



Abbeyleix South National School

Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Laoise Theas



Fundraiser Concert

The Parents' Association organised The Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert with guest pianist, Allision Kirwan (parent of Aishling, 6th Class and Rory, 2nd class) on Saturday 30th November in St. Michael and All Angels' Church. It was an amazing evening with a mulled wine reception in the school G.P. Hall prior to the concert. Much thanks goes to our wonderful Parents' Association and parent body who put a tremendous amount of work into this very successful and most enjoyable event. The monies raised goes towards school workshops, sports, music, science etc.

Christmas Card Sale

Third and Fourth Class pupils made beautiful Christmas cards using the iris-folding technique during December. Teacher bought each pupil 2 Berol Handwriting pens and a uniball pen with the money raised (€117.00.) Thank you to all who supported us. We were delighted with our result.

Basketball

Third Class up to Sixth Class pupils partook in a Basketball Workshop with Laois Sports Partnership during the month of December.

French Lessons

French lessons for Term 2 have commenced with tutor Isabelle de Toulgoët for Senior Classes.

Website: www.abbeyleixsouthns.ie

Blog www.abbeyleixsouthns.scoilnet.ie

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Welcome

We warmly welcome Ms. Angela Breen to our school while Mrs. Kerr takes Maternity Leave. Ms. Breen is teaching First and Second class.

Welcome Babies

Congratulations to Wendy and Dermot Costelloe on the birth of their son, Ben in November, and also to Laura and William Kerr on the birth of their daughter Kaylee in December.

Parent / Teacher Meetings

Parents of Junior and Senior Infants, First and Second Class pupils attended Parent / Teacher meetings with Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Breen in February.

Teacher Training

Teachers attended Laois Education Centre on Monday 9th December for Primary Language Curriculum Training.

The Baikal Project Art Competition

Thank you to Gary O'Keeffe and John Quinn (The Baikal Project) for visiting our school to collect letters to deliver directly to Santa in his hometown of Rovaniemi in Lapland on the Arctic Circle. Our pupils were so excited to hear that the letters had been delivered. Thanks to John Quinn for calling to our school on Friday 20th December, before we closed for our holidays, to announce the winners of their Art Competition, Aoife O'Connell, Keelin O'Brien Crosland and Sam Walshe were winners. Very excited pupils.

Best wishes to The Baikal Project members as they attempt two Guinness World Records at Lake Baikal in Siberia in February 2020.

Playground

Balance and Climbing Equipment

A huge thank you to the Chairperson of the Parents' Association, Liz Lane, for the massive work she put into securing a grant for us under the Community Enhancement Programme 2019 towards payment for our Active Low Level Trail. It is a magnificent piece of play equipment which was installed during December. Liz sourced the most competitive quotes, under grant guidelines (endless and time-consuming work), organised all the paperwork and the delivery of this playground equipment.

Sincere thanks to Abbeyleix Women's Development Group for their wonderful gift to us which we have used towards the cost of this playground equipment.

And finally, grateful thanks to our Parents' Association for funding the safety surfacing grass mats which are rubber honeycomb mats that sit on top of the grass. They protect the grass and offer extra protection to our pupils.

To all the above mentioned parties, THANK YOU!

Abbeyleix Christmas Lights

Many pupils sang carols and Christmas songs and played the recorder or other musical instruments at the turning on of the Abbeyleix Christmas Lights on Saturday 7th December. We are always delighted to be part of this community event.

A Mobile Planetarium

We were so lucky to have the Mobile Planetarium with us in December. The dome is the most advanced mobile digital planetarium system in the country. It is designed to explore Science, Astronomy, Geology and Geography in a fun and interactive way. We really enjoyed viewing the 360 degree pictures and films. Thanks to our Senior Infants' parents for their fundraising initiative for this amazing workshop.

Nativity Play

Our Christmas Nativity Play this year was "The Egyptian Nativity". It took place on Sunday 15th December in St. Michael and All Angels' Church. A huge amount of time and effort goes into this production with all pupils involved from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. It was a very special night and sincere thanks to anyone who helped in any way to make this such a memorable nativity.

(See School blog for wonderful photos taken by Ann Talbot, Arthur Harvey and Alf Harvey.)

Visit from Scoil Mhuire

We were delighted to perform our Nativity Play for pupils and staff of Scoil Mhuire on Thursday 12th December.

Papa Noni's Pizza—Party Time South School Style

We had a fabulous time at our Christmas Party on Friday 20th December. We enjoyed delicious pepperoni pizzas, chips and sausages from Papa Noni's Restaurant in Abbeyleix. We enjoyed ice cream for dessert. Thanks to our Sixth Class parents for helping out on the day. Parental involvement is always much appreciated.

Visit to Abbeyleix Hospital

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth class pupils visited Abbeyleix Hospital on Wednesday 18th December where they sang Christmas carols and songs with wonderful enthusiasm, bringing happiness to all who were present.

School Details

Telephone no 057- 8731920
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abbeyleixsouthns@gmail.com

Famous Irish Musician

Sharon Shannon

Visits Abbeyleix South N. S.



Third and Fourth Class students had just finished an extensive study of some of Sharon Shannon's best known tunes.

They followed up on this study by writing to the musician herself.

Mrs. Wallace, teacher of Third and Fourth Class received the news on Saturday January 11th that Sharon had offered to come to meet the pupils, play for them and answer any questions they may have.

Sharon arrived with her manager, Anne at the school on Friday January 17th .

The children congregated on the school avenue with handmade banners to welcome her.

They then moved to the G.P Hall where all classes had the opportunity to play instruments with her.

Students in the school who are members of Spink Comhaltas played alongside Sharon also.

Pupils from Third and Fourth Class, who wrote the letters that captured her attention were then lucky enough to have a questions and answers session with the world- renowned performer.

This was an opportunity of a lifetime for our school community. We were truly blessed to have had such a wonderfully gifted musician in our midst. She brought such happiness to our day, with her beaming smile, her immense warmth, her caring nature, her sincerity and her wonderful talent. She touched our hearts and we will never forget it.

Alf Harvey, Arthur Harvey, Ann Talbot were there to capture it all.

Their photographs are on display in the school. Many thanks to Ann (parent of Ruth, 6th class) and to Arthur (parent of Ellen, 6th class) for all the time they gave to the school on the day. Much appreciated.



A DREAM DAY FOR ALL