



St. Senan's Primary School
Junior Infants 2013/2014



St. Senan's Primary School
Sixth Class 2013/2014

St. Senan's Primary School School News 2013/2014

The Liam Mc Carthy Cup visits Our School



*Scoil Sheanáin Naofa
Cill Rúis*

www.kilrushns.ie

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Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

As we come to the end of another eventful year it's my pleasure to recommend our "School News" to you.

We hope you enjoy reading through it, you will see that the children participated in a wide variety of academic, sporting and cultural activities during the year.

This year our school opened a new building at the front. This is a further enhancement to our facilities.

I thank you most sincerely for your co-operation and support during the year and wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer.

Avril Bolton,

Principal

School Self Evaluation:

School self evaluation is an on-going process and this year in St. Senan's we evaluated Numeracy. During the process we collected and correlated a wide variety of information from parents, teachers and pupils.

Our school has strengths in the following areas of Numeracy:

Strong pupil performance in number and algebra

Standardised maths language used throughout the school

Agreed presentation of work from Infants – 6th Class

Baseline established which outlines key skills

Wide variety of teaching approaches and methodologies

We have decided to prioritise the following areas for development:

Review maths language and problem solving

Review mental maths

CPD training for problem solving

Problem Solving pack 5th and 6th class

Scratch Computer Programming for 4th & 6th classes

Implement self assessment strategies.

Our focus for next year will be on Literacy.

Parent Association : St. Senan's Primary School recently established a Parent Association. The purpose of a Parent Association is to provide a structure through which Parents/Guardians of children attending St. Senan's Primary School can work together for the best possible education for their children. The Parent Association will work with the Principal, Staff and Board of Management to build effective partnership between home and school.

Mary Moroney R.I.P Sadly , Mary Moroney, our school warden for many years passed away in January. Mary took great care of the children in our school for many years and will be sadly missed. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dilís.

School Staff 2013 / 2014	
STAFF	CLASS
Mrs Avril Bolton	Principal
Mrs. Linda O Gorman	Junior Infants
Ms. Helen O' Brien	Junior Infants
Ms. Noreen Lynch	Senior Infants
Mrs. Áine O Brien	Senior Infants
Ms. Bríd O Mahoney	1st class
Ms. Jean Keating	1st / 2nd class
Mrs. Karen Hogan	2nd class
Ms. Danielle Lillis	3rd class
Ms. Majella Griffin	3rd / 4th class
Mrs. Susan Young	4th class
Mrs. Michelle Garrihy	5th class
Mrs. Aoife O Malley	6th class
Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald	LS/RT
Mrs. Mary King	LS/RT
Mr. Michael Quinn	LS/RT
Ms. Maureen O Shea	LS/RT
Ms. Clare Mac Namara	LS/RT
Mrs. Gráinne O' Shea	H.S.C.L.
Ms. Deirdre Kenny	M.D. Sp.Class
Ms. Lianne Harrison	ASD Unit

Special Needs Assistants

Mary Murrinan, Ailish Malone, Regina Downes, Róisín Coleman, Teresa Carrig, Monica Brennan,

Secretary: Bernadette Dillon **Caretaker:** Martin Burke

School Enrolment Forms may be downloaded from our website at www.kilrushns.ie

Snapshot of St. Senan's Primary School 2013/2014 cont.

- Street Smart** "Street Smart" from the Road Safety Association visited our school in March.
- Skip Hop** All pupils from Juniors to Sixth Class had the chance to learn individual and partner skipping skills. The 2 day event concluded with a display of highly impressive skipping skills. It's great to see our pupils continue this 'Happy Skipping' at break times.
- Infant Trips and activities** The Infant classes had a very busy year doing many exciting activities e.g. Halloween Hobble, making sausages, collecting frog spawn, posting Santa's letters, balloon workshop, making pizza and pancakes, visiting the farmer's market, a trip to Cappa, a mini beast hunt and going on some exciting maths trails.
- Autumnal Nature Trip** All classes from first up experienced an informative and memorable trip to the woods, where they learned many interesting facts.
- Spelling Bee 2014** 5th and 6th Class participated in this year's Eason's Spelling Bee held in conjunction with Ryan Tubridy and 2FM. Leo McInespie from 6th represented the school in the County Clare Spelling Bee Final which took place in Newmarket-on-Fergus N.S.
- Scratch** Scratch is a computer programme which children in 3rd and 4th class worked on during the year. This programme involves using problem solving skills and maths skills to create an animation incorporating movement and images.
- Scattery Island** The annual trip for the children in fourth class to Scattery Island took place in June.
- History Trail** Many classes visited the local history museum and also went to Mowlam Nursing Home to chat to the residents about life in Ireland when they were growing up.

My Primary School Memories

Though I can't clearly recall the beginning of this eight year long journey, I can still feel the nervousness that had enveloped my system as I plodded alongside my mum to the nearby location of St. Senan's Primary School. Like many in my class, I was reluctant to leave the familiar company of my mum in exchange for a teacher I knew little about. It seems so silly to me now.

Following that day, friends were made that would last through many years, leading all the way up to the present time. I settled into the commute from my home to school and the sometimes monotonous day-to-day routine of school life.

The next event that I clearly remember is my First Communion Day. I can remember my fantastic dress, as many girls do, and being relieved when the preparation for the event was over. I took part in many activities during my time at this school, such as quizzes, basketball, and even debating.

Now that I am in sixth class, and about to leave, I can fully appreciate these memorable moments and though I will be sad to leave this place, I am truly looking forward to the new opportunities that secondary school will hold. Through the years, I have made many memories, memories that help make me who I am today.

E. Dillon

My Primary School Memories

I came to this school in the middle of second class. That year we also made our communion. The first person that I instantly became friends with was Emily, unfortunately she moved out in fifth class, then I made one more friend, Sarah. In third class, the homework was getting more difficult. That year flew by very fast maybe because it was the easiest year of primary school. Fourth class was one of my favourite years. All the fantastic memories, the Bake Sale and the Arts and Crafts Sale, we were the first class that came up with the idea of the Arts and Crafts Sale. Fifth class was another favourite year. We participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which was stressful but exhilarating at the same time.

Now I'm in sixth class, our final year. From my experiences this year is the hardest of all of them. It's also another favourite. Finally I get to leave this school but I know I'm going to miss everyone.

All the hard work is going to pay off later in life, I want to thank all my previous teachers and my current teacher. Our Christmas play, Seachtain na Gaeilge, our Confirmation were epic and I will remember them for the rest of my life. Also our upcoming graduation, I hope it will be amazing.

Through the years I met and made lots of new friends. Primary school was the best time of my life and I hope it will be similar in secondary.

K. Siemek

Sporting Activities and Achievements 2013/2014

Liam Mc Carthy Cup visited St Senan's during the year to celebrate the great victory of the Clare Hurlers in the All Ireland Hurling Championships last September. The children and staff were all very excited to be part of such a momentous occasion. The Clare manager Davy Fitzgerald also visited our school. He spoke to all the children on the importance of playing sport and striving to do their best at all times.

Run a Mile : St. Senan's trained hard all year for their 'Run a Mile with a Smile' activity. The pupils in the senior classes each ran a mile while the pupils in the junior classes ran half a mile.

Soccer: .Once again this year, students from fifth and sixth class participated in the FAI/Aviva 5 a side soccer tournament. Two panels of 8 boys and 8 girls were chosen after some highly competitive trials.

Lees Road Sports' Complex in Ennis played host to the county stages of the tournament. The boys competed on Tuesday the 8th of April and despite 2 excellent wins in their first two matches against St. Aiden's of Shannon and Newmarket-on-Fergus, they unfortunately lost their third game to Sixmilebridge, which put them out of the competition. Nonetheless, they performed brilliantly and can all be very proud of their individual performances.

On Thursday the 10th of April, the girls also displayed wonderful skill and determination in their fixtures. They cast aside the challenge of Cooraclare with some ease in the first match, with some great link up play and teamwork, however luck wasn't on their side in the second game against Kilmaley and they unfortunately were defeated. Again though, the girls can be very proud of their achievement.

West Clare Cross Country Athletics : 2013 was a very successful year for St. Senan's Athletes. Once again St. Senan's achieved great success this year in the Schools Cross Country events. In September we travelled to Cooraclare where we won team prizes in all races, several individual prizes and the overall prize in the West Clare Schools Competition. From then, training continued until the North V's West Clare Schools Competition, where we were beaten by the narrowest of margins to finish in 2nd place. Twelve of our children went on to compete in the North V's West V's East Clare Schools in Lee's Rd., Ennis in November. Well Done Everybody!!

One of the highlights of the Athletic year was on Friday May 30th when Clare Manager, Davy Fitzgerald visited the school and presented all the athletes with their medals.

Swimming: 5th Class went swimming each Thursday for 6 weeks to Kilkee Swim Gym. 1st and 3rd classes went to Ennis for their swimming lessons. The Special Class and A.S.D. Unit also enjoyed swimming and Yoga.

Uibheacha, Seacláide agus Ór

Lá ceomhar a bhí ann agus ní raibh cead agam dul amach ag súgradh. Ansin, thosaigh mé ag léamh leabhar cócaireacht agus thosaigh mé ag cócaireacht. Bhí Aoife ag cabhrú liom. Bhíomar ag cócaireacht cáca seacláide. D'fhéach mé sa chuisneoir, bhí bainne, im agus plúr ann ach ní raibh barra seacláide nó uibheacha ann. Bhalaigh Aoife agus mé na hearraí le chéile.

“ Tá seacláide agus uibheacha ag teastáil uaim”, arsa mé féin.

Rothaigh Aoife agus mise go dtí an t-ionad siopadóireachta le mo mhála agus m'airgead. Leath slí ann, chuaigh aer amach as mo roth.
“ Cad a dhéanfaidh mé?”

Chuir mé fios ar mo Mham ach bhí fearg uirthi. Ansin chuir mé fios ar mo chara Clodagh agus tháinig sí. Ach, cad a tharla?

Rith leipreachán thar go dtí mo rothar. Rinne sé draíocht agus bhí mo roth ceart go leor!

“Go bhfóire Dia orainn”, arsa Aoife, Clodagh agus mise! Bhí ionadh an domhain orainn. Léim Paddy an léipreachán ar an rothar agus rothaigh sé ar nós na gaoithe. Thosaigh Clodagh ag caoineadh.
“Cad a déarfadh Mam anois?” arsa Aoife.

Shiúil Aoife, Clodagh agus mé abháile agus chonaic mé bogha báistí. Bhí Paddy ag deireadh an bogha báistí. Dúirt Paddy dom,
“Choiméad mé an rothar agus tabharfaidh mé Ór duit.”
“Ceart go leoir, tá áthas orm!” arsa mise ag gáire.

Bhí uibheacha agus seacláide ag teastáil uaim ach anois tá gach rud agam! Ní fhaca mé Paddy arís!

Ó pháiste i Rang a Cúig.



The Cow Attack

Eleanor Crowe, a student in 5th class, was attacked by a cow a couple of years ago. This was a horrific ordeal for Eleanor, but a negative has been turned into a positive as Eleanor recently won an award in the 'Write A Book' Competition for her real-life story. Eleanor twists the story-line and writes it from the cow's point of view! Enjoy the following excerpt!

On the 11th of August I was being hunted to a new field by my farmer, his wife and his daughter. His daughter was behind us to make sure none of us went the wrong way. I had just had a new baby calf and I thought that she might hurt it, so without thinking I turned around and attacked her. I chased her around a car and ran over her.

The next day she had to go to hospital and I wanted to say sorry but I couldn't for I am a cow and all I can say is 'Moo'. I saw her coming home in a cast and I got really upset. Then I found out it happened on her sister's birthday and I felt even worse. She could barely move for the next few days. She was so relieved when she got to change her cast. It was much more comfortable, she was so happy. She still had the cast on for her birthday, the 4th of October. Her mum and dad got her a cake which had an icing picture of her with her crutches on it. They also got her a pink and purple watch, she loved it! She had to go to school with her broken leg which was really hard because there was a really annoying boy who kept kicking her cast.

Finally after three months she got her cast off but she still needed her crutches for three weeks after that. Every day when I saw her I tried to say sorry but she ran away. I was protecting my calf. You would protect your calf or foal or baby too, wouldn't you? My calf was a few days old and I felt she might hurt it so I attacked her. What did you expect me to do?

I do feel bad but it is not all my fault. If she hadn't been there nothing bad would have happened to her. I just must remember not to be as protective with my next cluster of kids! I called my calf Jo. Jo was my first boy ever. I had ten girls before him. Their names were and still are Flower, Pebble, Sucker, Rain, Moon, Dawn, Darkness, Blue, Black and Green. It is difficult to keep control of them all. One of them may need to go to swimming, one to dancing, one singing and one to music, if you get what I mean. Child-care is very difficult. Oh I am so sorry! I got myself all worked up about social-life.

Now I had better return to my story. Okay, so after she got her cast off she had to go for physio. She was unable to run, play football or do any other sports. She did not like the idea of staying at home, not able to go outside and have fun or even go to her friend's house. I attacked her about half an hour after she came home from holidays away in Wales. What a bad end to a lovely holiday. My husband 'Red' was not very happy when he heard about the attack. My little Jo was not very happy at first, but he grew to like having a mother who was stronger than all of his friend's mothers!

G.A.A. Coaching : All the children from Junior Infants to Sixth class participated in GAA coaching during the year. They learned, practised and enjoyed learning the skills of football.

Girls' Football : This year the season started off with a fun blitz for the girls from fourth, fifth and sixth classes. The blitz was played in May in the Cricket Field. The School team trained twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and represented our school proudly in the schools' competition. Their first outing was to Miltown Malbay where they won both their matches comfortably and progressed to the county final. We await a favourable result.

Boys' football: The Boys commenced their football campaign with an encounter against Lissycasey/Ballynacally. The teams second duel was with Knockerra/Burrane and from a deficit of nine points at half time they showed wonderful character and determination to draw level with five minutes remaining, however they were dealt a cruel blow in the dying minutes when the opposition snatched victory with a late goal. The future is certainly bright though with many talented players emerging from this year's squad.

Another highlight in the footballing year was the selection of Jack Cleary, Leo McInespie and Ewan Kelly to compete in the Clare Football skills Final in Cooraclare. The pep talk they received from Clare Hurling Manager Davy Fitzgerald shortly before the competition certainly inspired the boys as they all showed great skill and composure and were unlucky not to qualify for the Munster Final.

Boys' Basketball: This year, 2013-2014, St. Senan's N.S. Kilrush made it to the boys' semi-finals of the Marian Keane Tournament. Before that we played against Clohanbeg, Gael Scoil, Cooraclare and Cree. Our training sessions were on Mondays and Thursdays after school. Our boys' team did lots of hard training on the lead up to the semi-finals. In training, we learned many skills including lay ups, shooting and zone. We had practice games and also passing drills. We all enjoyed training and games plus we can't wait until next year. We wish sixth Class boys the best of luck in Secondary School Basketball.

Girls' Basketball : This year the girls on the St. Senan's basketball team were trained hard for their basketball tournament. First we were taught the basic rules of basketball and we started perfecting our skills. The girls' tournament was first and we were most fortunate to get to the quarter-finals where we were beaten by Moyasta. The score was even for the whole match, both teams played very well. It was a golden basket in the last few seconds of the match that won it for Moyasta. All the girls on our basketball team really improved at basketball from the first practice to the last. The girls were tremendous and they made their school proud.

Camogie/ Hurling : The children in fifth and sixth classes were given coaching in hurling and camogie skills.

Active School Flag: We had a very successful inspection for the active school flag and are awaiting a positive confirmation of being successful.

News from the Parent's Room

This was another busy year in the Parent's Room. The Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator continued to foster links between Home, School and Community. We had many exciting activities ongoing throughout the year.

Coffee Mornings	Parents of all classes during September and October
Fun Science	Parents & children from 3 rd & 4 th with Dipankar, Clare VEC
Mental Health Week	Activities including Make up Demonstration, Walk to Cappa, Jewellery Making, "Eating for a healthy mind" talk
Flower Arranging	Halloween & Christmas Flower arranging with Shirley
Grandparents Day	Junior Infants – Sixth Class
Share a Story	Junior Infants and their Parents listening to stories together
Maths Fun & Games	Parents playing Fun Maths Games with children in Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd Class
Seachtain na Gaeilge	Rannta agus amhráin ó gach rang
Knitting and Sewing	Intergenerational – Grandparents teaching 6 th class students
School Garden	Parents, Green Schools and Tidy Towns sow vegetables, flowers and plants
Kids Talk	Junior & Senior Infant Parents & Children taking part in Literacy activities
Christmas Cards	Design and make your own Christmas Cards
Book Club	5 th class, parents and local community read together
Parenting Programme	With Jacinta & Dawn from Clare Care
Cookery Classes	Six week Cookery Course for Parents (Clare VEC)
Give your child a head start in Primary School	With Jenny from Clare VEC

Local Education Committee which comprises HSCL co-ordinators, parents, students and interested members of the community also had another busy year that saw the launch of our Grounds Improvement Plan in Kilrush Community School.

The involvement of you, the parents, has contributed greatly to making each of the above activities a huge success. I greatly appreciate the giving of your time and talent and look forward to another exciting year in September.

Christmas Concert All classes performed in our annual Christmas Concert which was very well supported and very enjoyable.

Quizzes and Debating 5th and 6th participated in the Kidney Association Quiz.
6th also came runners up in the *Clare FM Quiz*.
4 teams participated in the Credit Union Quiz and one team went on to represent us in the Munster final.
6th class represented our school in the Clare debating competition.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Congratulations to 5th on winning the schools category and the youth section of the Kilrush Parade. The theme was Brian Boru.

Mural Carmel T Madigan was commissioned to design a mural for the New Building. It is called 'A Sense of Place'

Rainbows Our school is a Rainbows Site. This is a peer support group for children coping with loss through separation or death. This year 11 children from West Clare benefitted from Rainbows.

Banna Cheoil Sheanáin Naofa Banna Cheoil Sheanáin Naofa entertained both the school community and the wider community again this year with their wide repertoire of tunes. They performed in the local hospitals, Teach Cheoil and St. Senan's Church.

Green Schools Congratulations to all on being awarded the Energy Flag.

Maths and Science Achievement Award St. Senan's were awarded the Maths and Science achievements award.
Congratulations to all involved.

Student Council The Student Council, which is made up of 2 children from each of fourth, fifth and sixth classes meet regularly with the Principal and HSCL co-ordinator. They contributed greatly to many school topics and discussions during the year.

Snapshot of St. Senan's Primary School 2013/2014

School Mass	St. Senan's opened the school year with a school mass on October 2 nd .
First Penance	Celebrated on December 4th
Holy Communion	32 children received their First Holy Communion on May 10th .Fr. Blake officiated.
Confirmation	25 children were confirmed by Fr. Sheedy on May 24th.
Shoebox Appeal	135 shoeboxes were contributed to the Hope Foundation to bring Christmas to children who have never experienced anything like it before.
Non Uniform Day	€730 contributed to the crisis in the Philippines.
Easter Egg Hunt Bake Sale	€ 1000 was collected and will go towards school projects.
School Walk	€ 1966 given to the fund for sending sick children to Lourdes.
Communion Children	A donation was contributed voluntarily to The Irish Kidney Association.
Confirmation Children	A donation was contributed voluntarily to the RNLI.
<u>Art Competitions:</u>	Children from all classes participated in many competitions during the year and we had many successful entries. A special mention to Eva Clancy who got to turn on the Kilrush town Christmas lights and to Sinéad Murphy for winning the <i>Anti Bullying Slogan</i> in the Carambola Competition.
-Carambola	
-Church	
-Credit Union	
-Tidy Towns	
Seachtain na Gaelge	
Drama	November 13 th West Midlands Theatre Company presented our students with 'George and the Dragon'. In March Clan Cluanna presented 'Setanta' to our students. Both performances were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and introduced them to the art of drama and performance.

School Programmes 2013—2014

Literacy Lift Off : Literacy Lift-Off is a whole-class intensive intervention aimed at increasing each child's competency in oral language, reading and writing. During each Literacy Lift-Off session, children experience four activities: 1.Familiar Reading 2. Magnetic-Letter / Word Work 3. Writing 4.New Book. Literacy Lift Off this year continued with the children in first class and Senior Infants. It has been found that children make significant progress at the end of the literacy intervention period.

Reading Recovery : Children meet individually with a Reading Recovery teacher, 30 minutes each day for an average of 12 to 20 weeks. Reading Recovery lessons provide a balanced, structured approach so that literacy develops along a broad front and students can apply skills in reading and writing. The following components are integrated across a reading recovery lesson carefully tailored to the needs of each child.1. Phonological awareness 2. Visual perception of letters 3.Word recognition 4.Phonics/ Decoding skills 5. Phonics / structural analysis 6. Fluency 7.Comprehension.

Mata sa Rang: All children in First class have worked on a specific maths programme called Mata sa Rang. Mata sa Rang offers a unique approach to extending children's number knowledge, understanding and strategies. The programme offers an extremely detailed assessment of pupils and provides a framework for individual, group and class-based instruction. The children have increased their knowledge and understanding of number in a positive and interactive setting.

Aistear is the curriculum framework we follow for children in Junior and Senior Infants. Aistear supports parents as their children's primary educators during early childhood, and promotes effective partnerships between parents and teachers. Aistear is applied through all the curriculum areas including:
Maths : The children discuss and explain mathematical activities through play.
SESE : Children create, elaborate, develop and sequence stories in socio dramatic play. Children use the following skills : exploring, thinking, investigating, recording, discussing, mapping etc.
SPHE: Co-operating , discussing feelings , conflict resolution, role play, developing an understanding of families, friendships, growing and changing.
Visual Arts: Construction , Fabric and Fibre ,Drawing, Painting, recording their play, designing their own buildings etc.

**Junior Infants
All ready for the Christmas
Play**



Grease 6th Class



Carambola paid a special visit



Science Fun 2nd Class



**3rd Class busy with their
art**



**Senior Infants excited to
hold the Liam McCarthy**

**Halloween Time
5th Class**



**Flowers for Mother's Day from
First class**



4th Class School Tour

Spring Clean



**Fun in the sun with Senior
Infants**



**Junior Infants all loved up
for Valentine's**



**4th class
Reliving All Ireland Final Day
Up The Banner**