

Caherelly NS

December 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians & community members,

It's that time of year again and we are winding down for the Christmas period. We have had a very busy two months since mid-term and below is just a taste of some of what has been happening in Caherelly NS.

Parent Association News

Our Parent Association Cake Sale and Raffle took place in school on Sunday Dec 10th. It was very well supported, raising €4,100 for our school! Thank you to our parents who volunteered to set up and those helped out on the day. Thanks too to our staff who set up and decorated the hall. So much goes on behind the scenes to organise this event and raffle, it is wonderful to see such goodwill towards our school and our pupils, thank you all.

There was a great atmosphere and such a sense of community with many new parents and extended families in attendance. Congratulations to all the winners and our thanks again to those who donated prizes. This year we had the added bonus of two auctions; a public one for our Christmas tree, and a text-in auction for a Limerick jersey signed by the entire Limerick hurling panel. The Christmas tree auction was great fun as one of our pupils acted as auctioneer and bidding was very exciting! The tree went to a good home in the end! The bidding for the Limerick jersey also went down to the wire with a sum of €1,200 finally being made. Sincere thanks to our donors.

Money raised by our Parent Association goes to the funding of events, equipment and activities for all of our pupils. Some examples of where the funding goes; buses to matches, contribution towards the UL Panto, Accelerated Reading programme, contribution towards gymnastics, Cycle Right lessons for 5th/6th classes, Music Generation, outside trips to Lough Gur and Kilmallock for all classes.

School Christmas Concert

On December 13th we had our school Christmas Concert. It was our first since 2019! When the question was put to some of our younger pupils as to why it's been so long, it was endearing to see that so many of them had no idea what Covid or Lockdown was! Of course our more senior pupils were very aware of the reasons why and were thrilled to be able to perform for the public again.

6th class did a play called *Stable Manners* which centred around the animals living in the stable where Jesus was born. It was a humorous take on the relationships between them and the jokes went down very well! Thanks to Ms Conway for the preparation that went into the play.

Our 3rd, 4th & 5th classes performed a selection of songs, rhyme and music which was fabulous. Thank you to Mr Keane & Ms Williams and of course our teachers from Music Generation, Aoife and Chloe who accompanied them on guitar.



1st and 2nd class performed a play called *The Sleepy Shepherd*. The name gives it away here! The shepherd in question was not the most reliable person to give the Good News of the imminent arrival of a saviour. The parts were played wonderfully by our pupils with lots of cuteness included! Ms Cuniffe & Ms Byrne did a great job preparing them.

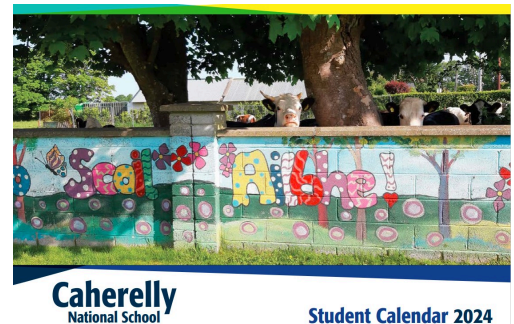
And of course, our Junior and Senior Infants were fantastic in their play, *Whoops-a-Daisy-Angel*. An accident-prone angel trips and bluffs her way to Bethlehem meeting shepherds, wise men, angels and the Holy Family on her way. They were amazing and the cuteness factor was up to 90! Thanks to Ms Ryan for this wonderful production.

We held a raffle for pupils on the day also. Each child had their name in the hat and there were 6 prizes per class group. Thanks so much to the individuals and businesses who donated prizes for this raffle!

School Calendars & Christmas Cards

School Calendars will be arriving at the school next week. A sincere thank you to Keith Wiseman for taking the class photos for our calendar again this year and also to the staff & parents involved in its production. The calendar can be purchased through the office if you have forgotten to place an order and will also be on sale at venues around the parish.

Christmas cards made by our pupils have been printed and I'm sure making their way around the country if not the world! Well done to our boys and girls.



Christmas Panto

All classes from Junior Infants to 5th went to Sleeping Beauty, the Panto in UL on Monday 18th of December. They had a fantastic time. Sixth class will be going to a show later in the year.

Christmas Jumper Appeal

For the final week of school, children are welcome to wear their Christmas Jumpers in aid of Children in Gaza (Unicef). Children may wear Christmas Jumpers and make a €2 donation for this worthy cause.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal in association with Team Hope.

Farewell to Fr Walton

On November 19th our school hosted a get together to celebrate with our former Parish Priest, Rev James Walton. Fr Walton spent 9 years in our parish and the occasion was to thank him for his work here and wish him the best in his new parish of Gortnahoe-Glengoole. There was an open invitation to all parishioners to attend. It was a lovely afternoon spent with friends and neighbours. Fr Walton was presented with a set of new vestments and an etching of the churches in the Parish of Ballybricken-Bohermore. Thank you to our PA who contributed generously to this collection.



Board of Management

Our new Board has been formed with newly elected parent and community members. Our BOM consists of 8 members; Chairperson, Brigid Teefy, Secretary, Niamh McGuinness, Teacher nominee, Jane Conway, Bishop's nominee, Matt Ward, Community members, Janet Grene & Fr Eddie Cleary, Parent nominees, Audrey Browne and Brian O'Connor.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

We held our Parent/Teacher meetings in the month of November. Parents had a choice of either in-person or phone meetings. Meetings for Junior Infants will be held in the next term. As always, if you have any questions, concerns etc please contact the office or you may send a note to your child's teacher and a phone call or meeting can be arranged. Respectful and constructive communication is always welcome as teachers and staff have your child's best interests at the heart of all we do.

School Open Morning

We held an Open Morning on November 11th. This was to showcase our school to prospective parents and pupils. It was well attended. Thanks to staff and parents for helping to make this day a success. If there are any pupils still to be enrolled for the coming school year or future years, please contact the office.

East Limerick Football Teams

Well done to 6th class pupils Aidan Bonar, Vivienne Garry & Ciara Teefy, who played on the East Limerick Teams for football this term.

Our boys and girls school teams played in Cumman na mBunscol with the boys reaching the final in November. They beat Oola NS in an exciting game and were welcomed home by a delighted guard of honour! Thanks to Mr Keane who coached the team.



Christmas Children's Choir

On Christmas Eve, pupils from our school will form a choir at Ballybricken church for Midnight Mass (8pm Mass). The last practice will be this Thursday at 7pm at the church with Katie O'Riordan.

Christmas Closure

School holidays begin on Friday Dec 22nd at 12 noon. The bus will run at this time. The new term begins on January 8th at the usual time.

*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi
mhaise daoibh,*

Niamh McGuinness & Staff

