



Easter Newsletter
April 11, 2019

ST. PIUS X BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

School Choir

As the school choir closes business for another school year, it must be said that it has been one of the most exciting and successful years yet! With the arrival of many new faces way back in September, our choir numbers soared beyond 70 boys! Each boy maintained the high levels of enthusiasm, energy and dedication needed to attend the weekly practices right throughout the year. Having performed so beautifully at the Christmas Carol Service, the choir went from strength to strength as they prepared for their debut performance in the Peace Proms. This was most definitely a massive highlight in the choir's calendar of events this year. The boys were among 2,000 children performing a repertoire of songs, accompanied by the Cross-Border Orchestra of Ireland in the RDS. And the choir didn't stop there!! Once Peace Proms was over, preparations for Confirmation were under way! Their hard work and dedication really paid off when the boys' voices were heard at both the Service of Light and the Confirmation Ceremony. It is great to see the choir's continued popularity reflected in the huge number of boys invited to the end of year Pizza Party!! We look forward to welcoming back our super talented boys from this year's choir, as well as welcoming new members from third class this coming September. Well done to all the boys involved this year; as always they pulled out all the stops and did us proud.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

Robert Louis Stevenson

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe Easter is upon us and Term Two is almost complete! As you will see from this newsletter, we have had a packed term with lots of activities happening inside and outside our classrooms! Well done to all the students who have represented our school this term, with peace proms, hurling, tennis, soccer, golf and the Blast Science Exhibition. These ambassadors for St. Pius X BNS do us proud and show everyone what a brilliant school we have! Thanks too to the amazing teaching and SNA teams we have in the school. The teaching and learning that goes on in our classrooms is constantly changing and improving to meet the needs of our pupils. I'd also like to acknowledge Karen Reddy for providing the support and assistance to us in administering the needs of our 534 pupils. I'd like to thank our Board of Management, and its Chairperson Ronan Mc Mahon for all their important work in the governance of the school and its community. Lastly, I'd like to express my appreciation to Linda Healy and the Parents' Association for the help, energy and enthusiasm they bring to the school.

I hope everyone has a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 29th April!

Lorcan



Hurling Easter 2019

The first piece of silverware this year was captured by our sixth-class hurlers in Bushy Park when the Pius boys won the final of our annual pre-season tournament for the third year in a row against near neighbours St. Joseph's. All focus now turns to the Cumann na mBunscol leagues where we have entered four teams. Our 4th, 5th and 6th class boys have been training hard on Wednesdays after school since February. Three of our four teams have already taken to the field for competitive action with Pius winning 5 out of 6 matches to date. Matches will continue after the Easter holidays.

Coaching takes place during school all year round for the younger classes with our GPO coach - Tommy O'Mahony and the talent on display by these *stars of the future* is superb. A special mention must go to our junior and senior infants who are taking to the ash and sliotar like ducks to water. We will have a blitz and some challenge matches for our 2nd and 3rd classes in Term 3.

We must mention the great work of the famous 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.

Finally, a big thank you to all the teachers involved - too many to mention.

FAUGHS EASTER CAMP 2019

Tuesday 23rd to Fri 26th April
10am to 2pm
Contact: Tommy O'Mahony 086 8114643

Date for your Diary

Faughs 134th Birthday Party
Kids from 4 – 7 years of age all welcome
Sunday 28th April, 2 – 4 p.m.



Tennis

It's been a very busy term for tennis in St. Pius. Our Senior Infant boys have been coached by Leonardo and we've received very positive feedback from both teachers and the boys about their progress. Third and Fourth classes will begin their coaching block after Easter. We will have a full day's tennis for all classes on Wednesday May 15th (Active Week) where every class in the school will be timetabled for an hour's tennis during the day with coaches. Some of the Senior classes will have their lesson in Templeogue Tennis Club and we are very grateful to them for providing the service.

Our Senior Tennis Team has performed brilliantly in the Leinster Schools Primary Tennis Competition. They won three of their five matches and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Playoffs. Well done to Harry Dempsey, James Prendergast, Ben Carroll, Harry O'Donovan, Jonathan Somers-Kelly and Leo Zelman who represented the school with great pride.

Student Council

The student council members have met biweekly since their appointment in December and have discussed some great ideas to help our school. They are currently working on our Green Schools project and hope to release a school newsletter in the final school term. Thanks to Harry McCafferty, Connor Laing, Ronan Moore, Harry McShane, Hugh O'Neill, Harvey Brennan, Ronan O'Gorman, Jamie Dillon and Matthew Herbert.

Running Club

The running club have been training every week since January and in the last few weeks competed in some competitive events. A selection of boys represented the school in the National Sports Campus competing against 50 other schools. It was very tough competition but Eoghan Booth brought home a bronze medal in the high jump event. On the 21st March over 90 boys took part in the annual St Enda's Cross country race in Rathfarnham. With over 480 boys taking part, Eric Begley in 5th class managed to finish in 2nd place in the race that was 2.5 km long. All boys who took part completed the race. After Easter we will continue our preparation for Santry as well as completing the jubilee run which takes place this year on May 3rd as part of Active Week. This is the highlight of the year and we wait to see if Adam Mooney can retain the cup or will we have a new champion.

Soccer

What a remarkable start to St Pius X soccer adventure for 2019. We entered 2 x 5 a-side teams in the Spar F.A.I. School competition. Team 1 had 2 wins and 1 loss to the eventual winners of the group. Team 2 had 2 wins and 2 losses and performed magnificently throughout the competition.

We entered the cup competition for the first time narrowly beaten by last year's overall winners Hollypark 2-1 in the last 16. We are currently unbeaten in the Schools League competition with 1 win and 1 draw. Let's hope we finish with a flourish!!!

Sincere thanks to Mark Caslin of Larkview F.C. for his continuing support via the use of the facilities and pitches in Larkview for home games and training sessions. Here's hoping that this soccer season for St Pius X will be a memorable one. Many thanks to you the parents for your involvement and support. Sincere thanks to the soccer coaching team of Ms. Goddard, Mr Coughlan, Mr Curtin, Mr Murtagh and Mr Ryan.

Special thanks to John Sullivan (League of Ireland player) for his coaching sessions and commitment to the boys.

Golf and Castle School Cup 2019

Golf has re-commenced in the Spawell due to Peter Lawrie's (ex Pro on the European Tour) involvement. Sessions will take place in the Spawell every Monday until May 20th. Texts will be sent out to remind you of the times and class involved.

Castle Schools Cup Monday 27th May 2019. The above competition is scheduled to take place at the Castle Golf Club on the above date. The competition will involve a team of four representing St Pius X.

A sincere thank you to all the parents who drop and collect for the Monday golf sessions in the Spawell. Keep the practice going.

THE GOLF TEAM.

Golf Classic

Parents' Association Golf Classic Scheduled for Friday 10th May in the Grange Golf Club, Rathfarnham. Tee off times between 1.00p.m. and 4.00p.m..

If you wish to register a team for this school fundraiser and have a great day out please email piusxparents@gmail.com



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí seachtain na Gaeilge 2019 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, craic is comhrá, léamh le cara, paráid Lá le Pádraig, gaeilgeoirí 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".

Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine

Daragh Ward (Ms. Devenney)
Aaron Lawlor (Mr. Kealy)
Evan McHugh
Darragh McConnell (Ms. Corcoran)
Odhran Gibbons (Ms. Maxwell)
Donnacha Cronin (Ms. Stewart)
Billy-Bart Parsons- Lappin (Ms. Brogan)
Dillon Yates (Ms. Redmond)
James Conroy (Ms. Carroll)
Alex Cronin (Ms. Pléamonn)
Sam Donoghue (Mr. Faherty)
Connor Laing (Mr. Réamonn)
David Ryan (Ms. Crosbie)
James McGoldrick (Ms. Dunne)
Ronan O'Gorman (Ms. O'Connor)
Sean O'Brien (Mr. Murtagh)
Ross Corrigan (Mr. Geraghty)
Sam O'Reilly (Mr. Dillon)
Dara Commins (Mr. Glynn)

Pupils of the Month

Congratulations to our pupil of the month winners who were awarded certificates at our last assembly: Evan Murphy, Ezra Van Egeraat, Shay Evans, Thomas Jennings, Ben Carroll, Leo Relihan, Cathal Martin, Luke O'Kelly and Patrick Evoy.

Pius Bottles

The boys in Mr. Geraghty's 5th class, ably assisted by Mr. Curtin and Ms. Robinson, are undertaking a project on sustainability in partnership with DCU. The purpose of the project is to empower young children to come up with ideas to make their school community more environmentally friendly and to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability. The boys have decided to introduce reusable Pius bottles to the school in a bid to reduce our use of single-use plastics. The bottles that we've picked are BPA free, made from recyclable PET material and will feature the St. Pius name, crest and colours. They will be available to purchase from Karen's office after the Easter break for a subsidised cost of €5.

Recycling

For the past number of weeks, the members of our St. Pius X Student Council have been hard at work with our recycling initiative. They are busy collecting both the recycling and landfill bins from every classroom at the end of the day and making sure that the correct items are placed in each bin. Our aim is to produce as little landfill waste as possible and to ensure that all of our pupils in St. Pius are aware of what can and cannot be placed in a recycling bin. It is great to have such strong support from all the classes and we will continue in our efforts to make our school as green as possible! Since its start we have seen a big decrease in the amount of waste we are producing, but we remind parents that food waste should be brought home and composted as the school has not got the facilities to compost for 530 boys. Food waste was a large part of our daily waste. We thank you for your help in making St Pius X a greener school.



Bee - Bots

Over the past number of weeks, the boys at the junior end of the school have been fortunate enough to have had the chance to play with Bee-Bots. These are small, bumblebee shaped robots that can be programmed using simple arrow keys to move in different directions. Usually, the aim is to move your Bee-Bot from one point on a grid to another point using the arrows. The boys must work out the best path for their Bee-Bot, key in their directions and press Go. These little creatures are great for teaching spatial awareness, directions, counting skills and for improving memory. The boys just love playing and learning with the Bee-Bots and the opportunities for learning are endless!

Friends for Life

The FRIENDS programme has been running in our school since it was first piloted in 2015 and has proved to be very popular and enjoyable amongst the lucky classes who participate. Along with the help of Ms. Kennedy, Ms O'Connor's fifth class participated in term 2 and Ms. Brogan's first class will have the opportunity in term 3. This programme is designed to help children cope with feelings of fear, worry and sadness by building emotional resilience and self-esteem. The boys have enjoyed learning new relaxation, problem solving and coping skills and sharing their 'happy thoughts' each week.

Reminder

We would respectfully request that adults and children do **not** congregate in the school grounds (in particular the garden at the front of the school) between 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation with this request.

Yoga

As part of the green flag initiative, boys from junior infants right up to sixth class have been enjoying yoga every Monday and Tuesday. Our yogis have been participating in the Cosmic Kids programme where the emphasis is on enjoyment, relaxation and encouraging healthy habits. Why not try it at home?! Namaste!

Holidays 2018/2019

Easter Holidays: Closed @ **12 Noon** on Friday 12th April

Reopens: Monday 29th April 2019

May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 6th May

Communion: Saturday 18th May 2019

****Elections:** Closed Friday 24th May**

June Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th June.

Summer Holidays: Closed @ **12 Noon** on Friday 28th June, 2019

School Reopens : Monday 2nd September 2019.

*Happy
Easter!*