

# SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL, CILL CHOIRLE

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

### **Mrs Lambert's Retirement**

This month we celebrated Mrs Madonna Lambert's upcoming retirement and gave her a big send off in true Scoil Mhuire gan Smál style, as she hands over the reins after 18 and a half years as our Principal.



Mrs Lambert took over as Principal of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál in September 2001, following the retirement of Séamus Corrigan. She joined what was then a small rural school with just 86 pupils and 3 other teachers - Mrs Kathleen Sharkey, Mr John McCarthy, and another new appointment to the school, a newly-wed Mrs Catherine Donnelly! On the left you can see a photograph of her with her very first 5th/6th class students in 2001.

Amongst the many changes overseen by Mrs Lambert during her Principalship were two major school extensions, the development of our beautiful outdoor environment, and the expansion of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál into what is a thriving school community of 134 families, 209 pupils and 17 members of staff. All of this, while always giving her care and kindness to each and every person who has passed through our doors.

A tree-planting ceremony was held in honour of Mrs Lambert on Friday 13th December. The whole school community welcomed Mrs Lambert and her husband Michael to the event. A red horse chestnut tree was chosen to symbolise Mrs Lambert's strong roots in Kilkerry. Rachel Gorman from 6th Class recited a beautiful poem and Tomás Fee from Junior Infants presented Mrs Lambert with flowers. Parents and pupils, past and present were invited to attend a Tea Party organised by Kilkerry Parents Association following the ceremony.



On Thursday 19th December the school held a concert in honour of Mrs Lambert, with members of Mrs Lambert's family, past staff members, parents, Board of Management members, and invited guests in attendance. Each class in the school performed their tributes to Mrs Lambert, with the staff even joining in with their performance of 'Fairytale of Kilkerry'. Ms Condron's masterpiece 'Planet Principal', a humorous take on the daily life of our fabulous Principal was very well received! A slideshow curated by Ms Condron and Ms Fahy played a selection of 'selfies' sent in from far and wide to celebrate the impact Mrs Lambert has had on so many lives during her career. Mrs Lambert was presented with gifts from the staff, the Parents Association, and the Board of Management. A beautiful artwork created by Claire Conway containing fingerprints of everyone in our school was a particularly poignant gift. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to what we hope was a fitting tribute to our much-loved retiring Principal!

Mrs Lambert, from all of your pupils and staff, past and present, parents and our wider local community, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have given us over the years. You have been such a special person in our lives, and we will dearly miss you. We wish you many happy years in your retirement!



## Care Programme Theme: Belonging



Our care programme theme for this month is '**Belonging**'. The children have been working on building a sense of belonging, while celebrating their individuality.

## Advent Penitential Service

The annual advent penitential service for 3rd-6th class took place in the Church on Wednesday 18th December.



## Ceremony of Light



6th Class children who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation next year took part in a beautiful 'Ceremony of Light' in the church on the evening of

4th December. Fr Brian MacRaois was celebrant on the evening.

## Credit Union Poster Competition

Well done to all of the children who entered the 2019 Credit Union Poster Competition this year. The theme was 'Walk of Life', and encouraged the children to draw inspiration from positive changes in their community or in wider society. The winners were chosen by BHK Credit Union and were:



- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Prize: | <b>Naoise Harris</b>       |
| 2nd Prize: | <b>MaryKate Mulholland</b> |
| 3rd Prize: | <b>Oisín Donnelly</b>      |

## PA Pop-Up Shop

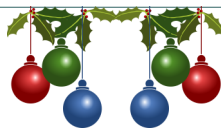
Kilkerley Parents Association would like to express their thanks to everyone who helped out with the recent Pop-Up Shop in the Longwalk Shopping Centre.

The fantastic total of **€2200** was raised through this fundraiser.

## Date for Your Diaries

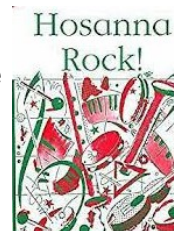


Parents of Junior and Senior Infant children please note that the Infant Classes 'Bedtime Story Night' will be held during World Book Week, on the evening of Wednesday, 4th March 2020. Further details to follow.



## Christmas Show

We had a wonderful attendance on Thursday 5th December for our annual Christmas concert, held in the Community Centre. The children, right from Junior Infants all the way to 6th class, came together to give a fantastic presentation of our show 'Hosanna Rock'. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!



Our choir and musical ensemble finished the night with some beautiful musical performances. A big thank you to **Kathleen Ryan**, Ella's grandmother, who once again volunteered to work with our choir this term.

Thank you all for your donations at the door, and for your support of our raffle. A big thank you to **Ian McEvoy** and **Peter Kelleher** who organised the donations at the door, and to our Chairperson **Geraldine Kirk** who organised our raffle. Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners!

Thanks also to our sponsors for the raffle, **Cutting Crew Hair Salon**, **Nortech IT**, **McCaughy's Farm Shop Castleblayney**, and **The Spotted Dog Restaurant**.

## Junior Entrepreneur

5th Class Entrepreneurs had their very own version of "Dragon's Den" on 10th December.



Huge thanks to our Dragons who were **Lorraine Quigley**, **Vincent Mulligan** and **Fergus Byrne**. The boys and girls presented their business ideas and the Dragons helped them to choose a product for this year's programme; *Super Spinners*!

Next, the children will be carrying out research and development, production, sales and marketing for their product.



## Special Visitor

Rumour has it that **Santa Claus** will be paying a visit to all of the good boys and girls at Scoil Mhuire gan Smál very soon!

## Christmas Holidays

School closes at **12pm** on **Friday 20th December** and will re-open on **Monday 6th January 2020**.

**Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas time and every blessing for the New Year.**

