

# The Classroom Chronicle

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## Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that supported our few fundraisers so far this year. The raffles for All-Ireland Tickets and the marathon in particular. Thank you to Carmel Ryan and Damien Fogarty, two past pupils who ran the race on behalf of the school.

We try to keep fundraising to a minimum and have been able to manage in recent years quite well. This is a huge contrast to the "Old Days" when fundraising was a must for the school to survive. 20 years ago the Firoda Parents had no equals when "called to serve". The building of the Hall at a cost of £65,000, totally raised by parents and neighbours was an unbelievable undertaking and has benefited so many children since. Every conceivable brainwave was put in to practice. Among the events were: American Tea Parties, Fun Cycles, Concerts (Johnny McEvoy & Johnny Carroll of Golden trumpet fame). The Firoda Fiesta, which had all sorts of events such as "Chicken Racing" "Onion Eating, open air and marquee dancing, was tremendously popular.

## Junior Infants

In September 2014 Firoda School welcomed eleven new Junior Infants, six boys and five girls. They are all well settled in now and are looking forward to Christmas. Our new students are Emma Brennan, Órlaith Brennan, Jack Delaney, Robin Downey, Bobby Holden, Eimer Holohan, Liam Lacy, Josh Lawlor, Ailbhe Owens, Saoirse Stone and Sam Wallace.



## Christmas Plays

The long awaited Christmas plays arrived at last and a great night was enjoyed by all in the school hall. The performances this year were "Whoops a daisy Angels" by Junior & Senior Infants. "Hansel & Gretel" by 1<sup>st</sup>. & 2<sup>nd</sup>. classes, "Cinderella" by 3<sup>rd</sup>. & 4<sup>th</sup>. classes and "Puss in Boots" by 5<sup>th</sup>. & 6<sup>th</sup>. classes. There was a full house with standing room only for anyone that did not arrive early. Thank you to Miss O' Brien, Mrs. Murtagh, Mr. Meagher, Angela, Pamela, Miss Grace, Miss Fogarty and Mr. Fogarty for all their hard work preparing these great shows. Thank you also to those that helped out on the night and to the generous people that sponsored the prizes for the raffle. A big "well done" to the actors! You were all brilliant.

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## Necessary Works at School

During the summer some necessary works were carried out at the school. The works consisted of electrical upgrades to the older part of the school to meet new fire regulations. The project was paid for by the Department of Education under the Summer Works Scheme. We also had to replace the water filter system and fit a new fuse board in the pump house. The cost of these works was covered by school funds

## Childrens Section

### Jokes

Q. Which part of a car causes most accidents?  
A. The NUT behind the wheel.

Q. Why did the boy swallow the €2?  
A. His Daddy said it was his "Lunch Money"

Q. How far can a person go into a wood ?  
A. Half way! Because after that he is coming out.

Q. What is Hot AND Cold?  
A. A Chilli.

Q. Why was Cinderella not good at football?  
A. She kept running away from the ball!

Q. What kind of chocolate can be found in space?  
A. A Mars Bar and a Milky Way.

**Teacher:** Johnny, Why have you stopped bringing me in those lovely fresh raisins every morning?

Johnny: Sorry Miss, Our old goat died!

**Teacher:** Give me one word for 400 small cakes dancing?

Students: Abundance

**Boy:** I don't want a computer from Santa Claus

Father: Why Not?

**Boy:** Because I found one in your wardrobe

Q. What's hot and cold?

A. Chilly!

### • Activities

#### Non-uniform day for Crumlin hospital.

The children of Firoda made a contribution to Ann-Marie Stones "climbing Kilmanjaro challenge" for Crumlin Hospital. Ann-Marie, a past pupil of the school called in and told the children all about the climb and all about Crumlin Hospital.

#### Author visits School

Local author Martin Brennan who writes under the pseudo name Edward Crane recently visited our school with his series of books "The Havishams". Martin spent the morning with us, giving us some valuable tips on how to write and giving us a



wonderful insight into what inspired him to write "The Havishams"

#### Votes for Jim

Kilkenny man Mr. Jim Kavanagh recently received the 2014 Charity Hero Award. Jim has volunteered since the mid-1990s and has made his life's work the alleviation of suffering for thousands of children, young adults and the elderly in institutions and mental asylums across Belarus and Western Russia. Over 20 years ago, Jim set up the Volunteer Outreach Group of

Adi Roche's Chernobyl Children International (CCI) in Kilkenny and since then has led this group to engage with his local community and far beyond and raise hundreds of thousands to give hope back to the children who come into Ireland on rest and recuperation. The senior pupils of Firoda spent a few weeks voting for Jim to help get him elected and they hope to have Jim out to the school in the new year to tell them about his work.

### Dog Trust



We've all heard of the phrase 'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas', but what exactly does it mean? Well recently we had a very special visit from Fiona, from Dogs Trust Ireland and her puppy Meg. The purpose of Fiona's visit was to teach us how to be responsible dog owners and how to keep ourselves safe around dogs.

### Shoebox Appeal

Well done again to everybody for continuing to support the Christmas Shoebox appeal with such generosity. This tremendous project ensures that children who otherwise



would get nothing at Christmas will get a little present which will mean so much to them.

### Digital School

Firoda School has recently been designated as a "Digital School of Distinction" by the Department of Education. The award is granted to schools that reach a very high standard in Information Technology usage. Several criteria have met and a Department visits the school for half a day to see if the school is at the required level. An awards ceremony will be held in the New Year.



### Christmas Cards & Cross stitch

Once again this year all the pupils designed and printed their own personalised Christmas Cards. The art work on them all was lovely and whoever gets them will surely treasure them. Thank you to Angela for all the work she puts in to this project and also for the work she puts into cross stitching with the senior pupils.

### All-Ireland Hurling Glory

What a year on the hurling fields for our school! Three of our past pupils brought back Leinster and All-Ireland medals. Conor Delaney and Niall McMahon were part of the victorious Kilkenny minor squad with Conor playing in the very difficult position of full back. At senior level history was made with Conor Fogarty becoming the first past pupil to play in and win a Senior All-Ireland final. He now has three All-Ireland Senior medals. His brother Damien was the first past pupil to win a senior medal (2008,2009) but he did not get any game time. Conor also won his third National League medal this year. So, well done to Niall and the two Conors for making us proud of you. Current pupils should know that these lads, with their friends, practiced pucking the ball against the wall almost every

day while they attended Firoda and they still call up in the evenings to keep “their eye in”.



**Conor in action against “Bonner Maher” of Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final**

**The following is the list of past pupils that have won All-Ireland Hurling Titles:**

1993	Minor	Michael Owens
1996	Under 21	Michael Owens
2003	Minor	Damien Fogarty
2004	Under 21	Anthony Owens
2006	Under 21	Damien Fogarty
2008	Minor	Conor Fogarty
	Under 21	Michael Murphy
	Senior	Damien Fogarty
2009	Senior	Damien Fogarty
2011	Senior	Conor Fogarty
2012	Senior	Conor Fogarty
2013	Senior	Conor Fogarty
	Minor	Niall McMahon
	Minor	Conor Delaney

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Holly Byrne on winning



the County Under-10 Handball Championship recently. Holly was just 8 years old when winning so a bright handball future seems to be on the cards for her.

**Past Pupils Return**

Some weeks ago we had a visit from some past pupils. Jim Brien formerly from Skehana and now living in Toronto, Canada was on a visit home. He called to the school with his sisters Kathleen and Breda and they were amazed with the changes since they attended



the “Old School” over sixty years ago. Kathleen and Breda who live locally have agreed to call up to the school in the new year and tell the pupils all about Firoda in the “Old days”. We look forward to their stories telling us about the children having to bring a sod of turf each to school to heat the room.

**Jim & Kathleen Brien in the front seat with Breda behind them.**

**Music Group**

Continued success to the after school music group that work so hard learning to play Irish Musical Instruments under the expert tutelage of Teacher Karina Dowling

We hope you enjoyed reading our Newsletter It will be filed on our new website [www.firodaschool.ie](http://www.firodaschool.ie) May we wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

