**2014/2015 School Newsletter**

Welcome to our annual school newsletter.

As we begin our summer holidays here is a recap of the school year.

**August/September**

* We welcomed our new students Nathaniel Byrne, Ryan Malone, Harry O’Neill, Paddy O’Donohue, Liam Hynes, Annie Hynes & Evelyn Mc Carthy into Junior Infants. We also welcomed Jane Smith, Robyn & Luca Mele. We hope they will be very happy at Fanore National School.
* We commenced training for our annual cross country running in Kilnaboy.
* On Sept 11th, the whole school went out collecting blackberries in the nearby ditches. We found some juicy berries which we later used for our blackberry & apple Clobber. This served with ice-cream went down a treat!
* Football: John Enright started his 8 week coaching sessions.
* Hurling lessons commenced with Peter Casey and continued until Christmas. Many thanks to Peter for his dedication to the lessons! Hail, rain or shine we were outside practising our skills. Children have benefited greatly and are improving all the time.
* Marielle Hesper returned to work in our school on a voluntary basis 2 days a week. Marielle teaches German to children from 1st-6th class and also helps the class teachers.

**October**

* October 1st, we travelled to Kilnaboy for the Annual Cross Country Running. Children from 1st class up competed and did extremely well. Well done to Jessica O’Donohue and Emily Howard on getting placed and receiving a sports top from The Ballyvaughan Medical Centre.
* October 9th, Mrs Queally and her children went to see storyteller Niall De Burca in Glor. His show this year was called “Where the poppies grow”.
* October 16th saw Maddie come into the school to speak to the children about the Christmas Shoeboxes. She explained to all the children what could be put in boxes etc. We also watched a DVD of the children getting their shoeboxes last Christmas.

**November**

* The Readathon which is held every year commenced. This is great for stimulating the children’s interest in reading. An amazing amount of books were read and reports written by the children.
* The Annual Shoe Box Appeal was held. A total of 32 boxes were collected on Nov 10th. Many thanks to all parents and members of the community for supporting this!
* Nov 10th, children from 5th and 6th class participated in the AIB Bake Off. This was the 1st part of this competition. Each child in 5th & 6th class baked a dish/cakes for the 2 judges from Ennistymon AIB to taste. The judges thereafter forwarded James O’Driscoll and Grace Howard to the finals in December.
* Science Week: This year for Science Week we tried something different. The children in the senior room participated in Irish Bebras Computing Contest. The Irish Bebras Computing Contest (IBCC), is an All Ireland problem-solving challenge with a focus on computational and logical thinking, is part of the [International Bebras Computing Contest](http://www.bebras.org/) which introduces Computer Science to students. It is designed to get students at a young age excited about computing. It also aims to identify and encourage students having a talent in the area of computational thinking. The questions were in the form of engaging puzzles, related to computer programming.
* We commenced practising for our Christmas Pageant. Lots of songs, dances to be performed.

**December**

* On Sunday Dec 7th, we gathered in the church to perform our play. Angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, wise men all featured! It was a great performance! We were also fortunate to have a photographer from the Irish Independent in the audience. Children featured in the Irish Independent newspaper on December 9th.
* AIB Bake Off Final in the Armanda. Congratulations to James & Grace on reaching the final. The children made their dish/cake again on this day. Unfortunately they didn’t win the overall prize however it was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. Both Grace & James received a medal and got to meet with Marty Morrissey and Podge Collins.
* Back to the 80’s! On Dec 10th, the whole school travelled to Lisdoonvarna to see Back to the 80’s! It was a fantastic show!
* On Dec 16th, we jumped on the bus and travelled to Limerick to see Jack & the Beanstalk. This pantomime was hilarious and thoroughly enjoyed by both teachers and children.
* On Dec 17th, Michael Browne came to the school to work with the children from 1st-6th class with regards to electricity. Children had two hours of making circuits, learning about insulators and conductors etc. This was a hands on day!

**January**

* The children commenced their annual swimming lessons in Lahinch. The bus costs are paid by the various fundraising activities held during the year to defray the cost on parents.
* On Thursday 22nd January, Noirin from Irish Explorers Programme came to the school. Noirin showed the children a variety of items from the sea. She also asked the children to create projects based on the sea.
* Google 4 Doodle. Children in the senior room designed amazing doodles for this competition. The theme this year was “My Perfect Day”.
* Work commenced on The Blue Star Programme. The aim of this programme is to foster better knowledge and understanding of the European Union and how it affects our lives. Children from Juniors upwards work on classroom projects and activities. This is our 4th year participating in this programme.
* Jan 31st, children made St Brigid’s Day crosses.

**February**

* On Tuesday 17th February, Susanna Anker from Heritage in the Schools Scheme came to the school. Susanna has many years experience delivering textile craft workshops to children. Her workshop introduced the children to the world of wool – where it comes from and how it is spun, dyed, woven and felted. The children were given the opportunity to spin their own wool and to create their own piece of felt. The children also examined a selection of traditional wool-spinning tools and a range of sheep’s wool skins dyed using locally grown plants. The children also tried on a selection of hand-crafted garments made from sheep’s wool.
* On Wed 18th, Noirin from Irish Explorers Programme returned. Noirin examined our projects and artwork as part of the programme. Also on this day, the children saw a squid been dissected!
* On February 24th frogspawn was spotted in abundance in our pond.

**March**

* March 2nd: Science Fair in the Auburn Lodge. As part of this fair, children from 1st-6th class worked in pairs to present their experiments to other children, teachers and parents. It was a great experience for the children and we hope to participate again in this.
* St Patrick’s Day Parade. Well done to all our children who participated in this year’s parade. To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge that coincides with St Patrick’s day, the children wore their names as Gaeilge. Many thanks to the parents that co-ordinated the children on the day.
* Readathon Awards. Our annual readathon finished on Thursday 26th March. Well done to all our children who participated. Congratulations to Eoghan Burke, Emily Howard, Holly O’Driscoll, Robyn Mele, Cindy Kruth and James O’Driscoll on receiving prizes for “Outstanding Achievement” in reading. Keep up the great work!!



**April**

* Hurling Blitz: On April 23rd, children from 2nd class upwards participated in a hurling blitz in Ennistymon. The children were all mixed up and got the opportunity to play with other children from other schools. Great fun was had by all!
* April 26th First Holy Communion: Congratulations to Jane Smith on making her First Holy Communion.
* An Bradán Feasa: Our new mosaic commenced. Sara Foust returned to our school to work with all the children on a giant mosaic of the Salmon of Knowledge. All children were part of this and each child has their own area to work on and complete.

**May**

* Laureate na nOg: On the 7th May, Sarah Webb visited our school. Sarah spoke to the children about her job as an author and about the various books she has written. The highlight of the visit was Sarah writing a story with all the children.
* The Discover Primary Science & Maths logbook was completed and sent off on May 8th! This will be our 11th year competing in this project.
* Doolin Cave #1: On the 13th May the children from Mrs Queally’s room were invited to the Doolin Cave to participate in a pottery workshop. The children made troglodytes and fairies. Back at school, the children brought these characters to life by writing interesting stories about their fairies.
* 14th May: Saw the Red Cross team come to the school. The volunteers showed the children the ambulance and the children in the senior room were given a lesson on CPR.
* Confirmation took place on May 21st in Ballyvaughan church. Congratulations to James, Aine, Grace, Cindy and Christopher on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
* May 28th, news came through to say that we had received our 11th Award of Science & Maths Excellence!!
* May 29th Junior School Tour. On this day, the children in the junior room went with Ms Scales to the Burren Nature Sanctuary in Kinvara. Here the children went on a nature trail followed by playtime in the two playgrounds.

**June**

* June 5th Senior Tour: On this date, children from 2nd -6th class went to Hodson Bay Sports in Athlone. The children participated in a range of water sports followed by a spot of lunch and shopping.
* Doolin Cave Visit #2: The children in the senior room returned to Doolin cave on the 11th June to paint their troglodytes and fairies. On June 20th, their fairies will be placed along the nature trail for all the visitors to see.
* Football County Final: Aine Connole from 6th class played with New Quay and Carron in the county final in Clarecastle against Lissycasey. They were narrowly defeated.
* June 12th Europe Day & Raffle. As part of our ongoing work on the Blue Star programme, we held a Europe Day in the school. The children presented their projects and everyone got to sample a range of dishes from each of the EU countries. Many thanks to all our parents for making/baking/supplying the dishes.
* Raffle: Our annual raffle was held. Congratulations to all our winners! A list of all the winners is available on our website.
* News came through that we had received our 4th Blue Star Award for our work on the EU.
* An Bradán Feasa was mounted onto the wall. It looks superb, well done again to all our children and our artist Sara Foust.
* June 19th Graduation Mass will held for Aine and James who will be leaving us this year. We would like to wish them both a big “Goodbye & Good Luck” in their future studies!

“Do not follow where the path may lead.

Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**General:**

**Policy Development**

This year we completed our 2nd year of our Maths SIP. Work was also completed on our English SIP. This plan will be in place for Sept 2015. Plans are available for viewing on our website.

**Parent’s Council**

On May 11th, Helen Butler spoke with some parents regarding the setting up of a Parents Council for our school.

**Work Experience Students**

Amy Costello completed her work experience with us in the first term. Many thanks to Amy for her work over the term; it was a pleasure having her in our school.

**Staff**

We would also like to thank Marielle for giving her time so freely to the school.

**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 of the above outings/events etc. can be viewed on the website under the news section.

**Fundraisers:**

Each year a number of fundraisers are held. The monies raised are used for bus costs & general maintenance over the school year. A copy of the school fundraisers is available on request from the school.

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



We wish everyone an enjoyable and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all again on Friday Aug 28th.

**Board of Management**

Anne Pilkington Paula O’Leary

 Brid Queally Carol Scales

 Paudge Casey Paul Connole

 Christina O’Connor Fr. Richard Flanagan