



Website: www.loughgurns.com

Tel: (061) 385004

Email: loughgurns@gmail.com

Dear Lough Gur community newsletter readers,

December has come and gone in Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir. It has been a fun filled month with the boys and girls preparing for and performing in their Christmas concert. We will now enjoy a two week break and return to school refreshed on 5th January 2023. Here are some of the events and activities that have taken place in our school during a busy December:

School Meals Kicks Off in S.N. Loch Guir

Friday 2nd December saw us commence the DEIS School Meals Programme in our school. We welcomed Gormlaith, an ambassador with 'The Lunch Bag', to our school to train our staff to provide hot meals to the children and to provide the boys and girls with their very first meal. Since its launch the programme has been a massive hit. The chicken curry, pepperoni ciabatta and chicken goujon baguette are favourites of the pupils. A big thank you to Margaret Noonan, our SNA, for undertaking the preparation of the food each day for our students.



Parents Association

The Parents Association met on Tuesday 6th December at 7 p.m. in Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir. The purpose of this meeting was to nominate a chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Lizzie Hayes, Órla Hicks and Marie Mullins were elected to these positions on the night. Fundraising for the Christmas concert and the organisation of a Christmas party for the pupils on the 21st December were also discussed. Thank you to all those who attended on the night.

Christmas Decorations

There was a very festive feeling around Scoil Náisiúnta Loch Guir for the past number of weeks as we decorated our school for Christmas. We upheld the tradition of the boys and girls decorating our Christmas tree with the eldest pupil in 6th class, Grace McLoughlin, assisting our youngest pupil, Lucia Crawford, to place the star at the top of the Christmas tree. There was also plenty of Christmas art on display around the school which really added to the atmosphere in the build up to Christmas. Thanks to Múinteoir Kate and Múinteoir Mary for doing festive activities with the boys and girls.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The boys and girls walked to St. Patrick's Church beside our school to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 8th December. We received a great welcome

from Rev. Fr. Cleary and the other parishioners. We were very proud of our pupils' participation in the mass.

Mr. Scrooge: My Teacher!

Our Christmas concert took place in the Honey Fitz Theatre on Monday 19th December with a matinee performance at 1 p.m. and an evening performance at 7.30 p.m. The pupils performed Mr. Scrooge: My Teacher. We were so proud of their performance. A big thank you to all of the parents for helping the children learn and practice their lines and for dropping in spot prizes for the raffle during the concert. Thank you the Parents Association for organising the event and fundraising at both shows.



Jack and the Beanstalk

We travelled to the Limetree Theatre in Mary Immaculate College on 20th December as a Christmas treat to see the panto performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. It was a great day out with the boys and girls really enjoying the show. Thank you to the Board of Management for funding this trip.



Junior Classroom

December was a very busy month in the Junior Classroom. Our music was based around Christmas songs and singing them along with the guitar. We examined the parts of this instrument in detail and what a plectrum and capo are used for. Seán kindly brought in his guitar to show the class what a children's size looks like and each child had a turn at strumming on it. We then compared it to Muinteoir Carole's guitar. Seán also played us a few songs on his guitar and we all sang along!

As the nights are getting darker, the pupils learnt about road safety and were giving a high vis jacket each to take home. We examined what material the high vis was made from and how it manages to 'glow' in the dark. We also discussed if Santa should wear one while he works on Christmas Eve.

English writing was all about Christmas. We learnt the layout of a letter and wrote our Letter to Santa. The pupils wrote to wish Santa a Happy Christmas and safe flight around the world. Once our letters were written we asked our local Postman Steve to call in and collect them. We also got our picture with him. A



huge thanks to Steve for taking the time to explain to the children how their letters end up in the North Pole!

In History, we learnt about the tradition around Christmas cards. We then wrote and designed cards for our grandparents and for our Caretaker, Niall for all the amazing work he is doing in our classroom from painting to installing display boards on the walls. We also wrote a card to Nell Kennedy who was the school's cleaner here for many years in the school and we wished her a very Merry Christmas too!

In art we designed our very own Christmas jumpers using various fabric and fibre materials. We examined various jumpers online and discussed the different designs and fabric we could use. We also created Junk Art designs to construct Santa's Sleigh and other Christmas themed constructions. Junk art is a fun and exciting way for children to explore new ways of working with different materials. During junk art sessions, children are able to make their own choice of materials for use and free to make their own creations. It is a great way for children to show how creative and talented they can be. The pupils then presented their finished pieces to the class which included a Christmas rocket, a multi-tasking Santa's sleigh, Christmas robots and a snowman.



To top off our busy Christmas themed month, the class were treated to a Christmas Movie along with some hot chocolate and marshmallows to celebrate International Hot Chocolate Day on 13th December. Thanks to our SNA Mags who prepared the hot chocolate which went down a treat!

Senior Classroom

The Senior classes have been working very hard over the past four weeks. Christmas was the theme for the month of December. In Gaeilge we had great fun learning ‘An Nollaig’ vocabulary while playing games such as cluiche loop, cad atá sa mhála?, cluiche kim, cluiche biongó, éist agus tarraing, agus ceithre sa line. We practiced our Christmas greetings and responses as Gaeilge which the pupils used to greet staff throughout December.

3rd and 4th class wrote a biachlár don Nollaig (A Christmas dinner menu) while 5th and 6th wrote a story about siopadóireacht na Nollaig (Christmas shopping).

We also completed a Christmas card art activity through Irish.

Our literacy lessons tied in with our Christmas play where we read an extract adapted from Charles Dickens’ novel ‘A Christmas Carol’. The pupils enjoyed learning more about the character of Ebenezer Scrooge. In oral language, we discussed weather, with a particular focus on wintry weather, and weather idioms. We participated in a pair work task where one pupil drew the literal meaning of a weather idiom while their partner drew the figurative meaning. We also completed some creative writing tasks including writing a Christmas menu for Mr. & Mrs. Claus, writing ten questions for an interview with Santa, writing a list of instructions for caring for Santa’s reindeer, an A-Z Christmas taxonomy and writing a story titled ‘The Day Rudolph went missing’.

Múinteoir Kate focused on the World Cup in Qatar with the pupils in SESE. The boys and girls independently researched and completed projects on a country participating in the tournament. In science, they conducted a bouncing ball experiment designed to introduce the pupils to the effects of gravity and further explore forces. In art we designed Christmas



jumpers, created no knit woolly hats, created winter tree silhouettes, designed Santa's workshop, created a map of the North Pole and participated in some guided drawing activities using Art Hub for Kids.

Santa visits S.N. Loch Guir

The Parents Association organised a special visit from Santa Claus for the boys and girls on 21st December in the Honey Fitz Theatre. The pupils were treated to a small gift from Santa alongside a disco and party food. It was a great success and a lovely way to spend the last day of school this year. Thank you to the Parents Association for organising.



Wishing you all a Happy New Year,

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Denis Kennedy

Denis Kennedy

An Príomhoide

Carole Cleary

Carole Cleary

An Príomhoide Tánaiste