



Le Cheile Times



Summer Newsletter

Message from Fiona

It's said that the older you get, the quicker time passes. So, I must be getting very old! This has to have been the quickest year ever! I think it was because it was exceptionally busy. We had the normal things; the academics, sports, ASAs etc. but with the addition of the very busy and active Erasmus project, Little Music Makers and dance classes, time just seems to have evaporated!

There was a very happy vibe in the school, amidst that busyness, as the children were immersed in new projects and the walls reflected the activity with a myriad of imaginative and colourful displays. There were wonderful sounds too from the classrooms and the hall as new songs, dances and routines were learnt. We are truly fortunate to have such a happy and productive school.



This vibrancy is illustrated wonderfully on the video of the workings of the school that was made during the term and is due to be launched on our website shortly. You will be truly proud of your children and the school when you see it! It was shown to the teachers for the first time last week and they were so pleased, they wanted to see it again!

Personally, it has been a difficult term. I have been in and out on a very sporadic basis due to immobility caused by my fractured ankle. I have been in daily contact with the school by telephone and email and thanks to the internet, been able to do a lot of work from home. I have also attended a number of meetings but it's not the same! I would like



News...

Fundraising Committee recruiting new members....

Sports at Le Cheile update

School Tours.....

Crazy Golf Fundraiser

Student Council update

and much more.....!!

to thank Rosemary and Clodagh for carrying the baton for the last number weeks in my absence.

In the pages that follow you will read all about the recent happenings at the school so I won't linger! But one event, I would like to bring to attention is the Crazy Golf fundraiser. It was such a lovely day, thoroughly enjoyed by children and staff alike and managed to raise over €6,300. My heartfelt thanks to the hardworking Fundraising committee for making this possible. The money has been earmarked for things musical in the school next year. We are hopeful that we will get a little orchestra together as a part of that, a project that will take at least three years to embed into the school, I think.

We have a fantastic, happy, high functioning school and it is all thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the partners; parents, staff, Board of Management and, indeed, children. Thanks to each and every one of you that has helped out. A special thank you to the staff who have put in an amazing year's work and the board of Management who work away quietly but so importantly, in the background. Thanks to all the different PTA members and committee who carry out a multitude of roles; bus supervisors, library carers, ASA organisers, disco organisers, newsletter creators, photographers, tea and coffee makers, book fair organisers, committee members etc.

As always, a special thank you is reserved for the quiet man in the background, our BOM Chairperson, Paul Corry. I know of no other chairperson who gives as much of his personal time to support a school. He ensures the physical building is maintained to a high standard and looks after the people in it are as well as possible. *The summer has already started in style. I hope it continues and that whatever you do, that it will be enjoyable! See you on September 1st!*

Fiona

John Whelan Remembered: Fiona Rock



We remember John, Chloe's dad, as a most active member of our school community. John always had a smile and a friendly word for all, old and young alike. For many years John was integral to the Catholic Association. John was known for his wonderful photography skills, he and his camera were permanent installations at all school occasions. He recorded and catalogued all events, big and small, attributing the same importance to all. All of us who knew John came to know his reliable and dependable nature. He was a real people person who brightened the day of everyone he met.

Thank you John for these wonderful memories and the legacy you have left us.

A *great night was had by all at the Drogheda Schools Chess League* presentation of awards night which was held in the Boyne Valley Hotel in May. Le Chéile's chess team was presented with their awards for coming in 2nd place in division 1 of the local schools' chess league for 2015/16. The five members of the team, Joshua Birdwisa, Max Russell, Donal O'Byrne, Ronan Egan and Samuel Onabanjo were each presented with a plaque on the night and Joshua and Samuel were also presented with individual board prizes for achieving the highest score on their individual boards throughout the competition. Huge congratulations must go to the team and a big thank you must go to all the children in the chess club who represented the school so well. Well done to all involved.

L *ast term all the preparatory work was done to ready the vegetable beds for planting*, thanks to Ken and the committee's hard work. Classes were allocated their vegetables and planting began after the Easter break. Signs were prepared by the committee and were put in all the beds to show each class and what is growing in each bed. The vegetables are growing very well at the moment with rhubarb, peas, potatoes and tomatoes doing extremely well. The committee regularly weeds the beds and surrounding area and various garden ornaments were purchased to brighten up the beds and the railings. It is looking very well presently so if you get a chance drop down and have a look at it before the summer holidays start. **Monica**



Well the end of another school year is almost upon us and yet again we have seen a super event go off without a hitch. I think you will all agree that the **Golf-a-thon was great fun** and I am delighted to inform you we had **raised just over €6,000 at last count!** This money is to be set aside for the creation of a school orchestra and we will keep you informed as this exciting project gets underway. Just to note that the iPads have now been purchased from the money raised by the Christmas market and will be used for children in the school with special needs. We can't thank you enough for your continued generosity. All the staff and students give 110% to our events and it's always wonderful to see the parents/guardians supporting the school, not just with monetary donations, but the donation of their time. A special thanks goes to Rosemary who not only offered unwavering support but also contributed greatly to the fun on Golf-a-thon day.

It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to Kieran Gallagher as he leaves the Fund Raising Committee. No doubt his son's secondary school will benefit greatly from his infectious humour, enthusiasm and professionalism. Unfortunately, we are also losing June Connell as her daughter moves on to the world of second level education. June's warm personality and creativity will be greatly missed (who could forget her fantastic Santa Grotto?) We will miss you and THANK YOU for all you have done.

So, as you can imagine, **we are in need of new members** for the next school year and beyond if you so wish. While so many of you volunteer for each of the events to "help out on the day" (Thank you!), **we do need a team of folk to invent the actual events.** We have had the best of time inventing and experimenting with ideas for activities that we can then turn into a fundraiser. Commitment wise, for members of the committee over the years, commitment ebbs and flows. Some projects demand more time than others and some committee members find their time is restricted due to personal commitments. So we plan our projects accordingly. We really do share the load. **But mostly we just love to see whatever the new idea is and then make it happen. So what are you thinking? "I might not have many ideas but it sounds like I'd enjoy it." E-mail us!** Or perhaps you are thinking "I've a few ideas but wouldn't really know how to make it come together." E-mail us! There are no problems, only solutions. The biggest draw of all is that you get to engage even more with your child/children's school lives and their school community. It may not make you famous but you do get a few more "Hellos" and "Good Mornings" at the school gates which are always followed with a smile. So, go on and email us today on lecheilefundraising16@gmail.com

Have a happy, fun summer with best wishes from Kieran, June, Aoife, Fiona, Lisa and Rachel aka The Fundraising Committee!





A great sporting year in Le Cheile



This school year the pupils of Le Chéile took part in many different sports. The children from 3rd class to 5th class received swimming instruction from Aura swimming pool.

4th, 5th and 6th classes received Tennis coaching. All classes from 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes received Gaelic coaching. 3rd and 4th classes took part in local leagues organised by St. Colmcilles GAA club and of course we all enjoyed some golf too! Well done to all the boys and girls for taking part in the above events. Taking part in these events is an important part of our P.E. curriculum; the children get the opportunity to train with local football coaches and learn new sporting skills while having fun and working with their class as a team.

This year the Le Chéile football team took part in the Corn Cois Ferraige Competition. Our football team is made up of boys and girls from 5th and 6th classes. The team trained very hard every week with their coach, Brendan, they played 5 games in total, competing with local schools in the area. **The team worked very well together and did Le Chéile proud! Well done to all team members- Aaron Callaghan, Oisín Lynch, Max Russell, Cillian Quigley, Alex Elliott, Molly Lacey, Joshua Birdwisa, Craig Conor, Pádraig Finn-Gallagher, Seán Fox, James French, Rory Mulroy, Evan Byrne, Tom Feehan, Meadhbd Campbell, Melody Craig- Boyle, Joshua Gartland, Ciarán Hackett, Grace Elliott and Jodie Welthagen.** We will miss the boys and girls from 6th class but we look forward to welcoming new members to the football team next year.

Clodagh



Le Cheile & Boyne Hockey Club

Le Cheile was represented by students from Senior Infants – 6th class for the Annual Boyne Hockey Club Primary Schools Blitz back in May. The Le Cheile girls played great hockey against girls and boys from many of the local schools in the area and gave a great display of the skills they learned throughout the year! St Peter's School however emerged as worthy winners on the day! It was a fantastic day and a great end to another successful season for the club. The girls will resume hockey training again in September, every Saturday morning on the grounds of Drogheda Grammar School.



This year a selection of countries from Europe have teamed up to create our Erasmus+ Project 'Magic and Myths Unite Europe'. These countries are Spain, Sicily, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Romania and of course Ireland. The aim of this project is to learn about other countries, and to help everybody see that Europe is united through our love of stories and legends.

We have had a lot of activities this year. First we held an assembly to introduce the project and did projects on all the partner countries. Next we learnt about our own myths and legends from Ireland and had a great visit from **Niall De Burca the storyteller**. It was very enjoyable. Then we visited local sites of mythical interest. One group from our school visited Knockbridge in Co. Louth as they followed in the footsteps of our great hero Cú Chulainn. We also had our wonderful exhibition and were really overwhelmed by the amount of projects we received.





Our most recent activity involved learning about a story from another country. When the teachers and SNA's visited Spain they held a raffle. We were matched with Romania. They asked us to study Dracula. This was great because Dracula was written by an Irish person. Heather's 6th class made a short animated film to tell the story. This animation took over a week to complete and we had lots of fun. When Heather and Eva visited Cyprus they played the movie for the other countries. They were all very impressed and Romania especially enjoyed the movie and said we did a great job.



We were also really excited to receive our Pandora's Box from Romania as a thank you.

Romania gave us an antique box filled with a ceramic horse shoe, a Romanian flag, a traditional ceramic shoe, some sweets and a whistle shaped like a bird. We sent our Pandora's Box to Spain as they studied The Salmon of Knowledge. We filled our box with all sorts of things including some traditional Irish food such as Barry's tea and Tayto, flags, bookmarks and more.

The whole school has really enjoyed working on the project and can't wait to continue next year. Please

look at our website www.magicandmythsuniteeurope.weebly.com . Take a look at our Dracula movie and the photos from our Pandora's Box.

By Kaelah Maguire & Sophie Sherlock (Heather's 6th Class).



Great day on the fairway!!



There have been many great days in the 2015/16 school year, but I think the 27th of May will be one that will long be remembered. It was the Crazy Golfathon fundraising event and the feel good factor that it had for us, staff and students alike, was well above par! The yard was a blaze of colour and the golf course was stunning – our very own Augusta! The children made their way ‘masterfully’ around the course and the concentration and focus was wonderful to watch. Many of the adults – staff and parents, were also doing some teeing up themselves! The buzz around the school was great and there was a real sense of the event. The great finale of Rock the Boat and YMCA was a sight to see – all the students, staff and parents singing and dancing in the sunshine. That memory will long stay in the minds and hearts of all who were part of the day. Many thanks to all who made that possible, and to all who contributed so generously in their sponsorship.

Rosemary

The Student Council



The Students' Council elections were held in October and the following students were elected by their classes:

- + Third Classes: Grace French (Kim's class) Jessica Allen (Monica's class)**
- + Fourth Classes: Freya Ring (Nicola's class) Alex Russell (Maureen's fourth)**
- + Fifth Classes : Abby Barnett (Susan's class) Robyn Hughes (Aidan's class)**
- + Sixth Classes: Tara Savage (Heather's class) Dónal O Byrne (Fiona's class)**

We set about doing an inventory of games bought for the yard : these include Large scale Chess and Connect 4, Draughts, Snakes and ladders , Xs and Os , Skittles , Hopscotch and two large wigwams!

We typed up labels for these and bought boxes to transport these to and from the yard. Unfortunately, it has been a really wet winter and we are only getting to use the games this term.

We also have come up with ideas to have games painted (by a reputable company) onto the yard.

This term, excitement is growing ahead of our Le Chéile X Factor Talent contest

The student's council have been working diligently on preparations for the concert, designing advertising posters and getting ready to act as comperes and judges for the competition. Each class (from 3rd to 6th) is putting forward their best two acts (as voted by their classes).

We wish all competitors the best of luck in the competition. There will be trophies and prizes for the winning acts.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thanks all the student Councillors for all their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Maureen

Summer term activities for Junior and Senior Infants

Junior and Senior Infants have been very busy this term. On Friday 3rd June we had our annual **Teddy Bear Picnic**, where the children enjoyed a picnic on the field with their teddies. The girls and boys also participated in sprinting and egg and spoon races, where the focus was on enjoyment. On Thursday 16th June both Junior and Senior Infants entertained parents with a medley of songs that they learned during their Little Music Maker sessions with Maria Sheil. The songs included "**Dressed in Red**", "**Mr. Wolf**", "**Oh Granny**" and "**Goodbye Mr Wolf**", which told the story of Little Red Riding Hood.



Junior and senior infants performing for their families

Junior and Senior Infants School Tours

All the infant classes enjoyed a trip to the farm for their school tour. Senior Infants headed off in style on a double decker bus to Newbridge Farm. Excitement was at an all time high when we arrived. A quick bite to eat and we set off to meet the animals. The mischievous goat who had escaped from his mammy was certainly one of the highlights of the day, especially when the girls bumped into her in the toilets. We rounded off the day in the state of the art playground on site. The noise levels on the bus had somewhat decreased on our return trip, as a great day was had by all.

Meanwhile Junior Infants had a fun packed day at Newgrange Farm. They couldn't believe their luck that they could help out on the farm; feeding the hens, bottle feeding the lambs and throwing bread to the ducks. Some children even got to pet some puppies and hold tiny little chicks. The children enjoyed a tractor and trailer ride through the fields where they saw oats and barley growing. There was great excitement when the tractor got "stuck" on the hill and the children had to save the day.

2nd Class School Tour

On Thursday the 16th of June, 2nd Class went on their school tour to Tayto Park. We had great fun in the Eagle's Nest on all the different rides. Next, we went on a tour of the factory and saw how all the yummy crisps were made. We got to see some animals and even met Mr. Tayto Man himself. Everyone was very happy heading home with a big packet of crisps!



Senior School Tours 2016



Le Chéile senior students really enjoyed their school tours!

- **Third class** went to **Slieve Gullion** where they went on a walking tour around a mountain. They saw fairy doors and houses along the way and they even saw a witches head! They played in a playground and treehouse and everyone had a treat. They had to protect the forest by completing different fun challenges.
- **Fourth class** went to **the National Art Gallery in Dublin**. They went on the Picasso tour while they were there and they learned about the materials Picasso used and observed his artwork. Afterwards they went to the park where they saw a hot air baloon and had a treat!! They stopped off at Malahide castle on the way home for the playground and an ice-cream.
- **Fifth class** went to **Causey farm**. They saw puppies, milked a cow, went chicken catching and blew some giant bubbles! There were two mazes they went through, one made of haystacks and one of mirrors. They also completed an obstacle course! At the end of the day they jumped into a bog!! Everyone got dirty but it was worth it!
- **Sixth class** went to **the Crystal Maze in Cavan**. They were split into different groups and went through a series of physical, mental and skill challenges. One group called themselves 'Beans on Toast'! They won crystals if they completed a challenge. All of the teams earned over 100 crystals each and the school was awarded with a crystal trophy.

All students agree that this year's school tours were AWESOME!!

Le Cheile Choir



This year our choir have been working hard and have performed at various events including: a competition among other schools from the area, a Walton's Music competition as well as 6th Class Graduation. As has been traditional over the last number of years, we will also host our own mini-concert as a showcase for all parents of the choir children.

The boys and girls involved have put enormous amounts of time and effort into the school choir and continue to do Le Chéile proud. Our repertoire for the mini-concert includes our old favourite My Paddle/Land of the Silver Birch as well as Grace and Ar Scath a Chéile to name a few.

The choir are sad to be saying goodbye to 11 of our number who are leaving after this year, they will be greatly missed. Some of these members have been in the choir for the last 3 years and we will miss them enormously, they have given over a huge chunk of their lunchtimes and I thank them for it.

None of our work with the choir would have been possible without the understanding and flexibility of 4th, 5th and 6th class teachers as well as Rosemary & Fiona.

The Choir look forward to welcoming a new batch of young singers in September. Well done to everyone involved and above all, keep singing!

Nicola K

The Catholic Association

The school term 2015 / 2016 has drawn to a close and the summer holidays are here! Yet again the Catholic Association for Le Cheile Educate Together N.S has had another productive & busy year. 29 of our children made their First Holy Communion and 36 young adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

On Saturday 21st of May, we celebrated the First Holy Communion Mass with Fr Noel Weir in Sacred Heart Church, Drogheda. The 2nd class children were very much at the centre of the celebration, with each child playing a unique role in the mass.

On Saturday 28th of May, we had a dedicated mass which was celebrated by Fr Denis McNeilis in Star of the Sea Church, Mornington. It was a very dignified and moving occasion. Each of the 6th class students were absolute role models.

We would like to thank the many parents who took the time to get involved in the preparations and reception which helped to make this year's Sacraments even more special for the children and their families. Secondly we wish to acknowledge the work done by all our Class Reps and of course to the parents who supervised our classes throughout the year helping to ensure the well-being of our children.

We also take this opportunity to thank the very generous parents who volunteered for next year's CA Committee for 2016 / 2017. Suzanne Carolan and Tracey Hart will take on the role of Chairperson and Secretary and will be supported by Patricia Geoghegan as Treasurer, Karen Morris & Tess Martin will share the role of School Liaison and Karen Morris will also look after the website. And of course they will be assisted by parents in the roles of Sacrament Reps and Class Reps.

At this time, we would like to remember our fellow committee member and dear friend John Whelan, who sadly passed away recently. John was a long serving member of the committee and was the smiling friendly face that greeted parents, children and teachers at religion class on a Monday evening. He really was one of the nicest people that you could meet - a true gentleman and he will be sorely missed.

Finally, please note that all the information which you need for registration for next September is currently on our website www.camornington.com.

Wishing you all a relaxing and fun filled summer holiday – your outgoing committee – Karen, Trudy, Sylvia, Ailbhe, Maria, Colette, Jenny, Martina & Helen

CA Committee 2015/2016 Le Cheile Educate Together N.S



Students who made their First Holy Communion



The students who made their Confirmation

The Samba

A few months ago, Kieran Gallagher, visited Le Chéile to teach a Samba drumming workshop. Each class 1st, 2nd and 5th had a one hour lesson. It was held in the P.E hall. He taught us how to play tunes on the drums. There were many instruments, even some from Brazil. We all got to play each one. We played a tune using all the instruments. It took a while but in the end we got it!

The instruments were really cool. There were two to three people playing each big drum together. There were tiny drums which were very fun too. We played cow bells which had a large bell and one side and a small bell on the other. We had a lovely time playing the instruments and we hope we can do

BY: AMAL ADIL & TAHA KHAN (Aidan's 5th Class)

The PTA

The PTA would like to thank all the parents for their time, effort and commitment once again this year. It is only with your help that we can ensure that the Le Cheile spirit and community extends beyond the borders of the classroom. We would like to wish you all a very happy and restful summer break and hope you come back refreshed and ready for action in September.

Best wishes,

The PTA

School Calendar 2016 -2017

September 2016:

School re-opens for new academic year on Thursday 1st September 2016

October/November 2016:

School will be closed from Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November inclusive – Mid Term Break.

December 2016 / January 2017:

Christmas Concerts: Wednesday 14th December and Thursday 15th December

School will close on Thursday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 9th January – Christmas Break.

February 2017:

Mid Term Break – Monday 20th – Friday 24th February inclusive

Parent / Teacher Meetings – to be advised

March 2017

School closes on Friday 17th March – St. Patrick's Day

April 2017:

School closes on Friday 7th April and will re-open on Monday 24th April – Easter Break

May 2016:

School will be closed on Monday 1st May – Public Holiday

June 2017:

School will be closed on Monday 5th June – Public Holiday

23rd June – 6th class graduation

30th June – School closes for Summer Break

PLEASE NOTE:

****this calendar is subject to change as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures eg: snow**

School re-opens for new school year on Friday 1st September 2017

This calendar supersedes all previously issued copies. (date of issue: 22nd June 2016.)

