

Holy Family Senior School May, 2017

www.hfss.org

Check the website regularly to find out what is *happening* in school.

HSCL: Olivia McMahon & Shane Griffin
on 086 6040686

Important Dates:

Music Generation/Choir/Band Recital in Hall: Wednesday June 7th @ 11.15 am.

June Bank Holiday: School closed on Friday June 2nd & Monday June 5th.

Enrolment Evening for 2nd Class : Thursday June 8th @ 6.30 pm.

Active Schools Week: Monday - Friday June 12 to 16th.

Graduation Ceremony: Tuesday June 27th. @ 6.30 pm in HFSS Hall.

Summer Holidays: Friday June 30th. @ 12 noon.

Choir/Music.



Well done to all of our 6th class strings players who performed in Glór as part of Music Generation Clare's Gala Concert to mark the end of their first 3 years. Under the guidance of their tutor Ciarán Collins our 50 strong group performed at such a high standard to a full house at Glór. They have been studying violin for the past three years and we hope they would go on to continue their studies in this instrument into secondary school. Thank you most

sincerely to all our choir members who sang at our recent sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. You were truly outstanding and sang so beautifully. Thank you also to you, the parents, for your continued support with choir.

Summer Music Recital: on Wednesday, June 7th @ 11.15 am Holy Family Senior School will host its annual Summer Recital Coffee Morning. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come and see your child perform with family and friends and to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Among our performers this year you will see our school choir, our traditional school band, our violin players, our concertina group, our rock band and members of the newly established piano tuition programme. It guarantees to be a wonderful morning of music and song. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Graduation Mass: All members of our school choir will sing at the graduation ceremony of our 6th class students on Tuesday 27th June at 6:30 pm in our school hall. Full formal school uniform is required for this short ceremony which should be over by 7:30 pm - please arrange a safe collection point with your child for after the ceremony.

Instruments: We will recall all violins, accordions, guitars and concertinas before the Summer Holidays. Please ensure that the instrument that was given to your child is in good condition, with any broken strings repaired before returning them. Thank you.

Home School Community Links:

Science for Fun: During the month of May, our 2nd Classes have been very busy! We are very lucky to have Dipanker Biswas work with the children and their parents/grandparents on fun science activities. Everybody, both young and old, is having great fun making and playing with helicopters, rockets, spinners and cameras!

Parents' Courses: We have a variety of courses running in our parents' room this term! On **Mondays**, Stephanie is giving us lots of makeup tips and we even had some threading done! On **Tuesdays**, Noelle is running a cookery course, **Wednesdays** are our English classes with Olwyn and on **Thursdays**, Colette is our tutor for our "Looking after the Family, looking after me" course.

Our craft club, under the guidance of Liliana, have been extremely busy making beautiful candles and photo frames for all our 2nd Class children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parents' Association for all their hard work and dedication in making the children's First Holy Communion Day extra special by providing refreshments after the ceremony and presenting the children with treats and gifts.

Our parents are very busy working in our school garden under the guidance of Monika. We meet on Tuesday mornings, weather permitting, and Áine from Seed Savers is supporting the development of the garden also. It is a great way to find out how to manage and plan a garden. Plenty of useful tips!! This space is so important to the school as it helps with environmental awareness as well as acting as an outdoor classroom. All parents are welcome to come along and develop their skills while helping us to develop a beautiful resource. Watch out for texts regarding activities in the garden! Also thank you very much to Shirley Brohan of 'Blossom on the Go' Garden Centre for her extremely generous donation of flowers, herbs and really cute bughouses for our garden. Our dads made a herb planter using an old pallet and the children helped parents to plant herbs and label them. Well done to all involved! Don't forget to like our page on Facebook to keep up to date with all that is going on for parents and families in HFSS. Search 'Holy Family School - HSCL Activities'.



School Tours:

Tuesday June 6th.: 6th. Class tour to Tralee.

Monday June 12th.: 4th. Class tour to Nevsail, Kilkee.

Tuesday June 13th.: 3rd. Class Tour to Lahinch and 5th. Class Tour to Galway.

Thursday June 15th.: 2nd. Class tour to Aillwee Caves, Ballyvaughan.



School places for September 2017.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If you are planning to move over the summer period we would appreciate it greatly if you would inform the school as soon as possible. It helps us plan for classes and also gives time to prepare transfer papers for your child so they can move schools easily.

Green Schools Update.

Our school garden has been a hive of activity of late. Biodiversity is very evident in our garden. The wildflower beds have been replanted. We have made a new log pile habitat. Signs have been created to keep visitors to the garden informed of what is growing there. Children have completed mapping and bug hunt activities. They have planted seeds and done some weeding. Huge credit must go to Monika and the dedicated team of parents who work so hard to keep our garden looking beautiful so it can be used as an outdoor classroom environment.

Clare County Council is organising its annual **'Cycle to School Day' for Wednesday, 14th June**. Children from 4th, 5th and 6th classes are invited to participate in a 7km cycle around Ennis. Children must have a helmet and a bike in working order. We are looking for as many parents/guardians as possible to come along and join the cycle also. Pupils have received a letter about the cycle. Please sign the permission slip if you wish your child to participate and indicate if you are available to come on the cycle also. We will be assembling in the school yard that morning at approximately 10.30am. There will be a bike mechanic in school on the morning of the cycle to check the bikes and perform minor maintenance. We are looking forward to a pleasant and healthy cycle.

Quiz Team: Two teams recently participated in the Annual Garda Primary Schools Quiz in association with the International Police Association (Clare Branch). Congratulations to one of our teams who came third in the quiz. Three students from fifth class were on the team: Emily Feehan, Cormac Maher and Josh O'Neill.



Primary Game Hurling 2017.

We are proud to announce that John O'Sullivan in 6th class will have the opportunity to showcase his hurling prowess in the hallowed hurling arena of Semple Stadium, Thurles. John has been selected to play for the Clare Primary Game team at half time during the Clare v Limerick Munster Senior Hurling Championship game on Sunday next 4th June. The teachers involved in coaching here in school were not in the least surprised to hear of John's selection and we wish him all the best on this special occasion. Well done John.



Girls' Soccer Tournament.

On Tuesday May 9th Holy Family Senior school's girls' soccer team and 5th class supporters headed to Cork for the Spar/FAI Schools' Primary 5-a-side 2017 soccer tournament. This is the furthest our girls' soccer team ever made it in the soccer tournament. The bus took 2 hours to get to Cork. The journey was long but it went by quickly because of the great atmosphere. When the soccer team and supporters arrived at Cork everyone settled down and the team got ready to play their first match. At 11.00 am Holy Family (Clare) played against Scoil Nioclais (Cork). Scoil Nioclais had a very strong team. Unfortunately, our girls did not score any goals and lost 5 - 0, but they were not giving up just yet. The next match began at 12.10pm after an hour long lunch break. Holy Family played against St. Oliver's NS (Kerry) and won 3 - 1 with Tatiana scoring all 3 goals, with the help of her team mates. This meant that our soccer team were through to the semi-final. After that at 12.45pm they played against the winners of group 2, St John the Baptist Girls school (Tipperary) in the semi-finals. Our team lost 3 - 1 with Nora scoring our only goal. It was a great match and could have gone either way. We were out of the competition but the supporters were still very proud and our school's soccer team kept their heads held high. Holy Family is very proud of the girls and hope our soccer team will be able to compete again next year. Liz & Caoimhe, 5th Class.



Schools Hurling Blitz.

On 19th May 2017, the Holy Family Senior School went to Gurteen, Barefield to play their first round hurling matches. The schools that were there were Kilnaboy, Tubber and Mountshannon. The first game was against Kilnaboy. We were given a good challenge in the first half and were 10 points down at half time. In the second half we were much better but it was not enough. Kilnaboy N.S., beat us in the end. The next game was against Mountshannon. We lost against them as well, and they also beat Tubber in the first game. On our third game, we played Tubber N. S. We were only a point down at half time and lost by only a small margin. We may have lost but the most important thing was we had lots of fun. The team was Macauley Brennan, Patrick Sherlock, Aaron Lynch, Mark Reidy, Martin Delaney, TJ Kiely, Sean O'Loughlan, Óisín Biswas, Jim Delaney, Cillian Ryan, Cormac Maher, Samuel Olaoye, John O'Sullivan and Craig Briggs. By Cormac Maher and Cillian Ryan.



Science for Fun.

For the past two Fridays we had Science for Fun in our class. Ciarán's Dad from Ms Fords class, AJ's Mam, Rayyan's Dad and Aron's Mam were the helpers. Ciarán's dad is an expert scientist. First we made a skeleton. We had to cut all the body parts out and then the parents stapled them together. We could make the skeletons dance. Next we moved onto making a horn. It was quite hard. We used a balloon, the top of a bottle and a piece of card to make the horn. Some of the horns made really loud noises. It was great fun making the skeletons and the horns.



Active School Flag.

Morning Walk/Run: We are delighted with the level of participation in our morning run and walk this term. On average over 200 children are partaking in the initiative and we are hoping to improve on these numbers! So please make an effort to have your children present at 8.50 am on dry mornings in an effort to make our school community more physically active.



Active Schools Week:

This year our Active School Week takes place from Monday 12th June to Friday 16th June. Active Schools Week allows us to reinforce the message that not only is physical activity good for you but it also very enjoyable. We already have secured the services of yoga, badminton, soccer, gaelic football and dance instructors but we are on the look out for more. So if you know someone or perhaps are able to conduct a session that encourages physical activities please contact Olivia in the Parents' Room. This year we are linking Active Schools Week with Healthy Eating Week where children and parents are encouraged to work together to make healthy lunches for break times. **Breakfast Club, Packed lunches and hot lunches will not be provided for this week.** To assist in the preparation of lunches during Healthy Eating Week our 5th and 6th class students will be visited by Kelvin Harold from Clare GAA who will be speaking to them about the importance of good nutrition and hydration and what constitutes a good healthy lunch.



Park Run:

The weekly Ennis 5km Park Run takes place every Saturday morning at 9.30am in John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road and is a fantastic community event. It is free and entrants are encouraged to run at their own pace. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and registration visit <http://www.parkrun.ie/leesroad/>

Girls' Football News.

Primary School Ladies Football Competition. Holy Family Senior Girls' Football team will play Kildysart N.S. in a semi-final on Thursday June 8th in Éire Óg at 11.30am. The winner will proceed to the finals in Cusack Park Monday 12th June. The girls have been training hard all term. We would like to wish them the very best of luck! Big congratulations to Caoimhe Ryan, 5th class who represented the Holy Family Senior School, Ennis in the Primary Girls County trials last Thursday in Clarecastle. Caoimhe did us very proud.



5th Class Junior Achievement Room 16.

Our class had the privilege to learn about our universe with the dedicated Brendan Flynn. We had five weeks with him, which meant five topics. The lessons were about Bones, an investigation on a crime, the different fuels we use, the circulation of blood and rainbows to lasers. When Brendan taught us about bones, some of us were disgusted by the information we were told. For the investigation we had to find out who stole the 10,000-euro necklace from using ink as fingerprints. There are eight main type of fuels we use such as coal, solar energy, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, oil, geothermal and biomass. When we were doing the circulation highway, we had a choice to do an advertisement or a poster. When we did rainbows to lasers, one exercise was to write BED DICE BOX and put the mirror in front of the words and it looked the exact same because those words have symmetry. Did you know that? We also built a periscope that day at the end of the first week. Brendan gave us the task of remembering his name. Only one person remembered his name. Brendan gave us a piece of card to write/design our names on it. When Brendan was teaching us, we had to give our full attention so we could get no HOMEWORK!!! We asked our class what topic they enjoyed the most and it was ... Rainbows to Lasers. On the final day Brendan took a selfie with us and gave each of us a cream egg. We really appreciate what Brendan taught us and we all had an amazing time. By Alannah Mulqueen & Emily Feehan.

Our Communion Day.

We all woke up very excited, to sunshine on the morning of the May 20th., 2017. It was our Communion Day. After breakfast our houses got very loud and busy with all our family and relatives rushing around getting ready for 'OUR BIG DAY'. The boys were all spruced up in their school uniforms and were very handsome. The girls were like beautiful princesses in their white dresses and veils.

The ceremony began at 11.00 am, when we were all sitting perfectly in our seats.

Fr. Ger was the celebrant and helped us as we sang gorgeous songs, respectfully said our prayers and brought gifts to the Altar. We were excellent lining up to receive our First Holy Communion. Everyone had a job to do and everyone did it perfectly. At the end of the mass we all walked up onto the Altar to sing 'Rise and Shine' with actions. Mrs Hickey helped us out. Looking down from the Altar we could see smiling, proud faces of our families and teachers. Everyone cheered when we were finished. We felt like celebrities!

Afterwards we took many pictures in the Church. Everyone was smiling. When we left the church we did something nice with our families. It was a fantastic day. All the practice was worth it in the end.....We were brilliant!!



