



EASTER NEWSLETTER

St. Pius X Boys' National School

March 2016

Note from the Principal

It's been a short and sweet middle term and I find it hard to keep track of all of the wonderful things that are going on: hurling training, quiz competitions, Coicís na Gaeilge, Confirmation, golf and running club to mention but a few.

A special mention of our Suessical preparations which have been taking place both during and after school. I can only say that I am quite astounded by the considerable good will among teachers that is so visible – rehearsals before and after school, teachers sewing costumes at home, infant teachers filling in for Seussical directors after 1:30, staff members soliciting sponsorship from local businesses and much more besides. And as for the enthusiasm of the participants . . . be sure to attend one of the big nights and see for yourself! Have a lovely Easter - Dermot Lynch

St Pius X Wicklow Way Walk

Just a short note to remind all you walkers out there that we are endeavouring yet again to trek across the Wicklow countryside on Sunday 29th May (weather permitting). Further details will be forthcoming after the Easter break. Please be advised that the terrain is not flat and can be arduous at times so training is advised. A questionnaire will be distributed after the break to assign groupings and to determine each person's walking level of proficiency.

Looking forward to seeing you in May(or June)!! Happy training!!!

Pupil Council

This term saw the introduction of the very first Pupil Council to St Pius BNS. After one week of campaigning and elections the pupils voted in their new class representatives. The successful candidates were Josh Holloway and Ben Carroll from 3rd class, Morgan Nugent and Elliot Mallon from 4th class, Dan Coogan and Thomas Mc Feeney Izart from 5th class and finally Stan O'Beirne, Patrick McElroy and Sam Hartigan from 6th class. The group meets every Friday to brainstorm ideas that will help improve our school community under the guidance of Mr Coughlan, Mr Murtagh, Ms Nì Loingsigh, Ms Carroll and Ms Mooney. The council members then meet with Mr Lynch to put their suggestions forward. We look forward to seeing the benefits of these suggestions around in the school in the future. The council undertook its first official task and helped raise the flag for proclamation day on Tuesday. Well done to all involved!!!!

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Aristotle

Quiz Victories

Well done to our junior quiz team (Rory King, Benjamin Walker, James Fowler and Henry Waters) who won both the local and regional rounds of the credit union quiz and will take part in the All Ireland final in April. Let's not forget our senior team (Stan O'Beirne, Matteo D'Alessio, Billy Ennis and James Brennan) who were runners up in the local round, narrowly missing out on a place in the all-Ireland qualifier. Our class based Friday quiz is nearing the end. Prizes will be awarded to each class winner and runner up. Leaderboard is available to view on our website.

Seussical

Following numerous rounds of auditions before Christmas, preparations for the school musical, "Seussical Jr" stepped up a gear in January. To begin with, the chorus for the production began learning and perfecting their songs. Given the huge interest amongst our pupils, it was decided that all students from 3rd to 6th would take part in the production. The principal leads and groups started work on individual songs, cues and harmonies from their Seussical student books. At the same time class teachers were busy preparing and teaching the chorus their many lines, songs and correct cues. Once this hard work was completed, after mid-term our actors needed to know what to do when they got on the stage! This job fell to the school's choreography team who began running through routines and blocking off scenes in February. Huge thanks and appreciation to all involved, both pupils and teachers, in the chorus and principals' sections. Without their commitment and dedication, particularly in the many rehearsal sessions during lunch time and after school, this musical would not be happening.

Our musical will take place in Templeogue College hall on the nights of **27th, 28th and 29th April**. A free special matinee performance will take place on Wednesday 27th April for our Junior pupils (Junior Infants – 2nd Class). Tickets will go on sale for general release on **12th April**. Ticket order forms will be sent home around this time. With an amazing cast of over 230 boys, tickets are sure to sell fast, so get your order in as quickly as possible! A huge *thank you* must also go to the costume team who have the unenviable task of designing and making almost all of the children's costumes.

As you can appreciate, such a large production is a costly one. To that end, the school would appreciate any assistance parents could offer in the areas of costume and sponsorship. A full list of items and materials needed by our costume team is provided below. Also, letters seeking sponsorship have been issued to all parents. If you think you could assist in either providing a monetary contribution or donating a prize for the raffle we would be most grateful.

Finally to get the school into the mood, a Seussical fancy dress competition is taking place on Wednesday 16th March for 3rd – 6th classes. With prizes for all classes, this promises to be a great start to our Easter break.

Items needed for show: (if you have any of these, please send 'em in)

- Green tee-shirts, green shorts, green leggings
- Leopard print, tiger print, zebra print materials
- St. Patrick's Day bowler hats
- Novelty Wigs (yellow, blonde, and curly)
- Plain long sleeved white tee-shirts

Rob Kealy

Choir

The school choir is enjoying a wonderful season. The members performed beautifully at our Christmas concerts and in January they were tasked with learning a huge repertoire of new hymns for the Confirmation. Under the watchful eye of Ciara Mooney, Amy Gallagher, Niamh Redmond and Kate Waldron they made both the ceremony of Light and the Confirmation ceremony very special for the boys and girls of St. Pius.

The boys are enjoying a short break at present to facilitate Seussical rehearsals but will return after Easter with Áine Carroll who will lead them as they prepare for first Holy Communion.



GOLF

The golfing season is now underway again after the Winter break and the boys are thoroughly enjoying the experience. We are fortunate to have teamed up again with the Spawell club professional David who is on hand to tutor the boys for the duration of the golfing calendar. We will finish our current session in May with the Castle Schools Cup and hopefully a Gala day in the Spawell.

Running Club and Athletics News

The St. Pius X BNS Running Club continues to thrive, with over 80 members meeting in Bushy Park every Friday since January. Sessions include endurance runs, tempo training and the gruelling “hill” test! While the emphasis is on improving fitness and general health, members also are encouraged to compete against themselves, aiming to make each day a “personal best” day!

The Running Club also takes part in running competitions from time to time. Most recently members took part in the South Dublin County Cross Country Race on Thursday 10th March. Over 85 boys ran, which made St. Pius X BNS the biggest school in the competition. St. Pius came away with an impressive haul of medals! In the group competition St Pius X BNS placed 2nd thanks to Gavin, Michael, Ben and Sean. But gold in the individual was the big news of the day. Well done to Sean Quinn, who of 350 boys, was placed 1st! Congratulations to all who took part in the gruelling 3 km race, proving that their training on Fridays and elsewhere is paying off!

As part of an innovative initiative by South Dublin County Council, 4th – 6th Classes have been taking part in fun runs in Butler Magee Park, Tallaght. Everyone takes part and, similar to the school’s running club, emphasis is placed on participation rather than competition. Huge thanks to all the teachers involved: Ms. Brennan, Ms. Waldron, Mr. Coyle and in particular to Mr. Smyth for all their help in promoting healthy lifestyles for our pupils.

Tennis

For a third successive year the school will compete in the Leinster Tretorn Primary Schools League. Matches will commence the week after the Easter break and the boys are looking forward to returning to the court and pitting themselves against the best teams in Division 1, hoping to improve on their 3rd place placing last year. Templeogue Tennis Club as always has been very generous in its support and in allowing the team use of its facilities. Best of luck to Mr. Gough and the boys on their travels.

Coicís na Gaeilge

Tá seachtain na Gaeilge 2016 an-ghnóthach i Scoil Pius Naofa X i mbliana. Is iontach an spiorad atá mór-thimpeall na scoile agus tá na daltaí agus múinteóirí go léir ag teacht le chéile chun cultúr na tíre a chéiliúradh agus an teanga álainn atá againn a labhairt. Tá clár breá imeachtaí ar siúl, mar shampla, tráth na gceist, comórtas ealaíona, léamh le cara, páráid Lá le Pádraig, gaelgóirí na seachtaine agus ar nós buaic na seachtaine, an cheolchoirm! Chomhghairdeas do gach



HURLING

Numbers are at a record high with up to 100 boys from 3rd to 6th class now training after school. With such great interest and 11 teachers willing to help out, we have entered 5 teams in the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions this year. This means that all boys training from 4th to 6th class are on school teams. Our 3rd class hurlers have been training hard and the talent on display is superb. We will have a blitz and some challenge matches for these *stars of the future* after the Easter holidays.

The first piece of silverware this year was captured by our senior team in Sancta Maria when the boys in green won the final of our pre-season tournament against near neighbours St. Joseph's. All focus now turns to the Cumann na mBunscoil leagues where our 5 teams will take to the field for competitive action after the Easter holidays.

Coaching continues during school for the younger classes with our GPO coach - Tommy O'Mahony. We must mention the great work of Faughs Hurling Club and thank them for its continued support. Also, a huge thank you to Terenure College for the use of its excellent facilities. A special mention must go to our junior and senior infants who are taking to the ash and sliotar like ducks to water. Already emerging talent is evident and the future of hurling in the school is indeed looking bright. If there are any boys who wish to join Faughs please contact Tommy on 0868114643.

Dates to Remember

School Closed:

Wednesday 16th March @ 12 Noon.

Reopens Monday 4th April, 2016

School Closed: 2nd, 3rd and 4th May

School Closed: 6th, 7th and 8th June

School Closed: 30th June @ 12 Noon

Reopens Thursday 1st September

Seussical

27th, 28th and 29th April

Communion in St. Pius X Church

Saturday 21st May @ 10.00a.m.

Cumann na mBunscol National Award

In January the school submitted a project to the National body of Cumann na mBunscol outlining the voluntary work of the teachers in promoting the various Cumann na mBunscol activities within the school over the past year; Hurling, Football and Athletics. Entries were made by schools in each county. The project was judged nationally and St. Pius X was awarded 2nd place in "The Large School of the Year" category. Together with an engraved crystal trophy the school was presented with a cheque for €600 at an awards ceremony in Ballincollog, Co. Cork on Friday night last. Mr. Coughlan, Celine Crehan, Mr. Gough, Ms. Pléamonn, Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Smyth co-ordinated the submission which can be viewed in the school reception. A huge congratulations to all those involved, to the boys who wrote of their experiences and to all staff who give so freely of their time to promote a love of our national games within the school – it would not have been possible without them all.

