



# Advoca National School S. N. PHÁDRAIG NAOFA

## Deireadh Fómhair 2014



### Oíche Shamhna

Winter greetings to everybody

As you can see “you don’t have to be mad to work here but it certainly helps”!

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who put so much effort into their Halloween costumes. We were inundated with entries for the competition and each year it gets more difficult to select winners because the standard is so high. This year we photographed each entry and spent some time browsing the iPad before we announced the victors. Karla Sofia caused a sensation with her head under her arm but we were also terrified of the lady who is still covered in blood after a bruising session in Ms. Brennan’s knitting class in 1981. Aimee’s representation of **Mother Nature** and Lauren’s **Jellyfish** costume (with lights) served to remind us that there is a lot of untapped talent in homes and we will certainly be appealing for assistance at Christmas and Music Festival time! Matthew’s topical **Water Meter Installer**, Steven’s guilty **Oscar Pistorius** and the **E Bola** viruses that were floating around served to keep us all in touch with the news for that week. The games in the afternoon meant we were truly ready for the midterm by Friday evening.

### The Autumn Essay

We don’t wish to be boastful but the Autumn Essays also have the staff in a spin. After four years of literacy work we are absolutely delighted with the response to the competition this year. In the past there were always a number of essays that floated to the top of the pile when the corrections were completed. This year we can truthfully say that every child from third to sixth class can now write a good essay using a mind map for planning, a wide variety of vocabulary to add colour and a plot that keeps the reader enthralled to the end. In order to select a winner we have photocopied the star essays and each essay will be scored by every teacher; the outcome will be in the lap of the Gods! The ‘winning essays’ will then be posted on the blog. It has been truly rewarding for the staff to have the pleasure of reading these wonderful essays over the past three weeks.

### Gaeilge

This year we are concentrating on ‘Gaeilge’. Students now have a list of the comhrá greetings that we use in school. We will also work on Briathra (verbs), Ceistanna (questions) and vocabulary themes. As we progress we will dedicate a section on the website to Gaeilge so that you at home can join in. But remember “Rome wasn’t built in a day!”



### Our Volunteers

Thanks to the generosity of some stalwarts we now have a regular lollipop service. Please remember that your child's safety remains your responsibility once three o'clock comes. Parents are asked not to park in the **sight line** of the crossing and to treat the volunteers with the respect they so richly deserve at all times. Always slow down approaching the school and **stop** your car if the lollipop person is on the road. On no account should anybody try to drive into the school when the crossing is taking place.

### Science

More good news! Well done to Ms. Van Eesbeck and fifth class who have been chosen to present a project at the **Young Scientist Fair** in the RDS on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. Their study will compare the sugar content of different fruits. A very appropriate, current topic and of great interest to us as we pride ourselves in healthy eating here in the school. We would welcome advice/help from any parent with scientific expertise or experience of the Young Scientist Competition as this is a new venture for us. Please just contact Ms. Van Eesbeck.

### Co-curriculars

The **yoga** classes have proven to be a great success. The school exudes an air of calm on Mondays and hopefully we can invite the teacher, Ms. Maura Broaders, back later in the year to provide sessions for the classes who did not have yoga this term.

Unfortunately, the **GAA coaching** is finishing this week at short notice. We would like to

express our thanks to the coach Mr. Michael Owens for all his hard work since September.

The **Surface Tablets** are now regular visitors to every classroom and the teachers have put in place a timetable and plan of work to ensure that all students get an opportunity to work with them.

### School Trips

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth class have accepted an invitation from local representative Simon Harris to attend the Dáil on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. While we are on Kildare Street we will take the opportunity to also visit the Natural History Museum and the National Art Gallery.

### Levy

The Board would like to express a sincere thanks to all those who paid levy so promptly this term. The money is always put to good use and having a little bit extra always makes the financial planning a little easier.



### Christmas

Happily, there is never a dull moment here as we move swiftly from Halloween to Christmas preparations.

This year our **Christmas Carol Service** will take place on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in the church. Expect lots of fun and also be prepared to sing along as the children perform some of your favourite carols and hymns.

*The Christmas Box* will soon be in the hall to receive your generous prizes for the annual **Bumper Christmas Raffle**.

Looking forward to seeing you all this Wednesday and next. Please call to the office if you would like a chat.

Le gach dea ghúí,  
*Máire Ní Bhraonáin.*

