

**Parents Association
St. Mary's National School,
Ballygunner.**

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**Newsletter
Issue 43 – Christmas 2015.**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With Christmas holidays fast approaching on Tuesday 22nd December I wish to thank you all for your continuing support since August 2015. It has been an extremely busy first term here at St. Mary's National School. Both pupils and staff are looking forward to a well-earned rest!

A close link between home and school is important for the academic progress of your children. Thank you for attending your child's parent/teacher meeting in November. I encourage you to keep up to date on school news via Twitter @BallygunnerNS. Also, our school website is an excellent reference on general school policies, procedures and school

improvement planning. Please remember teaching staff are available by appointment. Arrangements can be made through Anne Quealy our school secretary on 878388 between 8.45am and 3pm daily.

I wish to acknowledge all our school staff. Their commitment and hard-work ensures that our pupils are always striving towards their full potential. We continue to evaluate and review our work here at St. Mary's N.S. Our School Self-Evaluation Plan and School Improvement Plan 2015-16 in specific areas of literacy and numeracy can be view at www.ballygunner.ie.

Our Patron Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan visited us here at school for the first time this week. Bishop Fonise met staff, visited senior classes and toured our extensive facilities. We look forward to see him again on confirmation Day 2016.

Sincere thanks to our hard working Parents Association. The Fashion Show on 29th November was a superb afternoon enjoyed by all and the funds raised along with this year's Christmas Raffle will enable us to purchases a Guided Reading Scheme for 2nd class and upgrade classroom furniture in 2016. I wish to extend a special word of thanks to parents who work tirelessly to organise and enhance our library. Our pupils continue to benefit hugely from their work.

There has been great excitement in so many classrooms and our school hall this week with Christmas plays and concerts in full swing. It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents, families and friends arriving to see the various performances. It gives us all a great lift at this time of year. A special note of thanks to one of our parents Anna Pageot who decorated the hall so beautifully for Christmas

Huge congratulations to our pupils on all their achievements this term. One special mention goes to our Girls' Gaelic Football Team. They were crowned Cumann na mBunscol Roinn A Eastern Champions for the first time!

Finally, just to confirm we return to school on Wednesday 6th January 2016

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!

Killian O'Reilly



Christmas Charity Collection

Many thanks to all of you for your generosity towards the St Vincent de Paul non perishable collection in lieu of Christmas presents for teacher! A special thanks also to our teachers for foregoing presents again this year.

Fashion show

Our fashion show was a great success! Super fun was had by Parents , Teachers and Children ! All our models did a fantastic job - well done for participating.

Thank you to all who came along and supported - it was greatly appreciated.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our sponsors for their generous donations. We have too many to name but we greatly appreciate the support!

Also we have to mention of course our visit from the man himself - Santa ! He was in great spirits and made the day for everybody so well done to Santa Claus !!!

Upcoming events

We will be having a table quiz, summer barbeque and lots more fun events over the coming months so please come along. Dates to be confirmed.

One and Two cent coins

We will be doing a one and two cent coin collection in the near future so please hold onto your coins !!

Lost and Found Bin

Please ensure all items of clothing bags etc. are labelled coming to school. Basically label everything except your child ! Items misplaced can be retrieved from the "lost and found" bin located at the school . Please check there if your child has lost some items.



Christmas Concerts

Thursday the 17th of December was a big day in St.Mary's N.S. as many children took to the stage around the school. Congratulations to all teachers and children involved you did yourselves proud!

Ms. Foley	School Hall
Ms. McSweeney	Classroom
Ms Fitzgerald	School Hall
Mr. Kirwan	Classroom
Ms. O'Shea	School Hall
Ms. Looney	School Hall
Ms. Cullen	School Hall
Ms.Keating	Classroom
Ms.Whittle	Classroom

Thank you to Santa's little helpers in our learning support department for helping out where needed!!! One even making their stage debut as The Christmas Star!!!!

In addition 2nd and 3rd classes performed a Carol Service for the pupils of the school on Friday the 18th of December and the festive spirit was really brought to life in the school.

Finally a special word of thanks to Pepe Pageot for her work decorating our hall and turning it into something Disneyland would be proud of!! Pepe volunteers to help us and always adds a touch of magic where she goes!! The children and all our visiting families loved it!!!

Green Schools Initiative



Green Schools

A big welcome to the pupil reps from all the 4th, 5th and 6th Classes who have joined our new Green Schools committee. Over the next two years we will be working on a new theme to win our 6th Green Flag. The theme is **Global Citizenship re. Litter and Waste** – sounds mind-boggling but it's actually really interesting!! We will be learning how we are connected to different communities all over the world every day – the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the products we use, where packaging comes from and where all our litter, electronic waste, compostables, and recyclables go to. It's great to see another enthusiastic committee ready to take on this new challenge – well done everyone!

Keep Up the Great Work!

A big thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who continuously promote the Green Schools themes of litter and waste management, water and energy conservation, sustainable travel and biodiversity. Don't forget to carpool, walk, take the bus or park 'n' stride to and from school to lower your carbon footprint. Remember to recycle

your used batteries, stamps and ink cartridges in the collection boxes in the main entrance hall.

Fionn Smith

Kids Corner

What do you get if you cross Santa and a dog?
Santa Paws!!

Why is Santa so good at Karate?
Because he has a black belt!!!

What do snowmen wear on their heads?
Ice caps!!



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
EVERYBODY**