

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD — A PROJECT OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE



It's that time of year again, and while we're afraid to mention 'Christmas', nevertheless we are asking everyone to get into the Christmas Spirit and start filling shoe boxes for the needy children in the world. We only have a few weeks to get as many boxes in as possible. TYs have already visited tutor groups to explain what's needed and will collect any boxes that are brought in during Tutor class.

What you have to do: 1. Find an empty medium size shoe box (18 x 30 x 13 cm) and wrap the lid and box separately in Christmas paper. 2. Decide if your gift is for a boy or girl. Tick the appropriate age box on the sticker included with the leaflets. 3. Fill your box with gifts - please check the gift ideas list. 4. Put €3 in an envelope with your name and class clearly printed on the outside, and place in the box. Secure the lid with an elastic band (do not seal the box). The €3 goes towards the promotion, transport, processing and distribution of your box.

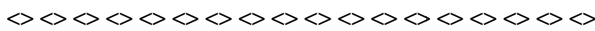
Your gift is powerful! You can bring hope and a smile to some of the World's poorest children. It may be small, but your gifts in a shoe box can change a child's life. For some of the world's most disadvantaged children, your shoe box could be the **first Christmas Present** they have **ever** received. Your simple act of generosity gives hope to children caught in the midst of wars, natural disasters and extreme poverty and shows them they have not been forgotten. The Boxes will be hand delivered to a needy child in Armenia, Belarus, Burundi, Croatia, Kosovo, Lesotho, Moldova, Mozambique, Romania, Swaziland, Ukraine or Zimbabwe – irrespective of national or political background, or religious beliefs. It could go to an orphanage, a school or hospital, to street kids or the home of a poor family. For more information check out www.samaritanspurse.ie

NOVEMBER REMEMBERING

*November is traditionally a time for remembering our loved ones who have died. Each Friday during the month there will be a **Mass at 9 am in Suaimhneas** so please make a big effort to be present. A book will be left in the Social Area to write in the names of our loved ones. This book will be placed on the alter during mass.*



Fr. Abe



RED CROSS CREWS

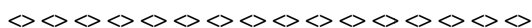


Congratulations to the members of the Portumna Branch in the Irish Red Cross All Ireland First Aid Competitions in Co. Laois last Saturday – all pupils of Portumna C.S.

Of all the areas involved, the Portumna Novice Team received 2nd prize for their efforts in dealing with casualties for the Galway Area. The Galway Area also received 2nd prize in the individual Novice event. The Cadet Team from Portumna were highly praised by the adjudicators for their performance as they looked and acted in an extremely professional manner on the day.

Cadet Team : Lisa Callanan, Shannon Whelan, Emma Ruttledge, Conor O'Meara, Rachael Darcy & Tara Harte.

Novice Team : Kayleigh O'Brien, Alanna Coniry, Keith Flynn, Maria Whelan Niamh Gordon & Keith Ruttledge.



JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



The Irish Junior Science Olympiad (IrJSO) is a science competition for students who are under sixteen on December 31st of the year of the competition. It is held annually in Dublin City University (DCU) in October/November. Finalists qualify through their Junior Certificate results and are nominated by their Principal Teacher. The top three students are awarded gold medals, the next three silver and the next three bronze. The gold & silver medal winners represent Ireland at the annual International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in December. The bronze medal winners are on the reserve list.

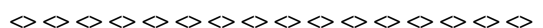
The IJSO team at DCU has begun the process of selecting student teams to represent Ireland at this year's IJSO in Azerbaijan in December. They have invited students for a test tomorrow (Saturday, 7th Nov.) to select the six to represent Ireland.

Congratulations to our student, **Sarah Larkin** (T.Y.), who has qualified for tomorrow's selection process. Best of luck Sarah!

M. Nagle



Congratulations to Alanna Coniry, 6th yr., who was elected as Youth Officer for the Co. Galway Community Games Committee.





LOSING IT !!

Students, why is it so hard for you to write your name on your books and copies???

If you lose something in the school please check in Anne's Office – it may have been handed in. Also, don't wait for a length of time before reporting something missing and expect us to find it – let us know as soon as possible.



ACTIVITIES AT LUNCHTIME

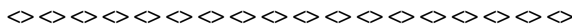
DANCE will resume next Tuesday in Room K at 1.25.

A **DRAUGHTS COMPETITION** will take place on Thursday (12th) in the Library (H) with a range of prizes to be won. People wanting to take part should leave their name with Ms. Murtagh before Thursday.



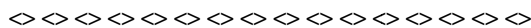
Also come along to the library and check-out the new Board Games and Music every Tuesday and Thursday.

Mary Cleary & Ciara Kennedy.



SIGN OUT U18 SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The date for the U18 soccer tournament taking place in the Astroturf at Sign Out has been fixed for Sunday, 22nd November. Each team must have five players - cost: €5 per person. To book your team or for further details please contact Oisín (087 2396605) or Paul (087 6711313).



KILLIMOR STUDENTS PRODUCE MUSIC CD

Congratulations to past and present Killimor students, who with Na Calai Community Development, produced their own CD of songs. Two groups worked on the CD and co-wrote the music and lyrics. Theresa Corcoran and Rose Sweeney write:

“By writing the songs it was a lot of work but a good experience - we enjoyed getting up every Saturday morning. We had to come up with a name for our group and ended up with MR TLC - we made a list of names and decided to use the first letter of our own names - Michael, Rose, Theresa, Laurence and Cathy.

Cathy Laurence was singing with the younger group for about three weeks because she moved to Dublin. The CD tutors were Simon Kelly and Theresa Dermody. We were very nervous when recording the songs but got it done. Now we know that if you put your mind to it everyone has a talent.”

Teresa Corcoran 2nd yr., Rose Sweeney 3rd yr.

CAMOGIE

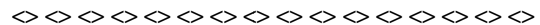
Juniors please note: Match on Monday (9th) vs Gort at 12 noon in Lorrha. **Bring in your school books** in case the match is cancelled due to the weather.



NEW MASCOT & PC



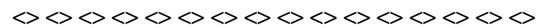
Many thanks to the Students' Council who organised the recent non-uniform day. The money from this has been used to purchase our new school mascot – a lion (the winner, by a narrow margin, in our online poll) as well as a brand new PC for the social area. Both of these have been ordered and will be delivered shortly.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

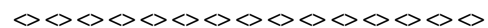
Fri. 20th Nov. : 6th yr. & LCA2 Parent/Teacher meeting.
Mon. 30th Nov. To Fri. 4th Dec. : Assessments.
Tues. 8th Dec. : 3rd yr. & TY Parent/Teacher meeting.
Tues. 15th Dec. : First Yr Retreat.
Wed. 23rd Dec. - 6th Jan. (incl.) : Christmas Hols.

School reopens Thursday, 7th January 2010.
Mon. 1st Feb. : Start of School Musical week.
Mon. 8th Feb. : Mock Exams begin for 3rd & 6th yrs.
Mon. 8th - Fri. 12th : Work Experience for 5th yrs.
Mon. 15th - Fri. 19th Feb. : Mid Term Break.
Mon. 22nd - Fri. 26th : Work Experience for TYs.
Wed. 17th Mar. : St. Patrick's Day – No school.
Mon. 22nd - Fri. 26th : Class based Assessments.
Mon. 29th Mar. - Fri. 9th April (incl.) : Easter Hols.
Mon. 3rd May : Bank Holiday.
Thurs. 13th May : TY retreat.



“Our black and white Collie, named Max, has been missing since Halloween night in the Lorrha area. If found please contact us via the school office.”

2nd Yr. student



Events Diary: (7th – 13th November)

- Mon. 9th : Junior Camogie Vs Gort C.S. in Lorrha @ 12 noon.
- Tues. 10th : First Yr. Hurling Blitz in Ballindereen – leaving @ 9.35 am
- Wed. 11th : Senior Camogie Semi-final Vs Gort C.S. in Kinvara @ 12.30 pm
- Fri. 13th : Senior Hurling Vs Gort C.S. in Woodford @ 1 pm

