

# NEWS UPDATE.....

*As always, sincere thanks to you the parents for your ongoing help and encouragement. Listed below are just some of the events which took place this term – which simply could not have happened without your ongoing support.*

## SCHOOL TOURS



Each class participated in an exciting school tour this term. Our Junior Infants visited the farm in Glenroe, while Senior Infants and Standard 1 went to the Chocolate Factory where they learned where chocolate comes from and how it is made. Standards 2 and 3 spent a happy day learning to cook at Junior Chef and some very tasty treats were brought home at the end of the day! Standard 3 also visited Festine Lente for a unique presentation of “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” - performed by horses trained by young adults with special educational needs.

Our Standard 4 and 5 pupils had a wonderful two-day trip to Dunmore East Outdoor Education Center. The children enjoyed a long, sunny day canoeing, rock climbing, orienteering, and participating in archery. Then, following an over-night in the Ferrycarrig Hotel in Wexford and an early morning swim, the bus departed for Ferrycarrig Heritage Park for a day of history, folklore and fun. An exciting and educational time was had by all including Mrs. Carlos, Ms. Byrne, Mr. Jolly, Ms. Scott and Ms. Farrell. Don't forget to view the photos of the trip on display upstairs!

## SOCIAL AWARENESS

What a truly great year it has been for charitable events and social awareness in our school. UNICEF and St. Vincent de Paul were our main beneficiaries this and the children have learned a lot about UNICEF's “Schools for Africa” programme. Ms. Farrell is traveling to Rwanda in July to view some of UNICEF's projects on the ground and to gain further insight into helping children's social awareness and their understanding of giving to, and learning from, Rwanda.

The Junior School also raised a wonderful sum of money for Louise this year - who once again travelled to Moldova to work with children and young people in the orphanage there - what moving and inspiring photos Louise brought back which were on display upstairs. We also raised over E1,000 for Mrs. O'Connell who was setting out during the holidays to walk 220km on the Camino de Santiago, in Portugal, for MS (multiple sclerosis) Ireland.

Finally, following the very successful art exhibition in April, which raised E3,500 for Festine Lente, two very special visitors came to Junior School assembly on May 25 – two very tiny, miniature Shetland ponies – what a treat for the children and the ponies greatly enjoyed being petted and stroked by each child!

An amazing year and many, many thanks for your generosity and kindness.

## **OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY**



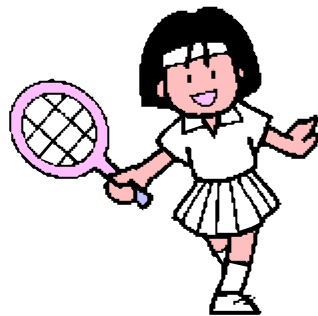
The children's author John Berkely visited our library on May 9, 2007. John is a new author and his first book "The Palace of Laughter" has been nominated for many prestigious awards for children's literature. Standard 6 pupils enjoyed a most interesting morning with John learning about writing and illustration. They also bought copies of his book which he personally signed for each of them.

## **IRISH DANCING FEIS**



On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, we were treated to a feast of Irish dancing at the annual feis. Junior and Senior Infants each performed two dances and impressed us all with their jigs and reels. Pupils from Standards 1 to 6 then took to the stage for an amazing display of our national dance. Well done to one and all and a big thank you to Clare Dowling, our Irish dancing teacher, for her hard work and dedication in preparing the children for such a wonderful display.

## **FAMILY TENNIS**



Monday May 14<sup>th</sup> was family tennis night. Children and parents from Standards 1 to Standard 6 participated in the event and enjoyed the fun, the tennis and especially the bar-b-que! Many thanks to our parents who prepared burgers, hot-dogs, salads and treats for all of our competitors. Once again, a great night and one that always reflects the spirit of St. Gerard's - where pupils, parents and staff organize and participate together in events for the benefit of the children and the enjoyment of all!

## FIRST COMMUNION



The sacrament of First Communion was celebrated on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Thankfully the day was fine and the boys and girls from Standard 2 look really beautiful in the May sunshine. The children participated fully in the ceremony in St. Mary's Church in Enniskerry, with readings, songs and offerings. Many thanks to Ms. Genevieve McGing for preparing the children so beautifully and to Fr. Anthony Kelly for making the ceremony such a moving occasion.

Many, many thanks also to our In-House Committee for organizing the reception for family and friends back in the school and to Mrs. Fionnuala Cosgrave for preparing the children's table and celebrations. What a wonderful day!

## SPORTS AND PRIZE DAY



Sports and Prize day was held on Sunday, May 27, 2007. Thankfully, the rain held off as each class took part in a variety of races - from the potato and spoon to obstacle races, and from sprints to relays. Well done to all for giving of their best and a special congratulations to all of our medal winners.

Later, at Prize-giving each child in the Junior School received a book as an award for their efforts and achievements throughout the year. A number of Standard 6 pupils also received awards for excellence in academic subjects and in sports and of course our Medal of Merit awards were also presented. Well done to all! A full list of awards is posted on our website.

## STANDARD 6 GRADUATION



Great fun is had each year at the graduation of our Standard 6 pupils from the Junior School. Each child is honoured and remembered for the unique contribution which they have made to the Junior School and receive a commemorative certificate. The afternoon was filled with many happy memories and ended with a viewing of the Skiing DVD. We wish all of our Standard 6 pupils every blessing as they take the next step on life's journey – an ending and a beginning.

### “MY FAIR LADY”

We had a magical and fantastic end to our school with the Standard 6 performance of “My Fair Lady”. What was a truly stunning performance. The children gave it their absolute all from acting and singing, to stage management and sound and light engineering – well done boys and girls. Of course our thanks are due to Ms. Carney who produced and directed the show and to our Musical Director, Ms. Olohan. Thanks also to our wonderful parents for set design, costume design, sound effects and make-up – all of which added to a remarkable performance from forty talented and gifted boys and girls. We will watch their careers with interest!

### UNICEF

*By Adam Cross – Standard 6*

For every nation  
To give education;

For every person,  
Whose times only worsen;

For every family  
Where there is tragedy;

For every country  
Where lies poverty;

For all the hungry  
And all the thirsty;

For all the innocent  
Who are treated guilty;

For all the old  
And all the young;

**UNICEF IS FOR EVERYONE.**