



Easter Newsletter St. Pius X BNS - April 2017

Dermot continues to make a steady recovery and would like to thank everyone in the Pius community for their good wishes. He hopes to be back before long. It's been quite a challenge for me, stepping into the shoes of the great man, but everyone has been hugely supportive and helpful as I guide this wonderful school through this temporary phase.

Confirmation day turned out to be one of the best ever, with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin conducting the affairs on the big day. Our first Holy Communion boys will have their day out on the 20th May at which our school choir will perform.

Our soccer boys were narrowly pipped in Irishtown . . . our student councillors have been busy counselling . . . the hurling season is in full swing (sorry!) with the boys looking forward to christening their new jerseys . . . our new Intercom system has proved itself to be of invaluable assistance . . . Bhain na páistí an-taitneamh as coicís na Gaeilge, go mór mór as an bparáid sa chlós . . . the success of our senior quiz team . . . our running club expeditions and our tennis performances . . . our fitness for life and healthy eating initiatives . . . golf, choir, football . . . I hope I haven't forgotten anything.

Our Parents' Association under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Bevin Humphreys plays an ever increasing role in the lives of our boys. Classes and activities of an excellent standard have graced the school year – my sincere thanks to all who find the time and energy to involve themselves. I'm looking forward to getting my hands on the new PA cookbook - no doubt a recipe for success! Don't forget the golf classic on May 12th.

Seussical Jr has been given a new licence to thrill with news of our nomination for *Best School Musical*. Our boys have been invited to render a reprise of one or two songs from the show in the Bord Gáis Theatre itself. What an accolade for the cast and crew, a most fitting tribute to the many hours of preparation dedicated to this project last year.

Liam Gaynor
Acting Principal

"A great attitude becomes a great day, which becomes a great month, which becomes a great year, which becomes a great life" Mandy Hale

Our Move to Email

Thank you for submitting your updated email addresses. Emails will replace paper for many of our communications. Paper will still be used when appropriate, but we are of the view that emails will save us paper and time and will be more convenient for you. If you change your email address at any stage be sure to let us know. Please read email communications from St. Pius - while not every email will apply to you, many will. We respectfully request that you do not unsubscribe from our email posts as these will play an important role in sharing information between school and home.

Quiz Team

Two super school teams entered the Credit Union quiz. Our junior team narrowly missed out on a place in the next round. Our senior team, Rory, James, Ushen & Gordon were more fortunate, winning the preliminary heat and the subsequent All Ireland qualifier to book themselves a place in the final in the RDS on Sunday last where they put in a valiant performance, finishing just a few points shy of the winner's enclosure.

Trócaire

Don't forget to return your Trócaire Boxes before Friday 28th April 2017.

Rugby for 5th and 6th

In St. Pius X BNS we endeavour to give pupils as wide a range of sporting experiences as we can. To that end, our 5th and 6th class pupils have begun taking part in rugby training sessions. Facilitated by **Aoife Thompson (Leinster Branch)**, this 7 week programme allow participants engage in fun, non-contact games, while developing their knowledge and skills of the game's fundamentals. As many of our pupils will go on to attend secondary schools where rugby features prominently, this is also an excellent opportunity for boys to get to grips with a sport they may not have played before. Many thanks to Leinster Branch for the provision of this coach and also to one of our parents, **Dermott Aspell** for his help in organising it.

Running Club

The Running Club has had its Winter break and is back to work with its Friday sessions. The Running Club is open to **ALL** pupils in 5th and 6th and continually welcomes new members. As we say in Running Club "your only opponent, is yourself!", so runners of all abilities report that they find it engaging and challenging, regardless of previous experience!

The Running Club takes part in competitive fixtures as well, the most recent of which was the **South Dublin Cross Country Competition** on the 14th March. This highlight of our athletics calendar took place in St. Enda's Park, Rathfarnham. A big thanks to all the mums and dads who transported over 80 runners to the venue. As well as amazing personal best times, the Pius boys came away with impressive silverware! In the group competition, St. Pius walked away with the silver! In the individual category, **Sean Quinn** retained his gold from last year. With 350 boys running in the race, it is a remarkable achievement for any runner to take the top podium position two years in a row. Well done to all and the club will continue to meet every Friday in Bushy Park from now until the Summer.

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 Ross Young, (a replacement for our previous golf professional who has moved on to other pastures) 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. Further updates on this event will be announced via text and the School website.

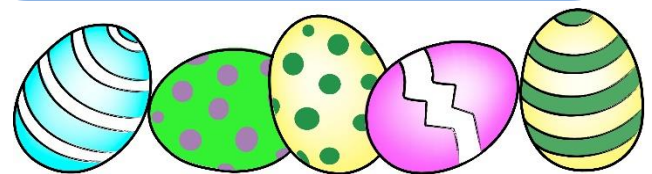
We will also be re-introducing the Tri-Golf programme which is incorporated in the P.E. curriculum after the Easter break.

Gaelic Football

A big thanks to our (relatively) new Games Promotion Officer, Kevin O'Donovan and our local club, **Templeogue Synge St GFC** for all their help and support over the last year. Kevin's work with our junior and middle classes is impressive. He builds and develops their GAA skills in an inclusive, encouraging manner. It's hard to believe that GPOs have been coming to our school from **Templeogue Synge St** for over 15 years. We are grateful to the club for its constant guidance and the assistance it has shown to the school. Its tireless work enhances and supports the great work of our own teachers who train over 80 pupils outside of school time. If you haven't already enrolled, Kevin is running an Easter Camp with Templeogue Synge St. Details can be found from Kevin at 0861677748. Training (which will include the usual blitzes and tournaments) will begin in Term 3 in preparation for the coming season. Please ensure that all interested players register and take part in these sessions and that details on the text system are correct.

Tennis

For the third year in a row the school has entered a tennis team in the Tretorn Primary Schools Tennis Leagues. 14 children from 4th, 5th and 6th classes came to Templeogue TC to try out for a place on the team. The lucky boys who made the team will play three matches in their group over the coming weeks (3 Doubles). They will compete in Division 3 against Terenure College (whom they have beaten 2-1 in the first round), Scoil Bhríde, Ranelagh and St. Conleth's JS. We would again like to acknowledge Templeogue Tennis Club who have kindly allowed us to 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 initiative in the school next year (with the help of Mr. Gough) and to further developing our relationship with TTC.



Hurling Easter 2017

Numbers are at a record high with up to 100 boys from 3rd to 6th class now training after school. With such great interest, we have entered 5 teams in the Cumann na mBunscol 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 sixth class hurlers in Terenure College when the boys in green and navy won the final of our pre-season tournament against near neighbours St. Joseph's. All focus now turns to the Cumann na mBunscol leagues where our 5 teams will soon take to the field for competitive action.

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 their continued support. Also, a huge thank you to Terenure College for the use of their excellent facilities to train on. 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.

Finally, a big thank you to all teachers involved: Ms. Brennan, Ms. Corcoran, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Shanley, Ms. Redmond, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Smyth and Mr. Dillon.

FAUGHS EASTER CAMP

Tuesday 18th to Fri 21st April
10am to 2pm

Contact: Tommy O'Mahony 086 8114643

Wicklow Way Walk

We are having our 7th instalment of the Wicklow Way Walk commencing on Sunday 11th June and weather permitting it promises to be a fun and enjoyable occasion. We would be delighted to welcome all newcomers and anyone who has any connection with St Pius X School including parents/families of past pupils. The walk begins from Glendalough visitors centre and finishes at Ballinastoe car park. Thereafter we will be transported to Coach House Inn, where we will enjoy some well-earned nibbles and refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you all on the day (Child of Prague statues at the ready!!!)

Please be advised this is roughly a 12-13 Km journey involving steep but gradual inclines and uneven terrain. Further updates on route and planning will follow via school website, texts and letter.

Soccer

For the first time since the 1990s, St.Pius entered a soccer tournament. The SPAR 5-a-side competition took place on Monday 27th March in Irishtown Stadium. With a squad of just 8 players permitted, trials were held in the school hall for the interested 6th class boys. Almost 40 boys turned up so it was a difficult task for Mr. Ryan and Mr Murtagh to whittle it down to just 8, but in the end we were very happy with our panel of players. Our thanks to all the boys who tried out and unfortunately, we couldn't bring everyone, even though the standard of all the boys was excellent!

Having arrived in Irishtown we were drawn in a group of four with only the top team going through to the quarter finals. We won our first game against Dublin 7 Educate Together 9-0 with all the lads playing tremendously and displaying a great range of skills. The next game was a great encounter where again we emerged on top, managing to beat our opposition 6-1. Our final group game was a tight encounter and it finished one all after a great game, during which the Pius boys enjoyed most of the possession and were unlucky not to get the win. Having finished level and with both teams tied on points, it went down to goal difference and our lads went through to the semi-finals with a difference of +4 goals.

The standard in football was extremely high in the semi-final. Pius switched off for a second early in the game and were punished by a run in behind our defense and an excellent goal from our opposing team. However, our lads kept their composure and with all the possession continued to press and control the game. The breakthrough eventually came when we struck the equaliser, a lovely well worked goal. With 2 minutes remaining we grabbed a winner and after excellent defending we hung on to send us through to the final.

In the final, the game was of a really high standard with a large crowd gathering to watch the 2 teams compete for glory having emerged from a total of 16 teams. The game could have gone either way and in the end we were unlucky to lose 2-1. Mr. Ryan and Mr Murtagh were extremely proud of the boys' endeavours, and were amazed as yet again St. Pius boys showed what a talented bunch of lads they are! Well done to Jude Healy (Captain), Kian Reddy, Daniel Ryan, James Brennan, Paul McGorian, Evan Sheehan, Micheal McShane and Lucas Weber! You did the school extremely proud and if you continue to work hard at soccer, we have no doubt there are some future Irish stars in the making!!!



SEUSSICAL JR

Bord Gáis Energy Student Theatre Awards

Following on from last year's amazingly successful event of the school musical, Seussical Jr.; more good news came our way this term! From the three thousand entries around the country, the St. Pius X BNS production was selected as a nominee in the "Overall Best Musical" category. This is a fantastic feat to be in the final 4 acts in the country! If that wasn't enough, we have been asked to perform at the awards ceremony in the Bord Gáis Theatre. The pupils will reprise the opening scene, "Oh the thinks you can think!" on 17th May. All pupils and teachers involved in last year's production should be delighted with this important recognition and fingers crossed that we will come out on top in the face of tough competition! Well done to everyone who helped with the event in any way, no matter how small (!!), to get us to this position.



Closed - Friday 7th April @ 12 Noon

Re-opens - Monday 24th April

Closed - Monday 1st May

First Holy Communion – Saturday 20th May 2017

Closed - Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th June

6th Class Graduation - Wednesday 28th June

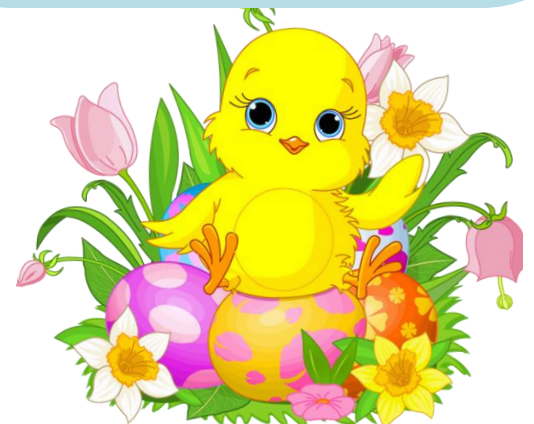
Closed - Friday 30th June @ 12 Noon

ST. Pius Pupil Council

In the past few months a pupil representative has been selected from every class from 3rd to 6th. The boys have attended meetings and have each worked with their class on ways to improve our school. A meeting was held with Mr Gaynor on Friday 31st of March and all suggestions were considered. After the Easter break the boys will be given permission to work on some of these ideas and we are really looking forward to seeing what happens next. Class representatives include, Oisín Costello (Mr Coughlans), Matthew O'Shea (Mrs Stewarts), Sean Denvir (Ms Brennans), Henry Waters (Mr Rëamonn), Luke Mitten (Mr Kealys), David Price (Ms Redmond), Fionn Collins (Mr Murtagh), Patrick Browne (Mr Gough) and Sam Carroll (Mr Dillon). Well done to all boys involved.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí seachtain na Gaeilge 2017 an-ghnóthach i Scoil Pius Naofa X i mblia. Is iontach an spiorad a bhí mór-thimpeall na scoile agus tháinig na daltaí agus múinteoirí go léir le chéile chun cultúr na tíre a chéiliúradh agus an teanga álainn atá againn a labhairt. Bhí clár breá imeachtaí ar siúl, mar shampla, tráth na gceist, comórtas ealaíona, léamh le cara, paráid Lá le Pádraig, gaelgóirí na seachtaine agus ar nós buaic na seachtaine, an cheolchoirm! Chomhghairdeas do gach uile pháiste a ghlac páirt agus a thug brí don tseanfhocail "Beatha teanga í a labhairt".



Gratitude Week at St. Pius X B.N.S.

Parents!!! We are asking you to get on-board with our new wellness and mental health initiative - “Gratitude Week”

It will take place the week directly after the Easter Holidays, 24th-28th April. All children may wear their school tracksuits every day that week and will take part in a myriad of activities to promote well-being and happiness. You can help by discussing the activities at home and encouraging the boys to make life-long habits of them.

Simple Ideas Parents can try at Home for Gratitude Week:

- Every night before bed take a few minutes with your son to make a mental list of things that they are thankful for. Gratitude is the attitude after all!!
- Eat a meal together as a family.
- Turn off the screens and tablets and get outdoors for play or go on a family walk.

These things have been proven to increase mental resilience, to correlate with student success and to make you HAPPIER! So give them a go for Gratitude Week, and if something seems to work for your family - just keep doing it!!

Word of our new initiative has filtered out and we are delighted to announce we will welcome Helen McEntee T.D., Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, to our school on May 4th to meet with some of the boys and to discuss the ways we keep mind and body strong in St Pius.

It is planned that “Gratitude Week” will be an annual event in our school calendar. We are hoping the whole school community will embrace it. Ideas and help for future years would of course be *gratefully* received!

School Practices

We are delighted to see boys in school every day in their school uniforms or school tracksuits, maintaining the very high standards for which St. Pius is highly renowned.

We ask boys (and adults) not to cycle in the school yard and not to bring dogs into the yard.

Gratitude

is the best

Attitude

HAPPY EASTER

