

Ballymacarbry N.S. 2016

2016 was indeed a very busy, yet productive year at our school. We started the year with a new Board of Management. We welcomed Bernie Meehan and Eleanor Muhlwald to our governing body; we thank Chrissie Horkan and Orla O' Ryan for their services since 2011. We said farewell to two former Board members, Mrs Kathleen Walsh and Miss Dymrna Mangan who died earlier this year. We also acknowledge the passing of Mrs Josephine Halpin, who would have been a kind neighbour to our school and late sacristan, Eileen Mulcahy who assisted us in all our church visits. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha go léir. A total of 25 enrolled at our school in September and 29 departed to continue their education at secondary level, leaving almost 200 pupils under our care. Miss Healy moved on to St Mary's while Mr. Loomam joined our staff in September.

Religious Ceremonies.

We participated in 4 ceremonies in 8 days in late May; the Sacrament of the Eucharist at both Nire and Fourmilewater and the Sacrament of Confirmation at both Newcastle and Touraneena. It was a hectic schedule but ran very smoothly thanks to the cooperation of all involved. Furthermore, we enjoyed a successful Religious Inspection in April and held a Graduation Mass in late June. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is planned for the Nire on Sunday 21st May 2017 and Sunday 28th May in FMW. 2017 will also see Confirmation taking place in Newcastle, It will return in 2018 and alternate years thereafter.

Visitors.

Past pupils visited us this year to share their success with us. We welcomed Ballymacarbry Ladies Footballers in September, following their 35th in a row, Conor Gleeson/Dermot Ryan following their U-21 All Ireland in October and we hosted the Nire Seniors in November, after their county final win, complete with Jamie Barron fresh from claiming his well deserved All Star. We also congratulate Seamus Kennedy and Gavin Ryan, who both collected All Ireland medals with Tipperary at both senior and minor level respectively.

Activities.

In addition to curricular areas, other events concerning us this year would have been; Active Week, our 4th Green Flag for Transport, Bike Day with Hans, A Cake Sale for Crumlin Hospital, Roald Dahl Day in September to commemorate the famous author's 100th birthday, Christmas Shoebox Appeal, amassing 109 boxes, Proclamation Day, Scout Day, Class photographs, Swimming & Drama Lessons, Healthy Eating Week, Local Field Trips, School Tours, Credit Union Quiz, numerous art competitions, our newly designed fairy garden to the rear of the school, Uniform Exchange & Open Day. We received our Discover Science & Maths Award and are currently planning a fundraiser to assist Dungarvan Lions Club in their Christmas Hamper Appeal. The only negative side of 2016 would have been the robbery which took place in mid-March. Thankfully nothing was taken but structural damage was inflicted.

Success.

The school enjoyed much success in 2016. We won both the Girls West and County "A" titles in November to capture back to back double titles under Miss O'Gorman. We also won the Boys and Girls 7 a side in May. We unfortunately lost out to Abbesside in the

Boys West "A" Final after a great run with very young players. Shauna Parker represented us in Croke Park as did Fionn Hallahan. We enjoyed success in music circles too. Like sport, much is done to promote the Irish culture of music song and dance. Mrs Kelly's Banna Ceoil is renowned. We participated in Amhrán na nDeise Concert in the Town Hall Theatre, Dungarvan in late November. We play music for the over 55 Club close to Christmas and stage a two night concert at the Centre in Late December every alternate year, of which 2016 is one. We congratulate our past pupils who enjoyed success at both Munster and All Ireland Fleadh and also those who won Scór with Sliabh gCua and who visited our school in spring.

Community Links.

'It takes a community to raise a child' and we are proud of our links to the community and the two way relationship that exists. We enjoy strong links with both parishes, GAA, Soccer, Scouts, Tidy Towns, Cluain Cairbre and Ballymacarbry Community Centre. We would have played significant roles in Centenary Celebrations and also contributed to an enjoyable launch of Féile na nGael in April. Eoin Wall deserves special mention in assisting with coaching at our school. Annually we play our part in the Tidy Towns application and also incorporated the work of the scouts into our Active Week activities in June. We congratulate them and our pupils on national success this year too. We wish Garda Mansfield all the best in his new appointment and welcome his successor, Garda Phil Dee to the area.

Buíochas.

I take this opportunity to thank our staff for all their work at our school, our teachers, our SNA. We are blessed to have such an enthusiastic bunch who gives of their time so freely. I thank the BOM under the guidance of Thomas and the P.A. under the stewardship of Jo. Many of the projects mentioned above are in conjunction with the P.A. I want to mention our visiting teachers, supervisors Majella and Angela, cleaner Tina, lawn keeper Kevin, our caretaker Darren and secretary Rose, who has been the voice and face of the school for almost 20 years now. Thanks to Ned Moore, Pat Mangan and Ned Morgan who are always there when called upon. Special mention also to our bus drivers who ensure our children get to and from school on a daily basis and you the parents who are the primary educators and who help the school in countless ways.

Reminder.

Those wishing to enrol for June 2017 should contact the school immediately and return an application form. An Open Day will be held in early June 2017 when further information will be relayed.

All that remains for me to do is to wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. We will return to school on Monday 9th January when the wheel of education turns for the first time in 2017 and we get to complete the process all over again.

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir. – Máistir O' Riain.