



CETNS NEWSLETTER

October 2022 | Issue 48

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Following on from our first planning meeting with Bairbre Ní Thuraisig (PDST Advisor) yesterday October 13th we can confirm that our school will be closed for pupils on **Friday December 16th and Monday March 20th**. These closures are necessary to allow staff time to work with Bairbre on Curriculum Planning. As previously explained, we did not take the half day closures in the last 2 years- staff participated in professional development in their own time after school however it is now essential to plan together when working with Bairbre. Our school is in cohort 3 and we had the opportunity to apply for PDST support at the start of this school year. As some parents have children in other schools you may be wondering why things are not the same each year for every school so I hope this explains it.

FREE CYCLE COSTUMES

There will be an opportunity to share pre-loved children's costumes with other parents next week in school. Please send any costumes in next week and we can get them ready for display. We'll have a clothes line in the foyer 24th-28th October and you can drop in a costume or come and see what's on offer. Children can dress up on Friday October 28th however props such as swords, lasers or guns are not welcome. Sometimes the children get too into character! We'll set up class money boxes and save for a class treat. We ask that each child bring in two euro but only if you can-we aren't keeping lists of who brings it in or not.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Our school BOM met on the 29th September and ratified our school policy on Child Protection and Anti-Bullying. We will meet at least 5 times during the year and look at accommodation, policies and planning, the financial running of the school, enrolments and a whole range of items. Our Board is made up of 8 members and we thank them for their time and support. Our Patron (Educate Together) has two nominees on the Board-Jarlath Munnely and Mary Brennan. There are two parent nominees Noel Campbell (Father of Luke 4th and Grace 2nd) and Yvonne Coyne (Mother of Ellie and Abbie in 4th). Two teacher nominees - Sarah and Miriam and two community nominees Mary Malone and Daire Healy. Each person is a nominee on the board and not a representative or a voice of a particular group. The parent nominees discuss items with a parent's perspective however they do not raise concerns or ideas on behalf of parents. Communication is very important to us and so far, no issues have arisen. In order to maintain this can we remind everyone that all matters relating to your child's education should be discussed with your child's teacher initially and if the matter is not resolved, please arrange to speak to the Principal. There are stages which must be adhered to and should something arise during the year copies of the complaints / grievance procedures are available on request from the school office and our policy is on our school website.

WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Miriam has spoken to each class about our Winter Show. We are delighted to confirm the date is Friday December the 2nd and the venue is the TF Royal Theatre. We plan to sell tickets at €10 per seat instead of €15 for adults €5 for children/students. Just to keep it simple and as straight forward as possible. Tickets will be for sale on Eventbrite or similar platform. The TF are being super generous and accommodating in helping us put on the show so any profits made after venue hire, purchase of plays etc will go straight back into activities at school. The aim of the night is to allow pupils to experience performing in a theatre of this size, showcase their talents, see the work that goes into a production and feel the thrill and buzz of being part of a show. School isn't all about academics. Last year our sporty pupils excelled in gymnastics, football and a range of sports. This year it's about self-esteem, confidence, music, song, dance and general performance. Each classroom will give a performance but we also plan on putting together a vocal group lead by Judy and a music group lead by Linda and Sarah. We need our house band back together and new friends to join for our interval act. We are selecting some songs and we'll get back with more information soon. Auditions with the show director (Judy) our producer (Miriam) and MC (Sarah) will be held next week so classes 1st to 5th get practising!

BOOK FAIR

Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to our school November 7th -11th. This is an opportunity to support our school while buying gifts for others or books for your own library. There is always a selection of books and prices to suit all, we encourage everyone to come for a look. We are looking for anyone with a spare half an hour at 1.30 or 2.30 to come and manage the money box. I know a lot of our parents are very busy but if anyone could do even the odd day or one day it would be helpful. If we can't get anyone, we can set up an honesty box so try to have change with you.

LIBRARY VISIT FOR STORY BOOKS FESTIVAL

Deborah and Sarah's Senior and Junior Infants are going to Castlebar Library on Tuesday to meet the Author Erika McGann. This is a free visit and our thanks to Emer in the library for helping us organise it. Erika wrote the popular book "Where are you Puffling" which was a big hit in the Book Fair last year. We ask that the pupils dress for the weather as we'll be walking to and from the library. It would be helpful if children brought dry clothes in their bag in case they get wet.

PITTER PATTER OF TINY FEET

Congratulations to Brenda, James, Charlie and Daithí on their new arrival Séanie. Brenda had a beautiful baby boy last Friday and both Mummy and baby are doing well. Comhgairdeachas Brenda!

SHINING STARS WINNERS

We've had many shining stars in recent weeks. The children are:

HARD WORKER

Date	Room	Name
30/09/2022	Deborah's	Erik
	Patricia's	Mark
	Declan's	Sophia
	Declan's	Ula
	Paul's	Saoirse

BE HONEST

Date	Room	Name
07/10/2022	Deborah's	Oisin
	Patricia's	Kenzie
	Declan's	Packie
	Declan's	Mia
	Paul's	Brooke

BE CONFIDENT

Date	Room	Name
14/10/2022	Sarah's	Louis
	Sarah's	Layla
	Deborah's	Dylan
	Patricia's	Ryan
	Declan's	Noah
	Declan's	Ellie
	Paul's	Lukas

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SECRET HELPERS

A range of jobs get done in our school without most of us noticing they needed doing. Our amazing secretary Jennifer does so much that you don't see but believe us when we tell you she runs the school! Thanks also to David (Jennifer's husband), Eddie (Niamh in 4th's Dad), Lisa (Deborah's sister).

ABSENCES

To notify the school of your child's absence can you use this form www.castlebaretns.ie/attendance. The password is CETNS_access.

PARENT- TEACHER ASSOCIATION-HOME-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Our parent teacher association welcomes everyone at home-parents, grandparents, older siblings, foster parents and everyone in our school-SNAS, secretary, caretaker and teachers to come together to enhance school life. We call it our Home School Association to be inclusive of everyone at home and everyone at school. For the past two years there have not been opportunities to come together but we hope that we can get back to where we left off. Ideally, we would have had a coffee morning for new Junior Infant parents on the first day of school and a range of activities planned for the year but we are all trying to navigate this new post-covid world. Super work has been done by the HSA in the past and it has really added to our school so we look forward to getting things up and running again. The current committee will be arranging an AGM soon and all parents are invited to attend-no one will be forced into a role or given a job but if you are eager to fill your time you won't be turned away. The Home-School Association will be in touch.

YARD TIME BOARD GAMES

The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the grass area under the tress for the last two months. It is now getting mucky however. It's not suitable for ball games when it's in this condition. Some children are opting to do laps on the path around the trees so this is a good use of space. It may be time to introduce some outdoor chess/draughts/cards/uno or other table top games for enjoying outdoors in the fresh air. If anyone has unwanted sets at home or other similar games that might be suitable, please speak to or email your class teacher.

VISIT FROM OLIVE THE COMMUNITY GUARD

Garda Olive, a Community Garda stationed in Castlebar, was kind enough to visit Declan's (3rd/4th class) and Paul's (5th class) the week before last. The purpose of her visit was to highlight the importance of road safety and internet safety. Garda Olive pointed out the importance of always wearing a helmet and a high-vis jacket while cycling. Also, as road users, that children who cycle to school need to be aware of the rules of the road for cyclists and really need supervision up until the age of 12. Garda Olive talked the classes through some very important information about internet safety and highlighted that social media platforms generally require a minimum age of 13 (e.g. Tiktok, Snapchat, Facebook, etc.). Garda Olive gave us some information about playing online games and interacting with people who we do not know online. We felt Garda Olive's visit was timely in that we are aware of some students who cycle to and from school, and, that some students are beginning to become more active online. Thank you to Garda Olive for this visit.

