**2013/2014 School Newsletter**

Welcome to our annual school newsletter.

As we begin our summer holidays here is a recap of the school year.

**September**

* We welcomed our new students Noelle Byrne & Cathal O’Leary into Junior Infants. We hope they will be very happy at Fanore National School.
* We commenced training for our annual cross country running in Kilnaboy.
* On Friday 27th, the whole school went out collecting blackberries in the nearby ditches. We found some juicy berries which we later used for our blackberry & apple smoothies.
* Hurling lessons commenced with Peter Casey and have continued all year. Many thanks to Peter for his dedication to the lessons! Hail, rain or shine we were outside practising our skills. Children have benefited greatly and are improving all the time.
* Marielle Hisper commenced working in our school on a voluntary basis 3 days a week. We are extremely fortunate to have an experienced teacher like Marielle working with us.

**October**

* October 1st, Mrs Queally brought the children from 2nd -6th class to Glor to meet author Niall De Burca. Niall entertained the children with storytelling of some famous legends and myths.
* October 3rd, we travelled to Kilnaboy for the Annual Cross Country Running. Children from 1st class up competed and did extremely well.
* October 21st saw Maddie come into the school to speak to the children about the Christmas Shoeboxes. She explained to all the children what could be put in boxes etc.
* The Halloween Party was great evening’s entertainment for children and adults alike. Many thanks to all involved in the organisation of this event.

**November**

* The Readathon which is held every year commenced. This is great for stimulating the children’s interest in reading. An amazing amount of books were read and reports written by the children. Congratulations to Cindy Kruth, James O’Driscoll, Holly O’Driscoll and Emily Howard who were awarded “Outstanding Achievement” in reading this year.
* Nov 8th, we were informed that Cindy Kruth won a story writing competition. Her prize was having her story published in the children’s magazine Primary Planet & getting a jumper. Well done Cindy and all the other children who entered!
* The Annual Shoe Box Appeal was held. A total of 22 boxes were collected on Nov 11th. Many thanks to all parents and members of the community for supporting this!
* We commenced practising for our Christmas Pageant.

**December**

* On Sunday Dec 15th, we gathered in the church to perform our play. Angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Innkeepers, Wise men all featured! It was a great performance!
* Susan O’Donohue from Gleninagh came to the school on Monday 16th Dec. She is an expert on birds. She showed the children a variety of birds that can be found in Fanore. Her visit also involved an introduction to Ireland’s birds and their habitats through the use of bird song recordings, slide-shows, music, art, games and feathers.
* On Dec 18th, we jumped on the bus and travelled to Limerick to see Aladdin. This pantomime was hilarious and thoroughly enjoyed by both teachers and children.

**January**

* The children commenced their annual swimming lessons in Lahinch. The bus costs are paid by the various fundraising activities held during the year to defray the cost on parents.
* Work commenced on The Blue Star Programme.
* German lessons commenced in the Senior Room with Marielle. These are going great and will continue next year. It is hoped that German will also commence with the children in the Junior Room in September.

**February**

* 1st Feb was celebrated by making St Brigid’s Crosses and retelling the various stories of St Brigid.
* As part of Engineers Week 2014, on February 11th Miss Scales travelled to a show in Limerick. The show [Air-mazing: Engineering the future with pneumatics](https://www.facebook.com/events/156454927740362/?ref=52&source=1) was hosted by James Soper.

Cannons, vortexes, fire-balls and vacuums were just some of the spectacular demonstrations witnessed in this fast-paced interactive engineering show. We saw James fire a piece of potato at over 300km/h!

* As part of our ongoing work for our Award of Science and Maths Excellence, John Kelly came to speak to all children about his job as an electrician. John showed us various pieces of equipment and answered numerous questions from the children.
* On February 24th Frogspawn was spotted in abundance in our pond.
* February 27th Katlyn Malone came to join Fanore N.S. We wish Katelyn all the best for her future years in our school.

**March**

* On Pancake Tuesday, the teachers delighted the children with pancake making lessons! Pancakes were cooked in the school and the children got to choose their own toppings.
* This year for St Patrick’s Day we did a sporting routine to the tune of “The Whipping Boys”. This was to celebrate Clare Winning the All Ireland. Many thanks to Peter Casey for co-ordinating this routine.

**April**

* On April 3rd we were thrilled to have the Liam McCarthy cup come to the school accompanied by none the less than the famous Davy Fitz. Members of the community, family members all came out in force for this momentous occasion. Fingers crossed we may see it again soon in Fanore!
* On April 6th, Holly O’Driscoll, Matthew Irwin, Emily Howard, Robyn Kelly, Bob Casey, Ethan & Finn O’Leary and Darragh O’Leary made their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to all. A huge thank you the choir and to all the musicians who helped make this day a very special one.
* Oklahoma here we come! On April 7th, the whole school travelled to Lahinch to see Oklahoma. It was a fantastic show with lively songs and dances.
* Incredible Edibles: on April 11th we planted our strawberries. These strawberries have taken root and continue to grow! We also planted our spuds which are also growing at a great speed.

**May**

* Sow & Grow Campaign: On May 9th we planted cress and runner bean seeds. These began to grow in a very short space of time.
* The Discover Primary Science & Maths logbook was completed and sent off.
* Commencement of Artist in the School Scheme. Sara Foust came to work with us on May 15th. She worked with us every Thursday and Friday to complete our Burren Mosaic Mural. This will be fixed to the front wall of the school.
* We were awarded our 10th Award of Science and Maths Excellence!!! We are only one of 16 schools to have achieved an Award for past ten years.

**June**

* June 10th, we went with Noirin down to the beach for our beach safari. We saw lots of interesting things in the rock pools for e.g. blennies, crabs, shrimps etc.
* Junior Tour: on Thursday June 12th, the children in the junior room went to Ennis to see Little Red Riding Hood. It was a great show!
* Senior Tour: on Friday June 13th, the children in the senior room went to NUIG. Here they participated in a variety of activities. Following the activities, the children went shopping for an hour. A great day was had!
* We completed our mosaics! These beautiful pieces are proudly displayed on the outside of the school building.
* On June 18th we welcomed our future pupils into the school. We hope they had a very enjoyable time & we look forward to seeing them on August 29th.

**General:**

**Policy Development**

This year we have updated our Anti Bullying Policy. We have also introduced a Critical Incident Policy. These policies are available to view online on our website.

**Parent Association**

On a recent school inspection the school inspector reiterated the importance of establishing a Parents Association. We intend to establish one in September with your support and co-operation.

**Work Experience Students**

This year we welcomed back Sean Kelly, Shane O’Donoghue, James Howard, Lauren Prince, Jessica Kelly and Isabelle Walsh for work experience. Many thanks for all your help and support. It is great to keep in touch with our past pupils who are achieving well in secondary school.

**Staff**

This June we will be saying farewell to our Learning Support Teachers. Miss Costello had received a new post in Galway and Mrs Hehir is retiring. We would like to thank them both for their work over the year and wish them all the best. We will have 2 new teachers in September to replace both Miss Costello and Mrs Hehir.

We would also like to thank Marielle for giving her time so freely to the school.

**Ancillary Staff**

A big thank you to our ancillary staff : Pat McNamara, Annemarie O’Driscoll and Eilish O’Donoghue who work very hard for the school.

**Website**

Don’t forget to check out our website [www.fanorens.com](http://www.fanorens.com).

We endeavour to keep this as up to date as possible.

**Fundraisers:**

Each year a number of fundraisers are held. The monies raised are used for bus costs over the school year.

Church Gate Collection €655

Clothes Collections: €282 & 211.40= 493.40

Cake Sale €421

**Total: €1569.40**

Total bus costs: €2100

Should we charge for the buses it would cost each child an average of €100 per year.

We will be holding our annual fundraiser **in O’Donoghues Pub on Sunday Aug 3rd**. We ask that all families make a great effort to sell a card for this. Live music on the night with great prizes to be won! Free entry for all. Please note that any shortfall in funding will have to be met by the parents.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents and members of the community for their help and assistance over the course of the school year i.e., parents driving, cake sales etc. Without this assistance many of our outings, activities would not be possible.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all again on Friday August 29th.

**Board of Management**

Anne Pilkington Fr. Richard Flanagan

Bríd Queally Carol Scales

Paudge Casey Paul Connole

 Christina O’Connor Paula O’Leary

*Note: Please find attached Holidays for school year 2014-2015*

*Please keep this safe!!*

**School Year 2014/15**

**School re-opens on:**

Friday August 29th

**October 2014 mid-term break**

School will close from Monday 27th October 2014 to Friday 31st October 2014

**Christmas 2014**

All schools will close on Friday 19th December 2014, which will be the final day of the school term.

All schools will re-open on Monday 5th January 2015.

**February 2015 mid-term break**

School will close on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th February.

**St Patrick’s Day**

School will close on Monday 16th March & Tuesday 17th March.

**Easter 2015**

School will close on Friday 27th March 2015.

School will re-open on Monday 13th April 2015.

**Summer Holidays** 

To be announced