

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter Jan 2014 Issue 22

Dear Parent

A very happy new year to all families. We hope the holidays were a time of peace and happiness for everyone, and this New Year finds you refreshed and ready to take on fresh challenges. The bulk of this newsletter will concern our colourstrings classes but there are also details about exams, bursaries and concerts. All classes commence this Monday Jan 6th.

Examinations

This session is a particularly difficult one as the entry for exams takes place immediately upon opening. If you are to sit an exam in February, then we must have your entry this very week. Please confer with teachers before approaching the office on the matter. This applies to both the RIAM and the Associated Board examinations.

Bursaries

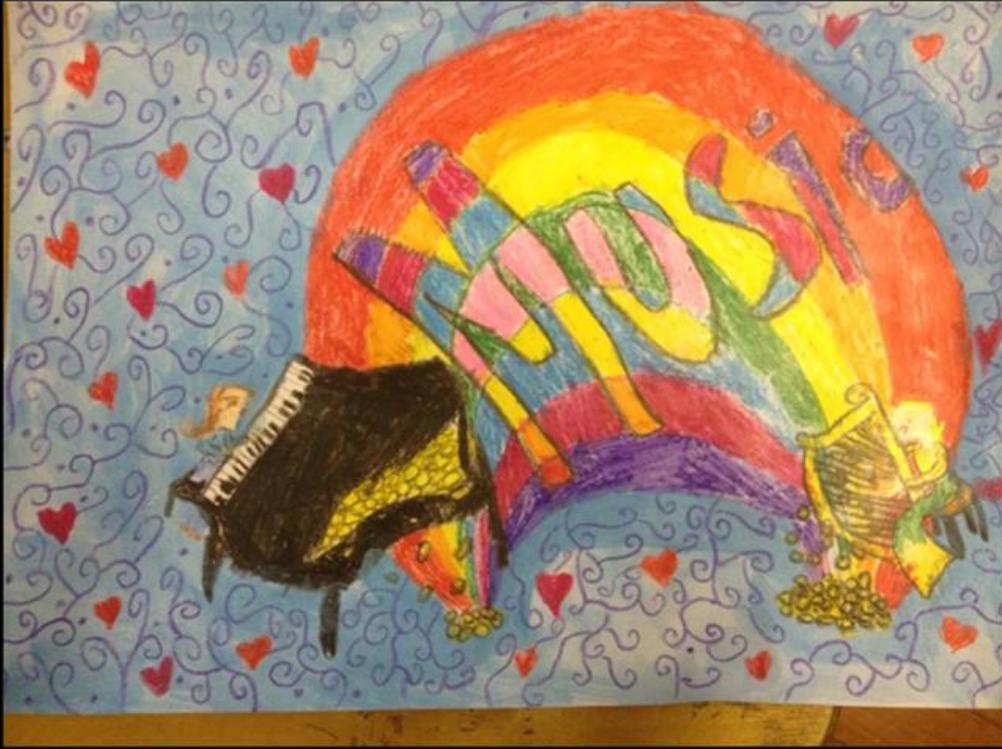
As with the beginning of every semester we have three bursaries on offer again to families that find themselves in a difficult position. As always the awarding of the bursaries is done discretely and all we ask is that anyone wishing to apply will do so in writing to the office in the next two weeks. Applications will close 18th Jan. The value of the bursary is €128.

MCnG Prize

The details of the prize are on the inside pages of the homework notebook. If you do not have one, then please request a copy from the office. In future the awarding of all bursaries in the school will be confined to those that have achieved the award. It is simply our method of ensuring that the most deserving students are given consideration. Because attendance at concerts is a huge part of the award and a real opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge and understanding of music we are going to host a series of in house concerts dedicated to students themselves. Full details of these will be available very shortly.

Art Competition

Congratulations to young Irmak Karaduman for his beautiful painting that scooped 1st prize in our Christmas art competition. Second place went to Labhaoise Boyle and the third spot went to Alice O Donnell. Thank you to all that entered and keep an eye out at lessons for the pictures which will now adorn our walls and classes.



Colourstrings

As you are now aware Marsha Hyland has decided to withdraw from some of her work commitments with MCnG. While she remains as a core member of our primary school project, her work in our kindergarten will cease at the end of this semester, which is the 11th Jan. We have accepted her decision with great regret as we are only too aware of how wonderful a teacher she is. It had been hoped that I would have had a chance to write to you sooner in relation to this but there had been a substantial amount of upheaval in the office with Katri's injury and preparing staff to cover her teaching. I was further concerned that it might then get lost in the midst of so many seasonal distractions. Marsha herself had wished to let people know sooner rather than later and we had to respect that decision. I know from phone calls that some parents were disappointed that Marsha told the children directly and not the parents, who could have prepared the children for the news. We deeply regret any sadness caused by this but please be assured that there was no intention here to cause any difficulty. I believe that Marsha herself just feels a connection to the children and wanted to tell them personally, and certainly did not foresee any issues.

I also had to examine what resources were available to us at this time to cover Marsha's classes. I am happy to report that, with the return to teaching of Katri, I have arrived at what I hope will be a fine solution for everyone. The timetable below is for the second semester and I would ask all parents that have questions to

contact me directly in the office. All our staff have trained with Karen MacKenzie so the core teaching will remain the same. There will always be slight differences in approach but this happens in every school and we hope any adjustment to the new teachers will be minimal. I would also stress the need for parents to allow a small amount of time for the adjustment to take hold. The truth is that we find even slight changes in teaching styles are often of benefit to the child as it promotes a variety of approach that most often opens their minds up to new possibilities. What I can guarantee is that the quality and value of the classes will remain the same.

Our last teaching day of the 1st semester is on January 11th. I am hoping that we can mark this day for Marsha and let the children say their goodbyes properly and welcome their new teachers. We will provide treats etc on the day to make it as pleasant a transition as we can possibly manage. The slightly adjusted timetable will therefore come into force this week to help with the handover. 3 classes are being asked to move times by just 15 mins. Marsha's 10.30 class on Sat and Suzanne's 11.15 and 12pm classes. For the others it is the change of teacher that you should take note of.

Timetable of **Marsha's** classes for second semester.

Current Class. Wed Morning 9.30	New Class. No Change to time.	Teacher Alyson Barber.
Wed Morning 10.15	New Class. No Change to time.	Teacher Alyson Barber.
Sat Morning 9.30	New Class. No Change to time.	Teacher Katri Suominen.
Sat Morning 10.30	New Class. Moved to 10.45.	Teacher Suzanne Mc Eneaney.

Please note that Suzanne's classes have been adjusted accordingly. Her 11.15 is now 11.30 and 12 is now 12.15

Sat Morning 11.15	New Class. NoChange of Time	Teacher Jessica Sytsma.
Sat Morning 12.00	New Class. No Change of Time	Teacher Jessica Sytsma

Piano lessons in colourstrings will continue from 12.45 with Suzanne, which is 15 minutes later than the current schedule and allocations will be given to those who wish to continue with her early in the new year.

Please do call the office in the case of any concern or confusion in relation to the new timetable.