

150th Anniversary of Geashill NS (1862-2012)

On Sunday 25th November 2012, Geashill community gathered together to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Geashill N.S. The Old School in Geashill was opened in 1862 and served as the National School until 1970 when the present school was opened. Since then the old school has been refurbished and was officially opened in 2005 as a village community hall. It serves the community in a variety of ways such as hosting Parent and Toddler groups and a weekly whist drive. The afternoon commenced with a Prayer Service led by Monsignor Coonan. Eoin Conroy a past pupil welcomed everyone on behalf of the organising committee. Past and current pupils took part in the service, reading prayers, presenting symbols and singing.

School Principal, Mícheál Hyland spoke of the changes in education since the establishment of Geashill N.S. in 1862. He highlighted that much has stayed the same, especially the importance of a caring and nourishing educational environment for all children. He also spoke of the life long friendships that have always been formed in primary school. He thanked the numerous people who had helped to make the celebration possible. He especially mentioned the organising committee, comprising of Board of Management members and Geashill Old School committee members, which had begun their preparations in August. He also thanked all the staff of the school for putting so much effort into the preparations for the day.

Following this, two of the oldest past pupils Martin Dempsey and Sonny Daly along with Sonny's grandchildren Cara and Eoin Corcoran, current Geashill pupils, buried a time capsule in front of the old school. This will be opened in 2062 on the school's 200th anniversary and contains many items from the present day.

A specially commissioned DVD was shown as part of the celebrations. It featured past pupils, who had attended the old school, speaking about their school days. The present pupils and teachers also appeared, highlighting the changes that have occurred in education and in Geashill N.S. in particular.

Many photographs and historical displays were on view throughout both buildings which the large crowd lots of opportunities to remember and reminisce with their old school friends

refreshments were served in both the old and new schools by a team of volunteers from community.

The organising committee wish to thank everyone who helped out in making the day an occasion that will remain with all who were there for years to come.

Here's to the next 150 years.

Here is a selection of photographs taken on the day. More photographs are available to view on the school website www.geashillschool.ie

