

SCOIL NAOMH TREASA NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2023

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to the Parents' Association of Scoil Naomh Treasa ran a Christmas raffle this year to raise funds for a new set of iPads for the school. A massive thank you to all our donors and sponsors. Fundraising is crucial for our school to be able to afford the wonderful resources and facilities that the children deserve. I don't have the total final figure yet but we believe that this has been our biggest and best supported Christmas raffle to date. The amazing support the raffle gets goes a long way and is very much appreciated. A list of winners can be found on Bellewstown NS Parents Association facebook page.

Thank you to our outgoing Parents Association members; Anna Marie, Bridget, Colleen and Deirbhile.

Welcome to our new Parents Association members; Noleen, Sinéad, Zoe and Emily.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher meetings for Senior Infants to 6th class took place in mid-November. Thank you to the teachers and parents for giving your time and attention to these important meetings and for keeping lines of communication open. All feedback I received was very positive from both sides and it's great to see parents and teachers work together as a team in the best interests of all the children. As always, if there are any issues that crop up please feel free to make contact. Junior Infant parent teacher meeting

will take place in the New Year and Ms. Swinburne will issue more info on this in due course.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



Our new Board of Management for 2023-2027 is up and running now. The Board holds 1 meeting per half term where important decisions are made in the best interests of the school.

Patron's Nominee: Joseph Collins (Chairperson)
Patron's Nominee: Fr. Mark English
Teacher's Nominee: Aidan Mc Loughlin (Secretary)
Teacher's Nominee: Martina Swinburne
Parent's Nominee: Pamela Howard (Health and Safety Officer)
Parent's Nominee: Victor Murphy (Health and Safety Officer)
Community Representative: Joan Coyle
Community Representative: Vincent Murray (Treasurer)

FUNDRAISING FOR UNICEF

Over the last few weeks we have had a number of fundraisers take place in our community of Bellewstown in aid of Unicef and their work, especially in Gaza at this time of crisis.

Sheila Scanlon and co. organised a bake sale on Sunday, the 10th December which was held in the front hall of the school after mass.

A Christmas Concert was held in the church on Sunday, the 17th December hosted by Peter Moore and the local choir.

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Finally, the children of 5th & 6th class held a raffle at their school bake sale on Tuesday.

Congratulations to our winners.

1st place: Moya



2nd place: Charlie



Winner of 'Guess how many sweets in the jar': Anna



Overall, a total of **€2,742.70** has been raised for Unicef and will be donated to the charity through the school on behalf of the community of Bellewstown.

SWIMMING LESSONS



After Christmas the children from 1st Class to 4th Class will be starting swimming lessons in Aura, Drogheda on Friday afternoons for 6 weeks. More information and details for payment will be issued through a swimming note and on Aladdin in early January.

DANCE LESSONS

Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 5th and 6th class will have 6 weeks of modern dance lessons on Friday also. Again, more info and details will be sent out when we return in January.

LET'S DANCE



HOT SCHOOL MEALS

We are delighted to have been approved to start the hot school meals programme in our school, hopefully commencing in term 3 this year. This is fully funded by the Department of Social Protection. Lots of work is going on behind the scenes to make this happen and we will have more information on this soon. The tendering process for the suppliers has begun and so far we have been very impressed with the quality, choice and nutritional content of the food available.



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CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to all the boys and girls from 3rd-6th class who represented our school at the Cross Country Championships. Big congratulations to our u11 boys who placed 2nd overall - a fantastic achievement.



NEW INTERACTIVE FLAT PANELS

Both staff and children are delighted with our new Promethean Interactive Flat panels in every classroom in the school. They are a great addition which make both teaching and learning a lot more accessible and enjoyable. Staff training in using the boards to their full capacity will take place in January.



LEGO PROJECT

Every week the children have been extending their learning by using lego. In the younger classes the children are developing their fine motor and sequencing skills in following instructions to build creations based on a theme park.

In the older classes, the children are using technology combined with the lego to develop skills in the areas of coding and programming. Thanks again to STEAM Meath for choosing our school to be part of this project and for gifting all the lego kits to the school.



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

Well done to all the boys and girls who donated gifts and made up shoe boxes for those children who are less fortunate and in need this Christmas. It's always a worthwhile cause and it's a great time to reflect and be grateful and to remember how lucky we are.



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CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

On Thursday we were treated to a spectacle of talent from all the boys and girls in our school. Junior and Senior Infants performed The Nativity through a mixture of acting, singing and dancing. Our 1st and 2nd class entertained us with 'Little Drummer boy' and 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday!'

3rd and 4th class entertained us with 'Santa bring me a dinosaur' (featuring 3 dinosaurs!!) and 'Can't stop the feeling'. Well done to the boys and girls on their beautiful singing, dancing and instrumentals. 5th and 6th lifted our spirits with their selection of Christmas jokes followed by their version of the song 'Snow'.

Finally, a special treat of a violin recital by our 3rd/4th classes and 5th/6th classes. It was incredible to hear how the children are mastering this instrument in such a short space of time. Thank you to their violin teacher Michelle Foy, through Music Generation for her excellent teaching and instilling an appreciation and respect for the instruments.

The Christmas show is always such a special event for the school. A different type of learning takes place for the children. They're not sitting answering Irish questions or working out maths problems. They're learning about team work, co-operation and performance. You can see their confidence grow as they prepare for the show and the sense of pride they have after the performance is tangible. We're so proud of them for their brilliant performances and also so grateful for the staff who put so much time and effort into the preparation.



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5TH/6TH CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Well done to the boys and girls who ran a great bake sale on Tuesday in the prefab. The smell of baking when you walked in the door was glorious and we all feasted on the delicious treats for the day.



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And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,

stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

— Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Wishing all the children, staff, parents and wider school community of Bellewstown a very happy, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas! From Mr Mc Loughlin