Scoil Mhuire broim Feigh Garryhill, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

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14/04/08

Our school is currently presenting a Funky Kids drama production thanks to the dedicated and hard work of Denis and Olivia Staunton. We are nearing the end of our course and I have to say that it has been one of the most professional, enjoyable and creative extra curricular activities that we have engaged in. The proof of this is in the children. They are often to be heard practicing their songs for the show in their free time.

What the staff appreciates most is the professional manner in the way Denis and Olivia present their scheme. They provide all art, music, drama and performance resources. Each teacher was given a scheme of work which was approved before the classes started. Denis is a gifted keyboard player and Olivia a talented singer which are very helpful when getting children to perform. Both Denis and Olivia stress the importance of removing the "lead role" in the performance and therefore every child is equal. Emphasis is placed on fun in a most relaxed atmosphere rather than competition. Our school has a few children who would be very reluctant to perform in front of others and one child in particular who refused to partake in school plays. Every child looks forward to Drama and our attendance is excellent on Drama days. Needless to say, every child takes part and I am amazed at the participation of the more reluctant children.

Both have an amazing talent of putting children at ease, looking for the good in them to praise them and having a laugh. The infants are delighted with the naughty puppet Polly who appears in their classroom to perform some mischievous acts after their Drama class.

Denis and Olivia give 110% and one example of their commitment that I admire is that they are constantly looking for feedback from the staff, both positive and negative, in order to improve their Drama course.

The parents, staff and especially the children are delighted to have had the opportunity to partake in the Funky Kids Club and I have already booked them for next year. I highly recommend them to anybody and I would advise you to book them as soon as possible because we were extremely lucky for September 2008. I know you will find them amazing too.

Yours sincerely, Mairead Fitzgerald. Principal.