable skill too.

**Parents Association:**

Our Parents Association AGM will be on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our PA have been a great support to the school, pupils and staff and we appreciate all of their efforts. Hopefully, lots of parents will go to the AGM and get involved. Studies have proven that children of parents who are involved in their school achieve better in school.

**Quiz:**

We sent four teams to Lisgoold to a quiz this month. They represented our school really well. One of our teams came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 52 teams! We are very proud of them. Thanks to the staff and parents who went along to support and help out.

**Spelling Bee:**

Lewis O'Mahony in 6<sup>th</sup> Class went forward as our school Spelling Bee champion to represent us in the county final in Ballinora. He made it into the top 6 before "zealotry" undid him! I, and indeed Microsoft Spell Check, still am not sure it is a word!! Well done Lewis!

**Photographer:**

East Cork Studios will be in our school on 27<sup>th</sup> March. They will take photos of Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class. They will also take photos of individuals and family groups throughout the school. A proof card will be sent home to you from which you can decide whether or not you want to buy the photos. There is no pressure to buy and that decision is up to you. The school will get a small percentage of the sales.

**Summer Camp Brochures:**

Brochures for various summer camps are starting to come into the school. We will not be handing these out as it can put unnecessary pressure on families to attend. The brochures will be available in the reception area of the school so please feel free to call in if you want them. Most camps will have information on the internet as well if you search there.

**Website:**

Please remember to check our website for updates on what is going on in the school and in your child's class. There are lots of photos and articles there that are interesting.

**Concert:**

Plans and practices are well under way for our concert this year. It will take place in the Community Centre, near the school, at the end of April. It was too expensive to go back to The Radisson and there was also a problem with availability as they are very busy. We are delighted that our local hotel is doing so well and we look forward to linking up with them again in the future.

**Parking:**

Please keep entrance to staff car park free in morning and evening so that cars can get it in and out.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

21 Feb: Swimming starts for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

24 Feb: 8pm Radisson – Eamonn's night out

1<sup>st</sup> March: Closing date for receipt of Enrolment Applications

1<sup>st</sup> March: PA AGM

5<sup>th</sup> March: start of Seachtain na Gaeilge

6<sup>th</sup> March: World spelling Day

7<sup>th</sup> March: World Maths Day

8<sup>th</sup> March: World Science Day

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March: PA Bag Pack

23<sup>rd</sup> March: National Skipping Day

27<sup>th</sup> March: East Cork Studios photographer in school

30<sup>th</sup> March: school closes at 12.15pm for Easter Holidays.