

# Kilcolgan Educate Together.

December 2011

## Diversity Awards of Ireland

The school is incredibly proud to announce that we recently won the schools' section of the Diversity Awards of Ireland. It is the first time these awards were held. Eimear, Melinda and Mary traveled to the Integration Center in Dublin to collect the award. The award acknowledges and celebrates all the initiatives the school has undertaken and continues to undertake in order to enable the 'no child is an outsider' aspect of our ethos. This includes such events as International Day, Fairtrade Fortnight, Show Racism the Red Card and Anti-Bullying Month as well as the day to day interactions that help children feel included and happy in school.



### Snow Queen



A success story! Well done to all the children for putting on a wonderful show. We're proud of you all. Many, many thanks to all the fantastic volunteers who helped to make it happen. If anyone has any photographs we'd love to have copies. With all the excitement the staff didn't get round to taking photos!.



### Calendar

Holidays 12.30 pm Thurs 22nd  
Dec.  
Reopening 9.00 am Mon 9th Jan



### December Birthdays

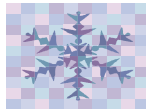
Adam (5th class) - 4th  
Aonghus (4th class) - 4th  
Darel (Snr Inf) - 7th  
Cole (3rd class) - 13th  
Hannah-Mae (2nd) - 16th  
Kat (3rd class) - 19th  
Rufus (Jnr Inf) - 23rd  
Molly (Snr Inf) - 23rd  
Féilim (Jnr Inf) - 24th  
Leon (1st class) - 28th

### School Website

[www.kilcolganetns.com](http://www.kilcolganetns.com)

## Carol Singing

The children have taken part in two carol singing events in the past couple of weeks. The first was on 8th Dec in Clarinbridge where they helped make the switching on of the Christmas lights a very enjoyable occasion. Following their very successful outing to carol sing in Shannon airport last year they returned on the 19th Dec where they again did us proud. Well done to all our fantastic singers and musicians.



## Winter Fair

Many thanks to all who supported, worked at and attended the Winter Fair on Sunday 18th December. It was, as always an enjoyable social event and helped to raise nearly 3,000 euro for the school.

## School Photographs

Andrew took photographs of the children and a note has gone home with information on how to access them and purchase them. Andrew is kindly donating all money raised to the school. Many thanks to Andrew for his time, energy and entertainment antics!. The photos look fabulous!.



## Christmas Cards

Our school Christmas cards are now all sold. They were a great success again this year. Thank you to everyone who helped in the production of the cards. They raised approximately €700

## Board of Management News

All schools around the country recently welcomed new boards of management. We would like to welcome Patsy Lyons and Mike Kerrigan as our community reps and Deirdre Bennett and Brian Callan as our parent reps. Melinda and Andrew are remaining on as patron reps and Anna and Fionnuala represent the staff. The Board of Management would like to extend a sincere thank you to Breda Fordham, Maeve McManus and Naoise Dunne who have stepped down.

## Parents Association

We are sorry to hear that due to work commitments Robby has stepped down as Chairperson of the P.A. Many thanks Robby for your time, energy and commitment to the school.

# Reindeer Food

December took the senior class by storm. It has been a whirlwind of media coverage, interviews and genuine hard work for everyone involved in the production, and selling, of Magic Reindeer Food. We developed the product to sell through our class mini-business, with the help of business coach Ann Hill. The children have learned a huge amount about the steps involved in setting up a very successful business. We have also had a great insight into the power of the media and PR. We never expected to be in the national newspapers, or on national radio and television! The whole experience has left us all with a great sense of entrepreneurial spirit. It afforded us many alternative, and more importantly fun, learning opportunities. Tá súil againn go mbeidh na réinfhianna an-sásta leo féin nuair a shroicheann siad Contae na Gaillimhe! Ár gcuid den Nollag daoibh go léir!



The Book Fair took place in early December and just over €800 was spent. This means that the school will receive back over €400 worth of books. Many thanks to all who supported it and special thanks to the parents who volunteered time to work at it.

## KETNS Anti Bullying Awareness month

November was been celebrated as Anti-Bullying month and all classes have been learning what bullying is, how to challenge it and the procedures in place in the school to deal with it. Being a good friend, supporting each other and helping children to be happy in school were all part of the theme.

Each class carried out activities in the class which highlighted all of these themes through the media of story, drama, circle time, art, song and poetry. The 6th class even created their own play and performed it at a whole school assembly held at the end of the month.

There was a talk on Cyberbullying by Brendan Smith in the school for parents and teachers It was good to have parents turnout as this is a very topical issue. We will be hoping to run another evening soon for those who missed it and would highly recommend parents to go as the meeting gave a lot of food for thought.

The older classes (1st to 6th class) took place in an anonymous survey on bullying and we discovered some very interesting facts and opinions from the children.

The student council held a meeting with the main focus on bullying in our school and what they felt was important to see in the School Policy. And finally, using all of the input from parents teachers and children the teachers and principal have been working very hard to revise our current school policy to ensure that the whole school community has a better understanding of ' what is bullying?' and 'what do we do if we recognise it?' and 'how do we work together to continue to make our school a bully free zone'.

**Read on and find out exactly what we have learnt...**

# What is Bullying?

- It is deliberately hurtful or aggressive behavior
- It is repeated over time
- It is carried out by an individual or group against one person or a particular group of people

## There are 3 types of bullying..

- Verbal: name calling, making offensive remarks , insulting someone
- Physical: hitting pushing, pinching, tripping, spitting, kicking, scratching, hiding or damaging somebody's belongings
- Emotional: spreading rumours, making fun of someone, excluding, ignoring, alienating

### PARENTS

#### What do you do if you think that your child is being bullied?

1. Talk to your child, ask them the questions; is it by the same person? Has it happened more than once? Have you told your teacher?
2. Tell your child's teacher or principal at the earliest possible concern
3. Continue to work with your child and class teacher to monitor the situation

### CHILDREN

#### What do you do if you think you think you are being bullied?

1. Tell the person to 'STOP' , the behavior they are using is hurting your feelings
2. Tell someone (a teacher, a parent, a friend)
3. Never feel you are on your own, keep telling someone until it stops
4. Remember it is not acceptable to bully, you have a right to be treated with respect

#### What do you do if you think your friend or someone you know is being bullied?

1. Tell the person that you are their friend and what this person is doing to them is not ok
2. Tell someone (a teacher, a friend, a parent)

#### **REMEMBER:**

**SAY NO!**

**WALK AWAY**

**TELL SOMEONE**

### Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is mean and cruel

Anyone who does it is a great big fool

Cyber bullying is bullying through the internet

It could be someone you know or someone you haven't met

You'll never guess the size of the effect

This something we can't let

By Oisín DW

### Stand Up to Bullying

Stand Up to Bullying,

its not cool,

No-one deserves to be bullied

Not in our school

See say , walk away,

Its ok to tell

Reach out, tell a friend,

Its ok to tell

By Toto and Aibhlin

### Cyber Bullying No More

Cyber bullying is very bad

It can make you very sad

A message from someone you don't know

Could be a friend could be a foe

Cyber bullies are very small

In cyber land, they can grow tall

The feed upon your hurt and fears

Do not let them grow– you must

Tell someone you trust

Cyber bullying is not good at all

We can stop it if we stand tall

By James Beagley

## Green School Tip

Be aware of packaging and wrapping materials when wrapping Christmas presents. On opening presents recycle as much as possible.