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Christmas 2022 Newsletter

Christmas Show: Well done to all of the boys who performed so magnificently in our Christmas Show, "The Stars Come out for Christmas" on Monday and Tuesday nights. It was an absolutely excellent two nights of entertainment and they all did us so proud. After three years of having no shows, it was delightful to see the hall full both nights. Many thanks to all of the parents and families for attending in such numbers. Particular thanks to Ms Beary and all of the staff who worked so hard to make it such a special occasion for the boys. Míle buíochas.

Christmas Raffle: Many thanks to the parents and businesses who sponsored prizes for our raffle during the week. I would particularly like to acknowledge the local businesses that contributed including Kidstown, Kieran Price & Sons, Lana Castletroy, Tons of Fun, King Johns Castle, Escape Limerick, Camille, Village Inn, McGrath's/ Claughaun Bar, MTS Tyres, Home Focus, Odeon, Locke Quay, Step Shoes Parkway, Beauty Secrets, Spar (Parkway roundabout), Provincial Flooring, New Look, Unique Hair Salon, Neville's Jewellers, The Mall Bar, Supervalu Corbally.

Just over €2000 was raised, which will go towards the upgrade of the school grounds.

ASD Special Class: The finishing touches are being applied to our new modular build, ASD special class. We are thrilled with the quality of the build and the comfort and room it affords to the pupils and staff. It comes together with a sensory area, quiet room and its own play area. We are currently in the design stage for the construction of a 400sqM extension, which in time will be the permanent home of our special classes.

Admissions for September 2022: We are continuing to take applications for our Junior Infant class of September 2023. If you know anyone who would like an application form, please ask them to contact the school office at the number above. Alternatively, they can express their interest by clicking here.

School Walkway & Wildlife Corridor: Work is well underway in the construction of our very own "Slí na Sláinte," walkway around the school's inside perimeter. Phase one will bring us to

the bottom corner on the Frank Hogan's boundary, with phase two planned in conjunction with the extension described above.

In the new year, we plan to replace the leylandii tree line that was removed with a native hedgerow and woodland area, hopefully planting almost 300 native trees. This will create a wildlife, biodiversity rich corridor along this boundary. This is a huge undertaking from the school but one we hope will be very rewarding to both the current pupils and for many generations to come.

Walkway with native hedgerow planted to the right.

Parent teacher meetings: Thanks to all parents for attending the parent teacher meetings last month. If you were unable to fulfil your meeting for any reason, please ensure that you make your rescheduled appointment.

Parents' Association: Many thanks to all of the parents who organised a wonderful movie evening in the school hall on the 4th of December. It was a really enjoyable day with Home Alone being an excellent choice of film! They also successfully sold over 200 Late Late Toyshow goodie bags at the end of November. This was no easy feat and took a lot of time and effort. Sincerely thanks to all involved and to all those who supported.

Anti-bullying Week: Anti-bullying week took place in the school last month. 6th class boys created a school pledge that has been signed by all children and displayed in every classroom. We also had a poster competition in the older classes. Well done to the following winners, Mark (1st Class), Dean (2nd), Odhrin (3rd), Jan (4th), Gerard (5th) and Olivier (6th).

St Patrick's GAA & Limerick & District CU presenting the hurleys & helmets to the boys

Sport: Hurling & football coaching restarted in the school recently. We are delighted that boys in junior infants, senior infants, 1st and 2nd classes are out every week with their hurleys and footballs.

We are thrilled to say that all of our Junior infant boys will have their own hurley and helmet when coaching resumes after Christmas. With sponsorship from Limerick & District Credit Union and St Patrick's GAA Club, parents were offered a Mycro sport hurley, helmet and

sliotar (ball) deal at the discounted rate of €30. We are very grateful to the sponsors for their kindness and hope that their generosity will help inspire the next generation of young hurlers. Niall Phelan of St Patrick's GAA and Fiona Cox of Limerick & District Credit Union Ltd. presented the helmets to the boys on Monday.

FAI futsal coaching took place for a number of weeks in 3rd and 4th classes in the school. This is a modified game of soccer on the school yard and was really enjoyable for the pupils. We may one day have a future Messi in our midst.

Active Schools: We are delighted to announce that we recently won a new mobile speaker system having been successful in an Active Schools Slogan competition. The winning slogan, created by the committee was "Lets jump, Lets run, Lets have some fun."

Active School committee with Miss Ní Cheallaigh

J.P. McManus Awards: We are very proud of our four past pupils, Gary Barrett, Ebriama Dunbuya, Kasper Ostrowski, Jamie McNamara who achieved the J.P. McManus scholarship award from CBS Sexton Street between 2020 and 2022. The boys will receive significant financial support over their four years in college. They are a credit to their families and indeed to our school. We wish them well in their futures.

BOM Report 1/12/22: Ms Sinéad Beary was wished well, having been appointed to the in-school management team of the school. She joins, Mr Liddane (Principal), Mr Ryan (Deputy Principal), Mrs O'Sullivan and Mrs Tierney on our management team. The following policies were ratified at our meeting and can be viewed on our website www.stpatricksboysns.com: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment; Intimate Care Policy; SET Policy; Admissions Policy. Funding for new pupil chairs has been secured and these will be purchased in the new year. Principal of St Patrick's Girls School was wished well in his upcoming retirement.

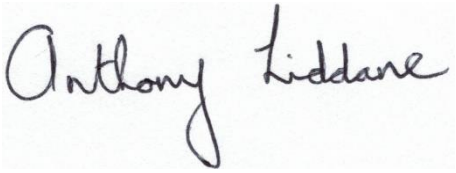
Sympathy: We express our deepest sympathy to the family of our past pupil Colin O'Dwyer who died after a short illness last month. We were very privileged to have known known Colin and the O'Dwyer family for many years and are deeply saddened by their loss.

Colin is pictured (centre) with classmates in May 2014 in the Gaelic Grounds

We also extend our sympathies to the Chairperson of our Board of Management, Fr David Gibson on the recent sudden passings of both his parents.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. Nodlaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi mhasise daoibh go léir.



Anthony Liddane and staff

Príomhoide

Nodlaig Shona Daoibh