

Reflection—The Sculptors.

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books and music and art,
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had moulded into a child,
Could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.



*Kilcleagh N.S.
8th June 20*

*Official Opening of
Kilcleagh N.S. Extension
&
Community Car Park*



by

*An Tánaiste Mary Coughlan
Minister for Education & Skills*

Tuesday June 8th 2010

Welcome

Ar son an Bord Bainistíochta, na muinteoirí agus na páistí scoile, ba mhaith liom céad míle fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir.

Tá an-mheas againn ar ár scoil, agus is cúis mhór athais dúinn an forbairt go léir atá déanta againn.

Is mór an onóir dúinn gur thóg sibh an t-am chun a bheith i láthair linn chun páirt a ghlacadh i gceiliúradh an lae inniú.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir as ucht teacht.

On behalf of the Board of Management, the staff and the pupils I extend a warm welcome to you all.

We are very proud of our school and all that has been achieved so far.

We are proud and happy to have you here today to share in our celebrations.

Thank you for coming!

Mary O'Connell, Principal



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Blessing of School and Car Park

Almighty God, Bless this school and surrounds,
Make it a place of Learning and of Wisdom.

Bless all who work here.
Help the teachers to be true to their vocation.
Give to the pupils a spirit of knowledge and love.
May they grow to find happiness and fulfilment in life.

Bless all who played a part in providing this school and car park, in the planning, design, construction & financing.
Reward with your peace those who have passed away.
Give to all of us here today a renewed commitment to your will in our lives.

We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.



School Staff 2010

Mary O'Connell, Deirdre Connolly, Doreen Walshe, Sheila Martin, Maureen O'Neill, Helga Leslie, Lorraine Gaughan, Claire Farrell.

Rachel Corbett & Katie Molloy are currently covering maternity leave for Doreen Walshe & Lorraine Gaughan.

Board of Management

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Liam Farrell |
| Secretary: | Mary O'Connell |
| Treasurer: | Deirdre Connolly |
| Parents Representatives: | Brendan Turley Siobhán Fitzmaurice |
| Community Representatives: | Mary Pillion Frank Warburton |
| Patron's Representative: | Paul O'Neill |

In Memory

Michael English

Michael English first came to teach in this school in 1975. He became Principal in 1994 and died in September 1998. We remember him as teacher, artist, poet, colleague and friend.



The Bird of Paradise

I dreamed of the bird of paradise
He lost his earthliness and soared unseen.
He shed his blue-gold feathers on the ground.
His body no longer held him down.
But I'm chained, so clay clogged
Adam's feet are mine.
How can I ever soar?

Michael English

Looking Back

Castledaly N.S in 1958.

When I joined the staff of Castledaly N.S. in 1958, it was a three-teacher school with the Principal teacher and two assistants. They made up the entire staff of the school. There was no Board of Management. The local priest acted as manager.

I can't remember the number of pupils on roll in 1958, but some time in the early 60's there were 120 pupils taught by three very over-worked teachers!

I didn't find it easy to cope with 35 pupils comprised of 3 standards, second, third & fourth classes.

The school building was very basic, 3 classrooms, 2 cloakrooms and girls' & boys' toilet areas.

Central heating was unheard of. The only sources of warmth were open fires in two rooms and a turf range in the infant room.

It wasn't always easy to get the turf burning brightly on a frosty winter's morning –most of the heat went up the chimney. We had to make do and we did!

By lunchtime the range had heated up for the infants and the teacher had warmed the children's bottles of tea, cocoa etc. and mopped up those that had over heated and burst!

The above memories sound negative and lonely.

Now I accuse myself of overlooking the good times of which there were some.

When one starts with so little it's great when the Inspector compliments the girl in fourth class whose poem "The Cat" took his fancy. Also the excellent penmanship of the girl in third who was asked to write a copy of "The Cat" for him to take back to the Department!

Mona O'Connell May 2010



School staff 1979.

Mona O'Connell
Michael English
Mary Foy



Killeagh National School, erected in 1951 and consisting of three small class rooms, two cloak rooms, boys' & girls' toilets and a staff toilet, reflected school buildings of the time.

Great credit is due to the staff who worked within such limited space and prepared generations of children for life.

In the early '80s an all-purpose room was constructed through local effort without any funding from the Department of Education.

This extension reflected local goodwill and generosity.

In 1990, due to an increase in numbers, a section of the all-purpose room was converted into a class room.

In 2001 there was a further division of the remaining space to provide a computer room.

Even though resource hours had been sanctioned, there was no space in the school for a resource teacher.

There was no staff room and there was no work area for a secretary despite the fact that secretarial funding was being provided.

The existing class rooms were too small and did not meet Health and Safety requirements.

There was also a safety issue at the school gate where children were being dropped off and collected.

It was from this background that a move was made in 2002 to seek funding from the Department of Education to improve the situation.

Plans were drafted in 2004 by the late Bob Traynor and were presented to the Department.

There was an instant response. There was nothing but goodwill, co-operation and support shown.

That attitude was reflected too by the County Manager, Mr. Daniel McLoughlin, encouraged by Mr. John Dolan who both wished to have the Council associated with the project in the interest of safety.

The result is what we have today and for which we are extremely grateful to everyone involved.

The Interactive Whiteboard: is a relatively new concept in education. The Whiteboard is accessible to all pupils in the classroom and raises the level of children's engagement with a particular topic. It is also fantastic for games and letter formation and the Junior classes are big fans.



All-Purpose Room: Given the Irish climate it is not always practical to have P.E. lessons outdoors and so the All-Purpose room is invaluable. It is also great to have a space wherein school assemblies, award ceremonies, visiting speakers, book-fairs and jumble sales can be comfortably accommodated.



3rd Green Flag - Water Conservation

The Green Schools committee, with their teacher Ms. Helga Leslie, being presented with the 3rd Green Flag. This was awarded for the schools efforts in reducing water usage.



The Extended/Improved School

Looking Forward

How the new school facilities help.

Children in one of the new classrooms

The comfort and space provided by the new classrooms make teaching and learning more enjoyable.



Resource Room: a bright, spacious, welcoming environment facilitates effective teaching and learning. The new resource room also allows for lots of group work, as recommended in the revised curriculum.

Computer Room: Computer skills are essential in life in modern Ireland and like all important skills should be learned as early as possible. The computer room has 10 networked computers and there are 4 computers in each classroom.

Apart from the obvious word-processing skills obtained, computer work fosters collaboration between pupils and between pupils and teacher. It also promotes independent research and allows children to indulge their natural curiosity.



New extension



The following are the works carried out that make the school a much improved situation:-

- The provision of two new classrooms, a resource room and a staff room incorporating toilet facilities
- The provision of a computer room, equipped and networked with ten computers
- The conversion of the three original classrooms into two standard sized classrooms
- The upgrading of the all-purpose room with new windows, doors and a hardwood floor
- The re-felting and slating of the old section of the school.
- The provision of a new sewage treatment plant
- The upgrading of the security and alarm systems
- The provision of a new staff car park
- The painting and fitting out of the entire school
- The re-surfacing of the school yard

The work was carried out at a cost of €678,784.

The Car Park & Safety Provisions



In the interest of safety a car park has been incorporated into the development to provide spaces for 25 cars. This provision facilitates the dropping off and collecting of children in a safe area near the school and off the main road. The car park is a welcome asset to the local community as it provides additional parking space near the church.

The work was carried out at a cost of €82,224. The local fundraiser for the entire project consisted of €200 per household and returned a total of €31,345.

The following is a break down of the contributions:

School Building Project & Car Park—Family Contribution

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Paid in full: | 70% |
| Contributed: | 16% |
| No Contribution: | 14% |

Car Park—Parishioners Contribution

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Paid in full: | 47% |
| Contributed: | 12% |
| No Contribution: | 41% |

Further contributions are still welcome especially from those who have not yet made any donation.

Your contribution can be made through the church collection or through the school office.

Sincere thanks to all who have responded so generously and by doing so have played their part in our much improved situation which will benefit the community into the future.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the assistance of the following people in bringing together this project:

Design Work: Mr. Bob Traynor. R.I.P.

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***Whyte, Young & Green***

Mr. Sean Connolly R.I.P.

Mr. Billy Bourke

Mr. Tommy Cunningham

***Builder:*** Mr. Ollie Kenny

***Department of Education:***

***Ministers:*** Ms. Mary Hanafin (2008)  
Mr. Batt O’Keeffe (2009)  
Ms. Mary Coughlan (2010)

Mrs. Mary O’Rourke, T.D.  
Sen. Nikki McFadden

***School Building Unit:***

Ms. Kathryn Scott  
Ms. Regina Gannon  
Mr. Tony Dalton  
Ms. Ann Killian

***Inspector:*** Mr. Noel Huston

***Westmeath Co. Council:***

Mr. Danny McLoughlin, Co. Manager.  
Mr. Alan Kelly, Local Engineer.  
Mr. John Dolan



*It's with much regret that Bob & Sean are not with us today, Bob was responsible for the initial plans and Sean took the project right through the construction phase. May they both Rest In Peace*

