

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your kind words and wishes. I consider it a huge privilege to be Principal of our school. I have been teaching in Milford since 1999 and I have always felt very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful school community. I look forward to working closely with you in the months and years ahead, with a shared goal of helping each child reach their full potential. I will endeavour to work to the best of my ability to maintain the wonderful ethos and excellent standards of our school.

Retirement of our Principal Teacher: Our esteemed former Principal, Ms Kathryn O'Mahony, officially retired from teaching on Friday 8th April 2016. It was an emotional day for all the staff and pupils of Milford NS. During her last day in school, Ms O'Mahony visited all the classes and was treated to a fabulous concert in our gym. The day ended with Ms O'Mahony receiving a very affectionate guard of honour from all the pupils and staff. Ms. O'Mahony was a wonderful teacher and Principal who excelled in her profession. Milford is indebted to Kathryn for her vision, work ethic and commitment to our school. After working 36 years in education she, without doubt, deserves a long and happy retirement. Áth mór uirthi i rith a blianta scoir.

Hurling and Camogie updates: The u13 Camogie Team has reached the semi-final by topping the table in the league section of their competition. Milford girls will face either Mungret or Ballybrown in the semi-final on Thursday, May 12th. The Olo Cup Team has also reached the semi-final of their competition, and this semi will be played on Wednesday, May 11th. The u11 Boys' Hurling Team has also reached their semi-final, and this game will be played on Thursday, May 12th. Milford NS had to host eight "Home Fixtures" during the league-sections of these various competitions. Trials for the Neville Cup and Mackey Cup city teams are taking place at the moment. We wish all the boys and girls every success in their endeavours on the sporting field. We also wish to acknowledge the huge support that we received from our near neighbours UL who provided us with pitches and goalposts throughout this season (and many other seasons!) We particularly want to thank Denis Walsh and his team of UL Groundskeepers for all of the extra work that they did in their efforts to accommodate us, as well as Neasa O'Donnell and Catherine Dooley in the Arena for their endless patience and generosity towards Milford NS.

Choir: Milford National School choir performed in the University Concert Hall with the Three Tenors on Saturday April 9th. This was the fourth year in a row that they have had the privilege of being asked to join them in concert.

Scór na nBPAistí County Champions:

The County Final of Scór na nBPAistí was held in The Millennium Theatre, LIT, on Friday the 22nd of April. The following groups from Milford achieved **first place**

Ballad Group - Molly Hussey, Fia Robertson, Amber Gleeson, Julia Cunneen, Laura Southern

Recitation - Molly Hussey

Drama - Charlotte Allen, Erica Murphy, Franek Zeglinsky, Alberto Henry, Molly Walsh, Lily Holloway, Abigail Hourigan-Powell

Second Place

Music group - Riona Walsh, Niamh Walsh, Saoirse Exton, Alex Arbuzova, Emily O' Halloran

Solo Singing - Saoirse Exton.

Congratulations to all the pupils involved and many thanks to the teachers Ms. Yvonne Newman, Ms. Emma Dolphin, Ms. Deirdre Taylor and Ms. Linda O'Meara for their efforts.

Milford Gazette: Check out the March special edition ('The O'Mahony Times'). It is available for viewing on www.milfordns.ie. Thank you to editors Seth Collins, Adam Flahive, Molly Hussey, Saoirse Exton and Clara Leahy and of course, Ms Rael, editor-in-chief!

School Tours: Tours are being organised at the moment and most will be in June. Hopefully the weather will be kind as it has been for the past few years. It makes such a difference!

Junior Entrepreneur Project: Fifth class children will participate in the Junior Entrepreneur Project County Showcase Day in Adare on Wednesday, 27 April. The children will share their entrepreneurial projects, Fun'n'Fit and Sewprise, with other project participants the region and network with fellow junior entrepreneurs. They will also receive the Junior Entrepreneur Project flag and plaque.

Limerick Sports' Partnership has expressed an interest in developing Mr. Roseingrave's class product, Fun'n'Fit, recognising it as a unique means of motivating children to participate in exercise.

Music Generation: Music Generation is a Music Network initiative. The programme directly links with the National Music Curriculum areas and requirements. The Three Term structure corresponds with the Music Curriculum divisions – Listening/ Responding and Performing. The visiting musicians are working on skills building with an added composition element, working towards creating original pieces of work with each group. Third and Fourth Classes are the lucky participants in this structured programme. We will be looking forward to the inaugural 'Schools Summit' event in UL Arena on Monday, 16th May with young people from other schools performing to each other.

Community Music Placement: Renee Hayes and Mary Kelly, both students from UL, have been working with us under the Community Music Work Placement. Senior Infant classes and First classes have benefited from weekly Music Workshops. They were working towards an audio recorded group composition which was a very worthwhile and enjoyable learning experience for all pupils involved.

Confirmation: The Confirmation ceremony was held on Wednesday April 13th in Milford church and it was just beautiful. Ms Deirdre Taylor and Mr Brian Kelly deserve great credit for the excellent preparation of the children for this important occasion in their lives. Special thanks to our school band and their leaders for the beautiful music.

The UL Sport Children's Run for Fun at the Barringtons Hospital Great Limerick Run 2016 will take place on Saturday the 30th of April. We have been encouraging as many children as possible to take part in the run. All of the children's races are off road, starting at the GAA pitch beside the running track and finishing on the running track.

Geoff Hunt: Geoff Hunt, our environmental expert, was back in Milford NS this month and the Fifth Class children have been enjoying pond dipping around the environs of UL and under the microscope in the classrooms.

Shakin' with Shakespeare: This month the literary world marks the 400th anniversary of the death of playwright William Shakespeare, who died on April 23rd 1616. The 6th class pupils of Ms. Murray's "*Shakin' with Shakespeare*" club marked this important anniversary with a cake on April 25th 2016, to celebrate the life of William Shakespeare and the wonderful plays he wrote during his lifetime. It is amazing that Shakespeare's plays continue to be widely studied and performed four centuries after his death. *Shakin' with Shakespeare* will re-commence for 5th and 6th class pupils in September 2016.

Discover Primary Science and Maths Award: Milford has applied for the Discover Primary Science and Maths Award 2016. We hope to qualify for a Plaque of STEM. This means that Milford National School will have met all the necessary criteria that falls under five different categories including science, technology, engineering and maths. Milford's Science Club is up and running once again. The aim of this club is to encourage the children's interest in science. Children from 3rd Class attend this club every Thursday where they get the opportunity to carry out fun and exciting experiments. This club has played an important role in ensuring that all the necessary requirements to achieve the Award of Science and Maths Excellence are being met. We submitted our logs of evidence for the award on 25th April. Fingers crossed that our application is successful. Many thanks to Ms Quinlan, Ms Hogan and Ms Munnelly for co-ordinating this valuable programme.

Parking: Yet again, in spite of numerous reminders regarding the car-park regulations, concern for the safety of children exiting the school has been expressed to school management. Instances of abuse, dangerous parking habits and flaunting of car park rules have been reported. We will, yet again, have no option but to enlist the assistance of the Gardaí. None of us wants to see a child hurt due to careless and irresponsible non-compliance with basic Health/Safety guidelines. Car registration numbers of dangerous drivers will be taken and reported to the Gardaí.

Important note for parents: Please make sure to label your child's belongings. There are a lot of unlabelled clothes in the Lost Property press in the school, which will be going to recycling before the end of the year if they are not claimed. Even though the weather is sunny and dry at the moment it is still too early for children to wear their summer uniform (blue polo shirt and navy shorts) to school. Hopefully, the temperatures will be warmer later in the term and an announcement to wear the summer uniform can be made at that stage.

Limerick Primary School Sports: The annual Primary Schools' Sports in Plassey will take place on Wednesday, May 18th. Another word of thanks to Neasa O'Donnell and Catherine Dooley in the Arena for authorising the use of the Running Track on Fridays for the Milford Athletics Team to train. The University has been, and continues to be, a great neighbour to have!

Dates to remember:

Cake Sale: Friday April 29th

Mid-term break: Closing April 29th – Reopening Monday May 9th

Great Limerick Run 2016: Saturday April 30th

First Holy Communion: Saturday May 14th

Limerick Primary School Sports UL Track: Wednesday May 18th

Summer Holidays: Thursday June 30th at 12 o'clock.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Diarmaid Moore
Principal