

ST. CATHERINE'S CHRISTMAS LINKS '12

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AND
CLASS BLOGS AT
WWW.STCATHNS.COM**

**ALSO AVAILABLE IN MOBILE FORMAT
FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE**



Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe we are at the end of yet another year here in St. Catherine's! And what a busy one it has been. This term is finishing with a flourish too with our choir making a hugely successful visit to Wilton on the 11th to spread some Christmas cheer and we prepare for our Carol Concert on Thursday, December 13th. The school is alive with the sounds of Christmas and is a magical place to be this time of year. The following items might be of interest to all of our families at this time:

* **Please aim to be seated by 6.45 p.m. for Carol Concert :)**

* We thank you in advance for your invaluable gifts of non perishable food items to be brought to the church (**PLEASE LEAVE THESE AT THE END OF THE CHURCH**) for the Carol Concert. Representatives of Bishopstown & District Lions Club will be on hand at 8.15 p.m. to collect donations for the local St. Vincent de Paul. Together we can make a vital difference to families this Christmas.

* The Staff and myself are really looking forward to your hand made Christmas Cards again this year—the nicest present we could ask for.

* Cybersafe is a wonderful initiative by the Transition Year students in Bishopstown Community School. For €5 pupils here in senior classes can buy their blue Cybersafe wristband which also contains a memory stick that has instructions on how to handle cyber bullying and also how to take a snapshot of the offending text/or Facebook posting. We remind parents and pupils that it is not permissible for a child under 13 to have a Facebook Account but the onus is very much on us as parents to ensure this.

* A very special Thankyou to Fr. Kieran , Fr. Tom and all in Dennehy's Cross Church for their wonderful help and support . We wish them a very Holy and Happy Christmas

- * Don't forget to visit our Crib on the way to the senior corridor:)
- * Friday 21st is the Parents Association "Wear Something Christmassy" Day -Why not wear that Santa Hat yourself as you pop in to drop or collect that day!
- * Christmas Raffle will be held on 21st also and this will round off our Book Rental Fundraising.
- * Thanks so much to all who have been involved in the Book Rental Fundraising to date. We are now pretty much set up to launch this fully in September 2013 at as low a cost as we can manage.
- * A very special word of thanks to **Debenham's** very own Yvonne Connolly and her colleagues who once again put on a Fashion Extravaganza in Oriel House which raised over €3,000 for Our Book Rental Scheme, additional Music Classes and some Sensory Equipment for the school. This is an invaluable support to the school and we cant thank you all enough. A very special mention too to the stunning models on the night and the priceless Dad's who were auctioned off as well!). Thanks also to Trish , Sam and all on the P.A. for a brilliant night out for us all.



Happy Christmas one and all!

- * Our Choir is busy rehearsing to take part in The Peace Proms in City Hall in February and we can't wait to see them there!
- * January 16th, 2013—Board Of Management approved training in Mental Health for staff. Due to this training the Feb 8th Staff Meeting is being brought forward and all classes will now finish at 1.40 p.m. on that day. Normal closing times will now apply on Feb.8th 2013.
- * A Big Thank you to all parents and friends who have shared their time to accompany us on trips out; to help with knitting and with I.T. skills this term—we would have been lost without you all .
- * Places are being allocated for next year's 2 Junior Infant Classes as we write so please ensure that you accept offer of a place in writing either by email or post by Dec 19th to secure your child's place. It is wonderful to see such a great demand for places in St. Catherine's again this year and that is due to a great team effort ! Maith sinn go leir.
- * The latest education statistics released this week are based on the results of the PIRLS and TIMMS international studies. Our pupils here were administered these tests by myself in the last school year and were over seen by a Department Inspector. The results in Ireland were very good indeed and it is great to see them getting the publicity they deserve.
- * Confirmation & First Holy Communion preparations are in full swing so we would kindly ask that parents bring pupils in these classes to Mass as often as possible so that they are aware of when to sit, stand and kneel and that they are familiar with the new Mass responses. This would be of huge help to the teachers as the curriculum is so crowded that time cannot be spent on this too easily.
- * We will be remembering especially this Christmas all of our families who have lost a loved one or who have family members seriously ill or in trouble of any kind. We ask your prayers for all of them and for our very dear Dean Denis O' Connor who himself is very ill at this time.
- * Finally may I express my deep appreciation to you all for the kindness and expressions of sympathy that I have been showered with following the recent death of my dear Mum. It has been a tremendous support to me.



- * Homework Club will run again for January and Deirdre will send out forms next week. Could we gently remind those parents who are late collecting their children that we will not be in a position to accept applications from them should this continue. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.
- * TRAFFIC: To ease congestion around the school I am wondering if some parents would consider dropping older pupils a little further away from the school which would give them a chance to walk and would help traffic flow. In the new year we will look at this again and your suggestions would be most welcome.



DATES FOR DIARY:

PLEASE CHECK at :
<http://stcathns.com/calendar.html>
For all key dates.

*Silent Night, Holy Night .
 All is calm , All is
 bright.....*