



A Message From Our Principal



Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir,

2024 was again a fantastic year for the St. Anthony's BNS Community with many memorable moments, achievements and memories created. Christmas has definitely arrived here in St. Anthony's BNS and the energy, excitement and Christmas buzz is reverberating around the school building. From Christmas artwork, music, decorated doors, corridors, Christmas trees and cribs. It's a really magical and special time for the boys and the whole school community.

Over the past number of weeks, the wonderful boys of St. Anthony's along with their teachers and SNA's have been diligently preparing for the School Mass, Concerts and Nativity plays where we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in music and prayer. These were beautiful, happy, up-lifting and special occasions shared by the whole school community.

The Christmas spirit of giving and sharing is still truly alive in St. Anthony's BNS and the generosity and willingness to think of those less fortunate has been a joy to behold.

It is heart-warming and humbling to witness how this year again our boys and their families have raised much-needed funds and items for many charities including St. Vincent de Paul, Shine, Pieta House, Penny Dinners, Cork Simon Community, My Canine Companion, Marymount Hospice and UNICEF. Míle Buiochas daoibh go léir.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Mr O'Leary's Class turn blue for a good cause!
- A very special visitor to the school
- A flying visit to Cork Airport
- Kali's Naughty & Nice List



Principal message continued from page 1

I would like to thank you all most sincerely for your co-operation and support in 2024. Huge staff and parental support were evident at all levels and I am deeply grateful to you all for your support and hard-work. I look forward to working with you all again in 2024 as we continue to make St. Anthony's BNS a school Community that we all love and enjoy.

I would like to thank everybody who supported our school in anyway throughout 2024. I must give a special word of thanks to our dedicated Board of Management and superb Parents' Association who do trojan work for St. Anthony's BNS.

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy, holy, healthy and restful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year. I hope that you all have a beautiful Christmas and that Santa leaves you something nice. Boys you have been amazing!

Nollaig Shona faoi shéan is faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir agus guím gach rath oraibh don bhlian athbhliain!

Kali's Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Written by My Canine Companion Kali

Holly the Elf and her mischievous reindeer, Barney, played a cheeky trick by sneaking off with my Christmas toys and hiding them all around the Japanese Gardens! Thankfully, the boys were absolutely *pawsome* in helping me track them down.

A special shout-out goes to the 4th Classes and their Junior Infant 'reading buddies' for teaming up so brilliantly to spot every last one of my toys.





THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS- OUR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CRIB

Special thanks to the creative talents of Gráinne and James from 3rd Class for their wonderful work in assembling the school Christmas crib.

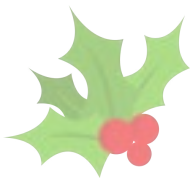
Our school crib holds a fascinating story. During a wintry walk overlooking Kenmare Bay, Flor O'Sullivan, the since-retired principal of St. Anthony's, and his wife Maura O'Sullivan, a former vice principal, spotted a piece of driftwood floating by. Determined to retrieve it, a boat was needed to bring the iconic wood to shore. This unique driftwood, combined with the beautiful statues purchased from St. Anthony's Stores on Liberty Street in Cork City, and moss collected by Gráinne from the byroads of Kerry, forms the centerpiece of our Christmas decorations.

The crib is proudly displayed in the school's entrance hallway for all to see.

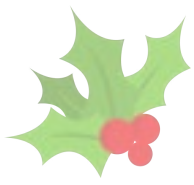
Christmas Jumper Appeal

The school was a sea of Christmas jumpers, hats and pajamas on Thursday 19th December as the boys and staff donned their most festive threads in aid of some very worthy causes. This Christmas the money raised will be given to three wonderful charities: Penny Dinners, Simon Community & UNICEF.





Stop the Bus!



FESTIVE BUS STOPS

As part of Cork City Council's Corkmas celebrations, city libraries recently organised an art competition for Cork school children to design Christmas images for display in bus shelters across the city. One of our talented 2nd Class boys, Daragh, was chosen as one of the winners.

CORKMAS ART COMPETITION

Written by Daragh,
2nd Class

I drew a picture for a colouring competition for the library. My picture was picked and it went up on a bus stop in Cork city. Then all the winners got to meet the Lord Mayor in his chambers in City Hall. He gave us a poster of our poster!





Kindness Matters



The boys of Ms Barrett, Ms Geraghty & Ms Lynch's classes sent Christmas cards to local care and nursing home residents, brightening up the lives of the people living there.

SENDING CHRISTMAS LOVE

Written by Harry, 3rd Class

Our teacher Ms Barrett said that we were going to send cards to people who can't visit their families for Christmas.

First we drew the cards with either stencils or on our own. I drew a train going around a Christmas tree with Santa in it.

Next we each got a certain person to write to. I got female resident no. 1. We wrote in the cards and sealed the envelopes. We used a candle to make wax seals for the envelopes.

We walked down to the Post Office and put our envelopes in the mail box.

I hope the people will feel very happy when they get their Christmas cards.



FESTIVE FRIENDS APPEAL

The boys in St Anthony's raised an incredible €3,000 through the sale of Christmas teddies for the very worthy ASD charity, The Shine Centre.





Adventures at Home & Away



Ms Dunlea's Class had a fun time visiting Santa at the Rainbow Club



Malakai had fun creating a marshmallow snowman.



THE REEL DEAL!

1st & 2nd Classes enjoyed a delightful trip to the Reel Cinema in Ballincollig to see 'Paddington in Peru.'



Posting letters to Santa



On Friday 14th December 3rd & 4th Classes went to Douglas Community School to watch the DCD pantomime, Robin the Rich Boys in the Hood. We had a great time. They took a photo of us before we went in Santa's Sleigh. My favourite part was the end when the Minion became the king. We had a great day.

Written by Michael, 4th Class



Ms Dunlea's Class enjoyed a trip to Douglas Library



Sciath na Scol Success

3 IN A ROW!

Written by Thomas, 2nd Class

On Friday 8th November my class and I travelled to Pairc Ui Chaoimh to watch the Sciath an Scol Football final against Crosshaven. We went on the bus to the match. It was very cold but I at least had my coat. We won 5-9 to 1. I would say that this was probably the best match I have ever been to currently. I think everyone else would have liked it as well. I can't wait until the next one!



The 'back room team', Colm Kiely, Jamie O'Connor, Ian Lucey, Cliona Maguire, Laura Cleary & Mr Lyons!



Painting the School Blue for Diabetes



DIABETES AWARENESS

Written by Ciarán , 6th Class

With the encouragement of my parents I decided to organise a Diabetes awareness day in St Anthony's. I dyed my hair blue and the boys in my class, my brothers classes, Ms Geraghty & Ms Cleary dressed up in blue for the day. I wanted to create awareness for diabetes. I did a project on diabetes and I showed it to the classes. Some people asked questions. It was an excellent experience and I loved it. I think boys who saw my project learned a lot about diabetes.

They're a Credit to Us!



THE JOYS OF LIFE

'The Joys of Life' was the Credit Union Art Competition 2024 theme. Georgie, from First South Credit Union, Ballinlough, presented the prizes to Dan, Seán, Charlie, Bobby, Mr Hogan O'Connell & Ms Barrett for their winning entries. Well done, one and all!



Oh Christmas Tree ..

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

St. Anthony's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony took place on December 9th, with the honor of switching on the lights given to Tristan from 1st Class. Mr. Lyons delighted everyone with his much-anticipated annual Christmas rap, setting a festive tone for the season. The Christmas tree is a heart warming sight on those dark, cold winter mornings.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER AROUND THE WORLD

Written by Caolan, 5th Class

Two weeks ago Mr Lyons came into our class and told me I had won the Christmas card competition. I was excited and nervous. Mr Lyons said that Tanaiste Michael Martin was coming to our school to congratulate me and Jack, who was runner-up. Some photos were taken. He gave me a letter and a gift card for Art & Hobby.

I came up with the idea of a snowman from my advent calendar. In it a snowman was waving but it looked as though he was pointing at the moon. I am excited to know that my art is going all over the world!



Caolan's winning entry is the Tánaiste's official Christmas card and will be sent worldwide this Christmas.



Adventures in Learning

SKY HIGH LEARNING: A VISIT TO CORK AIRPORT

Written by Liam, 6th Class

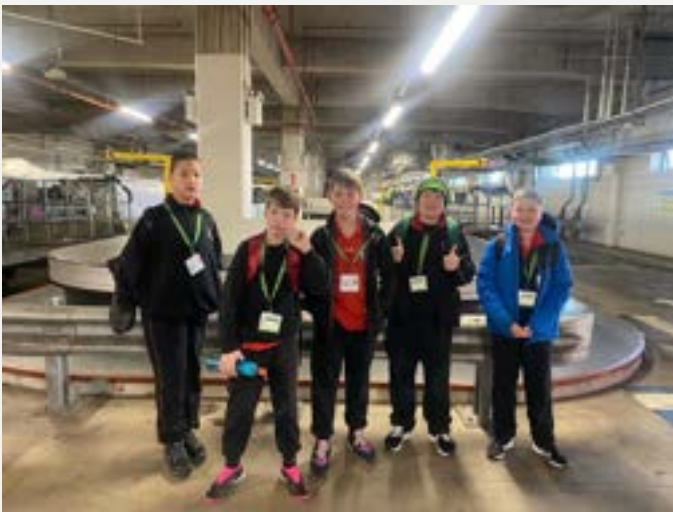
Ms O'Connell's Class went to Cork Airport in November.

First, we went into the departures area and collected our airport passes. For that day we had access to everywhere in the airport.

Then we went up the escalator to security. Once we had gotten past there we had a look around the duty-free.

After that, we went and looked around the departures gates. Later, we had a look at where the planes land on the tarmac! We also went behind the scenes to the employee area and saw security & the baggage conveyer belts. Then we had a look around the sensory room in the airport.

It was really informative and fun!



BUILDING WINDMILLS, ONE BLADE AT A TIME

Written by Nick, 4th Class

In October Ms Wickham told us we would be designing windmills. It was hard work!

I was working with Toby. First, we had to push sticks into tubes and then attach them to cones. After that, we had to test our windmill. We blew on the windmill and it worked!

I really enjoyed it, it was great fun!



Season's Greetings From Around the World

Gezuar Festat!



Albanian

Namaste Branam!



Hindi

Boldog Karácsonyt!



Hungarian

Feliz Navidad!



Spanish

Feliz Natal!



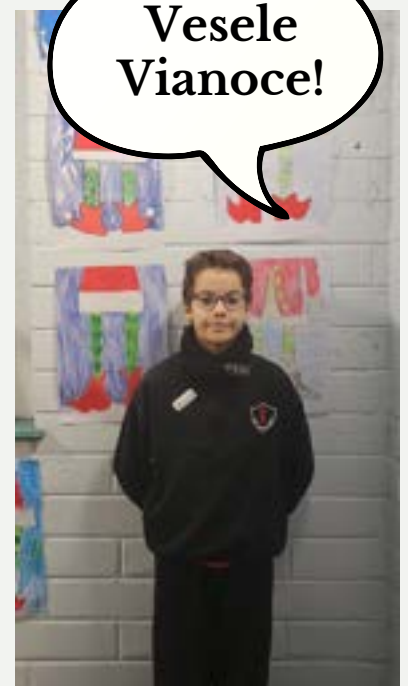
Portugese

Bon Noël!



French

Vesele Vianoce!



Slovak

Felicity
Navidad!



Argentina

கிறிஸ்துமஸ்
வாழ்த்துக்கள்
[kiristumas
vālttukka!]



Tamil - Sri Lanka

Shéngdán
Kuáilé!



Mandarin

Wesołych
świąt!



Polish

Maligayang
Pasko!

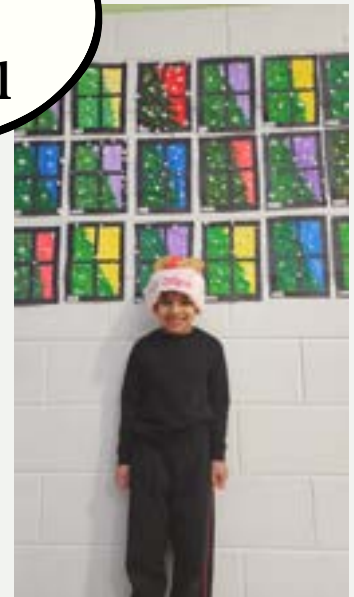


Filipino

ക്രിസ്മസ്
ആശംസകൾ
Crismas
Aashamsakal



Malayalam



Our Sporting Heros



Sean, Euan, Charlie, Cormac, Lachan, Tadhg & Jack competed in the Future Challenger swimming competition.



Finn, 3rd Class, adding yet another swimming medal to his collection.



Arthur, Senior Infants, was laden down with medals from the Douglas Gymnastics Club Competition!



Daniel, 4th Class, came first in his group at the Douglas Gymnastics Club Competition.



Lifetime Lab Primary Science Quiz in UCC Well done to Stefan, David & Cian, 6th Class. Congratulations to Toma, Joshua & Joseph, 4th Class who came 2nd in their category & thanksto Andrew & Brehon, super subs!

Fionn Shanahan, 6th Class team won the u12 Cup final for Nemo against St. Michaels in November.





Life Inside a Painting

Written by Emrys, 4th Class

A long time ago, in a dilapidated carpentry store, there lived an old artist. Hollow Robins they called him. He loved painting and dedicated his life to it. His paintings were always so motion-capturing.

Hollow didn't have a lot of money, he lived in a carpentry store after all. Then one warm, peaceful sunny day he started a wonderful painting. The next morning he had finally finished the painting. But he had put so much effort and life into it that the painting actually... CAME. TO. LIFE! This wasn't like any ordinary painting, things in the painting moved. Ships pulled in and out of the port and miniature people went inside their homes and walked down the streets. But the artist never saw any of this happen, never.

But one lonely person inside the painting wasn't like the rest. He sometimes saw the artist look over the painting or dust it off with an old rag and he started to wonder, 'Is my world real? And if not what is it like on the other side?' That person was named Buk and ever since he had started thinking this, nothing in his world seemed real.

Now back to the artist, at the start of this story I told you that the artist didn't have a lot of money. Well, he was starting to go hungry. In the end, he decided that he had no other choice but to sell his painting. So the next Saturday he went to the local farmers market and tried selling his gorgeous painting. Most people just walked by him, but in the end, a shady interested buyer showed themselves. The painting sold for \$1000, but as he got home a horrible feeling set over him, loneliness. He just shrugged it off.

That night he tried relentlessly to go to bed, but immediately woke up sweating. He made a decision, he would go try to find the painting. He set off, sprinting down the streets back to the market, but as he was running a tempestuous storm blew in from the west and in no time at all he was soaked to the skin. At the farmers market he finally found the painting abandoned in the sloppy muck, but then he heard a crazy little sound, a miniature voice yelling "HELP!" He looked closer at the painting and saw a little human, Buk! He rubbed his eyes and pinched himself. He wasn't asleep; he knew that but didn't want to believe it. He brought the painting home and for three days straight he stared at the painting, until he finally saw tiny Buk.

As the days went on he got to know Buk better. On Hollow Robins good days he would sometimes add beautiful things to the painting. He painted clouds, forests, camps and once even a pirate ship! But, on his bad days he would paint horrid storms and hail fire and floods. All in all, he and Buk had great times, and Buk finally became his friend for life.

A few years later, a dreadful sickness got the better of Hollow Robins, there was no cure, he would die. In his final days, Hollow Robins was talking to Buk when he had an idea. He exclaimed "I just had a brilliant idea, I'll paint myself into the painting!" And he started on this idea and just as he finished his last breath was drawn. But he lived on! In the painting of course and his glorious feats were never forgotten.



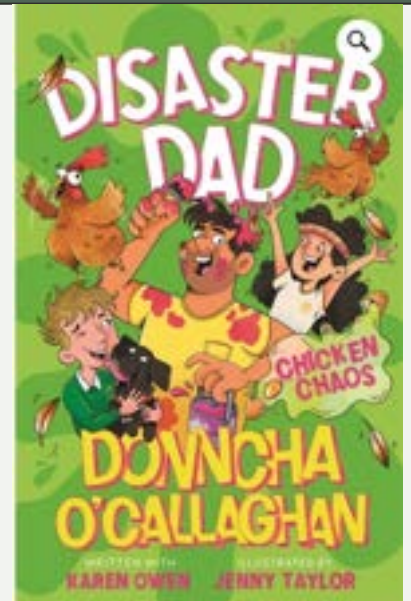
The Man Behind the Book



A VISIT FROM DONNACHA O'CALLAGHAN

Written by Louise, Nathan, Cian & Jacc, 3rd Class

We were very lucky when Donncah called to visit our class. He spoke to the class about his new book called 'Disaster Dad'. Lots of the boys in our class read the book and really enjoyed it. Donncha looked at our book reviews of his book. He also read some of his book to us. We got a lovely class photo with Donncha. It was brilliant to have a real author visit our class.



MY BOOK REVIEW OF 'DISATER DAD'

Written by Freddie, 3rd Class



Did you enjoy the book? Why/Why not? Give reasons.

Yes because he makes good jokes and he is very creative. I really enjoyed the book and I would like if he could write more books.

Do you think the Dad was a 'Disaster Dad' in the story?

Yes because in one of the pictures he has a mop on his head and it looks like his hair!

Would you recommend this book to others to read?

Yes, it is very funny.



Christmas Cheer!

Christmas spirit was in full flow the past few weeks with all classes involved in various theatrical & musical performances. The Junior classes performed Nativity Plays, 1st & 2nd Classes treated us to joyous Christmas concerts in the hall while the classes from 3rd - 6th enhanced a beautiful pre-Christmas Mass with their uplifting music and song.





Kali's Corner



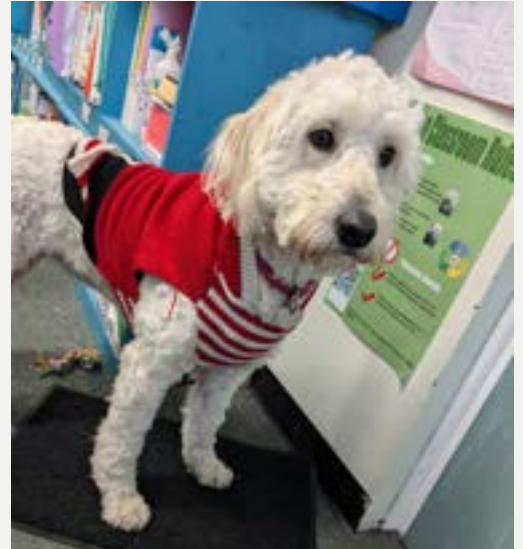
KALI'S NAUGHTY & NICE LIST

Naughty

1. Holly Elf & her reindeer Barney who hid my toys in the Japanese Gardens
2. The black cat I meet on my walk to school every morning, Woof! I'm not AC (anti-cat), some of my best friends are cats, but that feline is out to get me!
3. Dog owners who don't pick up their pet's poo. Poo happens guys! Scoop the poop!

Nice

1. My 3 Wise Aunties, Aunty Claire, Aunty Aoife & Aunty Ann, who bring me for walks with the boys.
2. Kevin, the Caretaker, what that guy doesn't do would fit on a post-it note. He's always fixing, repairing and always with a smile.
3. Princess Eweline, she keeps the school spic and span but always has time to give me a scratch on the chin.



Anne & Bernadette - A Thank You!

There are 2 special elves that work tirelessly all year round to keep this pooch cared for with love and cuddles. Yes, it's Nana Anne & Nana Bernadette, my co-secretaries in the office. There's always a cool bowl of water waiting for me each morning, doggy treats and snuggles. I love my nanas. Together we greet the visitors to the school with a wag of a tail or a smile.

Can you decipher these Christmas Dingbats, answers are on the last page!

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Parents Association

December

news

Christmas Jumper Sale for Cork Penny Dinners

Our 2nd year running this event - €200 was raised for Cork Penny Dinners - supporting a wonderful local cause while also promoting sustainability. Thank you for helping!



SvdP Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree appeal once again allowed the boys to gift items to those less fortunate in our community this Christmas. SVdP were extremely grateful for the large amount of donations which will be distributed to those in need. A huge thank you to all who donated, sorted & delivered donations!.

Santa Visit

As we all get ready for Christmas we are very excited about an upcoming special visitor to our school!!!. On December 19th Santa will visit our infant & asd classes, handing out small gifts assisted by parent elves. Always a fun event for both the boys and parents!!

December has been VERY busy for the PA with lots of festive events as well as planning for an even busier 2025. Thank you all for your ongoing support. Merry Christmas!

Thank you all !!

On behalf of the parents association committee we thank you all for your support this year. We wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Looking forward to lots more fun events in 2025!!

Máire, Aoife, Dawn, Kate & Mary



StAnthonys BNS PA
stanthonypa@gmail.com

Parents Association

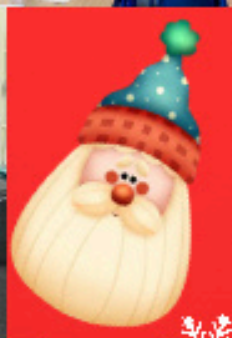


Thank you !!



StAnthony's BNS PA
stanthonypa@gmail.com

Santa 2024



Santa Visit Dec 19th

Lots of fun was had in St Anthony's when Santa visited our infant & asd classes. A big thank you to the parent elves who helped read stories to the boys & helped Santa hand out gifts. A huge thank you to Santa too for taking time to visit at such a busy time of the year!!

Happy Christmas all



Nollaig Shona Duit!



GO RAIBH MÍLE
MAITH AGAT!

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to this issue. We wouldn't have a newsletter without you!

CALLING ALL BUDDING JOURNALISTS!

Do you have a story idea you think parents and students would like to read? Why not write a draft, hand it up to your teacher and you too could be in the next issue!



For more news..

Keep up to date on latest news in St Anthony's by following us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysBoysSchoolCork/>

and checking out our website
www.stanthonys.ie

Dingbat Answers:

1. Dashing Through the Snow
2. Five Gold Rings
3. Driving Home for Christmas
4. Joy to the World
5. Santa Paws