

### Principal's Note

Easter, with its date of celebration changing every year, is the original moveable feast. As the summer term fast approaches, we're looking forward to a few moveable feasts of our own, depending on the weather! We have sports days, school tours, our Wicklow Way Walk and First Holy Communion to look forward to. Keep an eye on our website for dates and details as they unfold – [www.piusxbns.ie](http://www.piusxbns.ie)

Our second term has been as busy as ever with Confirmation, choir performances, hurling and football matches, swimming competitions and our latest ventures: cross country running and tennis. We've had parades, debates, nature walks, German classes, Punch & Judy shows, Seachtain na

Gaeilge, students from St. Pat's, scientists, nutrition experts, Leinster Rugby players and visits from Dublin Fire Brigade (just a demo!!!) and An tEaspag, Eamonn Walsh.

The Parents' Association, under the watchful eye of Ms. Caroline Coyne, continues to provide a wonderful service to our students. We would ask and encourage you to lend your support to the PA in whatever way you can.

Finally, our summer term will see the introduction of Chinese Language studies to St. Pius. A tutor from the Confucius Institute will visit our fifth classes for a series of lessons.

**Dermot Lynch**  
Principal

### Hurling

Since Christmas our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class hurlers have been training hard in harsh conditions on the new school astro and more recently in Bushy Park. Numbers have been extremely high again this year, allowing us to enter three teams in the Cumann na mBunscol competitions. First mention must go to our new junior infants who are taking to the ash and sliotar like ducks to water. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> class hurlers will play their very first game for the school against St. Joseph's Terenure after the Easter holidays. With over thirty hurlers in 3<sup>rd</sup> class we hope to field two teams.

Our junior navy and junior green teams will take to the field after the Easter holidays and expectations are high for this talented bunch. Our senior team got off to a superb start in its opening game by beating a fancied Bishop Galvin side and, with two group games remaining, hopes are high for a semi-final place after Easter. A huge thanks to Tommy O'Mahony and Faughs GAA club for their continued support. The relationship between the school and the club grows stronger with each year and both sides are starting to reap the rewards of each other's hard work at under age level. If there is any child who would like to join an under-age team in Faughs or take part in the Easter hurling camp, you can contact Tommy on 086 8114643.

Finally a big thank you to all teachers involved: Brian Dillon, Gráinne Corcoran, Gearóid O'Fátharta and Pat Robinson. Also a special welcome and thanks must go to our new members of staff Michael Smyth and Breda Kennedy who are now bringing their expertise to the hurling academy in St. Pius X BNS.

### Gaelic Football

Gaelic Football will emerge from its break in the coming term. As all Junior Teams earned silverware and our Senior Team competed in Croke Park last year, expectations are already high for our football season in the autumn. To that end, training and trials will start as soon as the Hurling season finishes. The school will also be running its popular **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class Tournament** which is open to all pupils in those classes. The tournament, which has been running for over 7 years allows all interested pupils compete in Gaelic, regardless of ability. Here's hoping for another exciting series of matches in the summer months!

## **RUNNING**

The St. Pius X BNS Running Club, which started this term, now boasts over 60 members. The club, which is open to all boys in 5th and 6th class, meets every Friday and is organised by Ms. Smith, Mr. Coyle and Mr. Smyth. It's part of St. Pius X BNS' commitment to encourage a healthy lifestyle for all its pupils. Anyone who has not joined is encouraged to come along after the Easter break. Some members of the Running Club will also be representing the school in the annual South Dublin Inter-school Cross-Country competition in St. Enda's Park, Rathfarnham on Thursday 10th April.

## **MUSIC**

What a wonderful term of music-making we had in the school this term! On March 5th the choir performed in Cór Fhéile na Scoileanna in the National Basketball Arena. The choir sang The Lord is my Shepherd, with a solo part sung beautifully by Aaron Peelo, Máirseáil Uí Néill and Gloria. The boys received a glowing report from the moltóir. On Friday, March 7th, the choir participated in the Wesley Interschools Music Festival. The choir performed wonderfully and was placed 4th out of eighteen choirs. We are very lucky to have Aoife Creaton who accompanies the choir on the piano. The choir is busy preparing for its trip to the Navan Choral Festival on May 8th where the boys will participate in two competitions. Let's hope they are as successful as last year when they were awarded 1st prize. Gregorio Vicente Nicolás, a professor of Music in the University of Murcia, paid a visit to our school to hear our school choir. Gregorio was astounded by the level of musicianship and by the number of boys who stay after school to rehearse. Mr. Kealy's 3rd class boys received a wonderful reception when they performed in the Cór Fhéile on March 5th. The boys were directed and accompanied by Mr. Kealy on guitar. They sang three lovely songs, Túirne Mháire, Viva la Vida and Ho Hey. The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in St. Pius X Church on March 8th. The boys from fourth and fifth classes enriched this ceremony with their beautiful singing. The boys, directed by Ms. Purcell, sang a repertoire of twenty-one hymns. The congregation was treated to wonderful solo singing by Darragh Stapleton, a 4th class pupil and Aaron Peelo and Benn Blanchfield Ryan, two 6th class pupils.

## **TENNIS**

For the first time in a number of years the school has entered tennis teams in the Tretorn Primary Schools Tennis Leagues. A total of 42 children tried out for the two teams over two days in Bushy Park. The lucky boys who made the teams have played five matches in their groups over the past few weeks. The teams have travelled to Sutton, Donnybrook and Glenalbyn coming away with some great victories and one team have made the semi-finals. We would like to thank Templeogue Tennis Club who have kindly allowed us use their wonderful facilities for our home matches. A huge thanks also to all the parents who have supported the boys during their matches. We look forward to continuing this new initiative in the school next year and further developing our relationship with TTC.

## **SCIENCE**

Ms Smith's and Mr Kerins' 5th class boys have been exploring science once a week under the guidance of Ms Dolan and Mr Smyth. The boys are working hard and are on course to be awarded the Discovery science award again this year. They have conducted experiments with light, heat, energy as well as displaying their imagination and creative talents building bridges and models. For the first time we will explore NANO SCIENCE. Thanks to Ms Lally who introduced the topic to the school.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Easter Holidays: School Closes 12 Noon Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April - Reopens Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Communion: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

May Bank Holiday: Closed 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Elections: School Closed Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Wicklow Way Walk: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Summer Holidays: School Closes 12 Noon Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.