**2018/2019 School Newsletter**

Welcome to our new termly newsletter.

As we begin Christmas holidays here is a recap of term one.

**August/September**

* We welcomed all our pupils back. A special welcome to John Linnane, Eanna O’Leary, Anna McCarthy, Zoe Hynes, Freddie Connole, Simon O’Neill and Violet Casey. Wishing you all years of happiness in our school.

* We commenced training for the annual cross country running in Kilinaboy.
* Hurling commenced with Peter Casey.
* Heritage in the School Scheme: We were fortunate to have Gordon Darcy come to the school on Sept 11th. He carried out art sessions with all the children followed by a seashore safari. Down at the beach, the children explored the rockpools and trawled the beach for items of interest!
* Wednesday 26th Sept, Aoife from Dog Trust came to speak to all the children about Dog Safety. A very interesting and educational talk!
* Football commenced for both boys and girls {snr room only}. The children play with their neighbouring schools, New Quay and Carron. Many thanks to Mary Reidy New Quay for all her hard work and dedication to this.

**October**

* On Oct 3rd, we got a bus to Kilinaboy for the cross-country running races. Well done to all children for competing! Congratulations to all the children for finishing the race. A special congratulation to our girls who got team prizes, Suzie Hynes {Under 8}, Noelle Byrne, Edi Clarke and Annie Hynes {Under 10’s}.
* October 4th Streamscapes Programme. Stephanie & Karen arrived at the school. Stephanie carried out a workshop on invertebrates for all the children. Thereafter Karen carried out a workshop on the Caher & Aille Rivers. She had water samples from both rivers and the children had to locate and identify various living things!
* October 8th, Aoife Casby was invited to the school as part of Writer in School Scheme. Aoife carried out a poetry workshop with both classrooms using a potato as stimuli. Very interesting poems and stories were written!
* Girls Football Semi Final took place. Unfortunately, the girls were beaten by Doolin in the semi final!
* October 10th, we invited Wendy Smith into the school to discuss the annual shoebox appeal.
* October 11th, the children in the senior room travelled to Ennistymon to participate in a hurling blitz. Children were divided up and put into different teams with children from different schools. Very enjoyable day was had!
* October 17th the children in the senior room travelled to Ennistymon library to participate in a writing workshop with author Caroline Busher.
* Tuesday 23rd, the boy’s county final took place in Cusack Park. We were successful in beating Doora. Well done to all our players, special congrats to our captain James Costello and Emily Howard who got woman of the match!
* Thursday 25th, we were extremely lucky to have renowned actress Denise Gough visit us! Denise told the children a story, followed by a drama workshop with all the children.
* Halloween Party on Sunday 28th October was organised and run by the parents for the school children. What a Spooktacular occasion!

**November**

* The Annual Readathon commenced. The importance of reading can never be over emphasised! Please encourage all children to read and to continue to read even when the Readathon is over.

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.”
― **Charles W. Eliot**

* The Annual Shoe Box Appeal was held. A total of 29 boxes were collected on Nov 10th. Many thanks to all parents and children for supporting this!
* Medal Presentation took place on Monday 19th Nov here in our school. Pat McCarthy presented the medal to all our winners.
* We commenced practising for our Christmas Pageant.
* Science Week: as part of this, Ms Scales brought the children in the senior room to UL. Here they participated in a workshop ‘’Cell Explorers’’. This workshop was based on DNA, each child got to distract DNA from a banana.

**December**

* On Sunday 9th Dec, we gathered in the church to perform our play. Well done to all the children!
* Dec 13th, all children went to the pub to help make and decorate decorations for both the pub and school. Many thanks to Angie for her creativity and hard work.
* On Dec 17th, we boarded the bus and travelled to Limerick to see Snow White. What a fantastic show!!
* Dec 20th, as part of Heritage in the School scheme, Melanie Lorien will work with the children. Melanie will be working with straw to make Christmas decorations.
* Dec 21st school closes for our Christmas holidays.

**General:**

**SPHE Stay Safe Programme**

**This programme will commence in January. Please familiarise yourself with the content. All information can be found on www.staysafe.ie**

**Policy Development**

The Board of Management have reviewed/ratified the following:

Data Protection Policy was ratified by the board.

Note: Our Child Safeguarding statement and Risk Assessment statement are available on our website or in the school.

**Staff**

**Continuous Professional Development**

Both teachers attended training

Oct 18th, the area covered was Child Protection.

Nov 20th, the area covered was RSE {Relationship and Sexuality Education}

Nov 21st, the area covered was Fundamental Movements.

**Gardening**

Many thanks to Ali Hynes for her work on our school garden.

**Ancillary Staff**

A big thank you to our ancillary staff: Pat McNamara, Annemarie O’Driscoll and Eilish O’Donoghue who work very hard for the school.

**Website**

Don’t forget to check out our website [www.fanorens.com](http://www.fanorens.com). All the above outings/events etc. can be viewed on the website under the news section.

**Fundraisers:**

Each year several fundraisers are held. The monies raised are primarily used for bus costs throughout the year.

*To date:*

* Caravan Park: €905
* Clothes Collection: €210
* Church Gate Collection: €519
* Gingerbread Cookies: to be collected and announced

We would like to thank Anu Byrne and all the parents who helped make the Gingerbread Cookies fundraiser a great success! A lot of hard work has gone into this and it is much appreciated by staff and the board of management.

**Please take note of the following dates**

* School re-opens on Monday 7th January.
* Swimming lessons commence on Wednesday 9th January for 12 weeks. Cost per child per lesson is €6. Children will be travelling to SeaWorld by bus.
* **Mid Term break:** School will be closed from Monday 18th Feb until Monday 25th Feb.
* March 18th: no school due to Public holiday.
* March 29th: Confirmation takes place in Ballyvaughan at 11am. School will close for the junior room children at 12 o’clock.
* Easter Holidays: School will close on Friday April 12th and reopen on April 29th.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents and members of the community for their help and assistance so far this school year. Without this assistance many of our outings, activities would not be possible.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and happy Christmas, I look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

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**Brid Queally**

Principal

**Board of Management**

Anne Pilkington Olaf O’Neill

 Brid Queally Carol Scales

Paula O’Leary Michael Clerkin

 Joan Howard Fr. Richard Flanagan

