Dear Parent,

You may have been aware that last November, St. Mary’s was asked to partake in the Michael J Murphy, Winter School. Six, Primary 6 pupils working with their parents, produced films about sites of historic interest in the wider South Armagh area and these were presented at the opening of the Winter School.

This year we have been asked once again to take part in this prestigious event. Michael J Murphy a native of South Armagh, was a renowned author and social activist. In particular he photographed people going about their everyday life and by thus doing, created one of the biggest compilations of social history in the world!

This year’s focus will be on an intergenerational project, where pupils will talk to family members: parents, grandparents and hopefully great grandparents about their lives and the changes they have witnessed. Families who took part last year are very welcome to take part again.

So we are on the lookout for families who would like to become involved… we are especially interested in families who are lucky enough to have perhaps 4 generations or indeed families with strong ties to the area and a story to tell!

So if your family has lived in the same house for the last number of generations or they have a particularly strong tradition in any area e.g. farming or a trade, or to a tradition such as craft, music or singing, then we would love for you to become involved. All that is needed is for you the parents, grandparents and great grandparents, to spend a little time talking with your child, showing them photographs, implements, anything linked to your past life and your family history. These conversations can be recorded, children can narrate, interview and reveal their family history through photographs, music, song and artefacts thus creating a digital record of our time in “Michael J” fashion, but using the digital medium of this generation. We will help you with this stage of the project.

This year we will be working in conjunction with 4 schools all of whom are located at the foot of Slieve Gullion they are: ourselves, St. Mary’s, Dromintee Primary School, St. Oliver Plunket’s, Forkhill and St. Joseph’s, Meigh. This will hopefully be one of several joint pieces of work which we will complete for the 2018 Winter School.

If you are interested please sign below and return to school. We thank you in advance for your interest and support, we are confident that time spent on this project will reap benefit not only educationally but that it will also bring the generations in your family closer together.

Thank you

P Mulkerns

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I am interested/not interested in being part of the "Generational Project"

Child's Name- Class-

Parent's Name-

Grandparent's Name-

Great Grandparent's Name-