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Christmas 2021 Newsletter

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 Park Childcare, Oscar and Co. Barbers, The Village Inn and Maxol. €884 was raised. Over 20 prizes were given out in the draw with every class in the school being among the winners. We really appreciate your support. In addition, €357 was raised from the sale of Christmas cards. Again, many thanks.

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

Creative Schools: Our creative schools' project which is being done in conjunction with St Patrick's Girls and St Brigid's National School is in full swing at the moment. Senior Infants, First, Second and Sixth Classes are learning the tin whistle, while 3rd, 4th and 5th classes are receiving lessons in the ukulele. It is great to hear the music in the classes each week and brings some joy to what has been a difficult period. Keep up the practice at home over the holidays boys.

Meanwhile, we are also happy to report that our band practice with St John's Brass and Reed Band is going well. The group of 2nd class boys are practising every Thursday in the school and are improving every week. Keep it up boys. Many thanks to the St John's band for playing a pop up concert for all of the classes in the school last week. It was great to welcome back one of our past pupils, Ken Hinchy, who is the saxophone player in the band.

Christmas Performances: Well done to our Junior and Senior Infant classes who created two fantastic recordings of Christmas plays over the last few weeks. Junior Infants preformed "Christmas in Crisis" while Senior Infant's version of "A Christmas Nativity" was really entertaining. Obviously a lot of work went into the performances and they should be very proud. Many thanks to Mrs O'Meara and Miss O'Grady for coordinating. All of the other classes sang their hearts out with a variety of Christmas songs and poems on the yards on

Tuesday. Some videos of the different performances including the Infant shows are available to view on our Facebook page @stpatricksboysns.

Kindness & Friendship Week: Friendship and kindness week took place earlier this month in the school. Many thanks to Mr Murray for leading what was a very special week. There were daily accounts of many random acts of kindness and classes completed a variety of related lessons and activities including on anti-bullying. The week culminated in a friendship tree that was created out of the handprints of every child in the school. The importance of being kind to one another was highlighted, particularly in these strange times.

Minister for Education Visit: We were honoured to have had an impromptu visit from the Minister for Education, Normal Foley, to the school in October. This was a memorable day for the whole school community, but none more so than the Students Council, who had just been voted in the previous day and were first to meet the Minister. 5th Class put on an excellent performance of Peigín Leitir Mór and really impressed her with their singing. We thank the Minister for her visit and say well done to all who gave her a "céad míle fáilte".

Admissions for September 2022: We are continuing to take applications for our Junior Infant class of September 2022. 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.

Sport: Hurling coaching has been taking place in the school over the past term. While there have been interruptions to the sessions for various reasons, it was great to see them back out again last week.

We are delighted to say that all of our Junior infant boys will have their own hurley and helmet when coaching resumes after Christmas. With sponsorship from Frank Hogan Motors and St Patrick's GAA Club, parents were offered a Mycro sport hurley, helmet and sliotar (ball) deal at the discounted rate of €25. We are very grateful to the sponsors for their kindness and hope that their generosity will help inspire the next generation of young

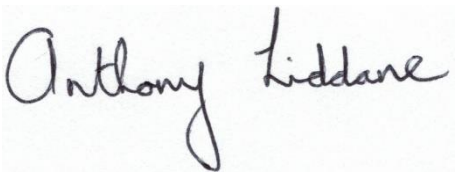
hurlers. Limerick hurler, and current all-star, Gearóid Hegarty, was on hand to present the equipment to the boys yesterday and kindly took the time to meet all the other classes before he left.

Bike Shed: An Taisce helped provide us with a thirty bay bike shed at the end of October. Over the past six weeks we have held three separate bike safety workshops in the school for our 5th and 6th class boys. These included two with local Gardaí from Henry Street and one with Monica Mullins of the Green Schools' transport team. With the permission of their parents and having their safety equipment in place, 5th and 6th class boys will be allowed to cycle to school after Christmas.

Science Week: We had an active science week in the school with classes performing many different experiments over the course of the week. Classes also participated in some online sessions with Mary Immaculate College.

It once again has been another challenging term in relation to public health. I want to reiterate my sincere thanks for the steadfast cooperation that we have received from you in dealing with the pandemic. School has been open every day this term apart from storm Barra and we are very grateful for that. We will continue to implement our covid-19 response plan in the new year and will update you on any changes.

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