

ST. PIUS X BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

Newsletter – May 2014

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled."
Plutarch

Our relatively short final term is packed with sports activities, school tours and other treats accompanied by a few more serious endeavours: it's assessment time again and the boys from first to sixth will undergo their annual check-up! Standardised tests in English and Maths have been administered and correcting is underway. Results will be made known to you through the end of year report card in June. Tests provide us with an indication of how our students are performing relative to national norms and to identify any child who may be experiencing difficulty. Should you have any concerns please make an appointment to talk to your son's teacher before the end of year.

Come along and join us on our sports days. They're always great fun and you're sure to enjoy them. The emphasis is on taking part; winning is a bonus. Bring your camera and factor 40 sun cream! You have probably received a note about school tours. We have endeavoured to keep costs as low as possible so that no one is excluded for financial reasons. Make sure junior has the right clothes for the occasion (some tours recommend a change of clothes) and provide sun cream if a warm day is promised.

First Holy Communion was celebrated on Saturday in the Parish Church. Our two second classes under the watchful eyes of teachers Pat Robinson and Marion O'Donovan were very well prepared. Our school choir had a wonderful win two weeks ago at the Navan Choral Festival – well done to the boys and Anne Purcell and Aoife Creaton.

I'd like to acknowledge the sterling work of our school's Board of Management. I'm sure you agree that **Ronan McMahon** and members of the Board are not found wanting when it comes to providing our students and teachers with the finest conditions and facilities. This summer it is hoped to improve accessibility throughout the building for mobility impaired students by installing ramps where feasible.

Dermot Lynch

Principal

Wicklow Way Walk

We are having a Wicklow Way Walk on Sunday 15th June and weather permitting it promises to be a fun and enjoyable occasion. We would be delighted to welcome all newcomers who have any connection with St Pius X School. The walk begins at the Glenmalure Hotel car park and finishes at Glendalough Hotel where we will enjoy some well-earned nibbles and refreshments. We are fundraising this year for the upgrade and maintenance of our computer technology including interactive whiteboards, overhead projectors and the computer room. If you have not signed up to join but would like to participate you may get a form from Karen in the office or you can download one from our website. It is not too late!! Looking forward to seeing you on the day (Child of Prague statues at the ready!!!)

Vincent Ryan

(Walk Coordinator)

Check out www.piusxbns.ie for up to date school news



Senior Sports Day: 4th June VEC Grounds, Terenure Weather Permitting

Junior Sports Day: 6th June – Bushy Park - Weather Permitting





MUSIC



The school choir travelled to participate in two competitions in the Navan Choral Festival on Thursday, May 8th. There was great excitement and high expectations as the choir had won 1st prize in the Comórtas i nGaeilge there last year. Ms. Purcell's excitement was slightly suppressed when she saw Notre Dame Choir park its bus beside the St. Pius bus- Notre Dame pipped St. Pius in the Wesley Interschool's Festival earlier in the year.

There were 11 entrants in the first competition. St. Pius X Choir performed second. The choir began with a beautiful evocative performance of Howard Goodall's The Lord is my Shepherd. Aaron Peelo, one of our 6th class boys, performed the solo in this song and he received glowing comments from the adjudicator. The choir then performed 'Gloria' by Carole Stephens. The hall erupted in cheers as the adjudicator awarded 1st prize to St. Pius X Choir. The boys had to regroup and refocus for their second competition, Comórtas Cór Bunscoile i nGaeilge which began at 2:30 p.m. While the choir gave a wonderful rendition of Máirseáil Uí Néill, the boys were up against some strong competition here. When the adjudicator announced that St. Pius had been awarded 1st prize, the cheers were such that they could almost be heard back in Terenure.

The boys were deserved winners of both competitions and it is just reward for all the hard work which the boys put in during the year, both after school and before school. We are very proud of our school choir. Our annual BBQ will be held in June- details to follow later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Aoife Creaton for her work with the choir, and her lovely accompaniment at our performances. Some of the boys in the choir will be singing at Aoife's wedding during the summer. We wish her well in her future married life.

Anne Purcell

ATHLETICS

The St Pius X Running Club continues to go from strength! Our runners put in a strong performance in the South Dublin Cross Country competition where "Team Pius" picked up a bronze. The club, which meets on Fridays, also recently had a guest trainer - Jonathan Hughes, from Rathfarnham AC, a medium to long distance runner. He took the Pius runners through various training techniques and gave tips to the athletes. In other news, huge numbers of our athletes from 2nd to 6th class will take part in the Cumann na mBunscol finals in Santry. Well done to all for qualifying and here's hoping our victories last year will be repeated!



GAA

Just a reminder that following the conclusion of the Hurling season in June, 3rd and 4th class boys will be asked to take part in the schools popular **3rd and 4th Class Tournament**. This tournament is open to **ALL** boys regardless of ability or experience. It will also provide our managers with food for thought as they being picking teams for the coming competitive season in the Autumn.

Our Hurling team has qualified to play in a final in Croke Park on 10th June. Best of Luck Boys.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2014/2015

School Re-opens : Monday 1st September 2014 @ 8.45a.m.

October Mid-Term Break: Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October inclusive.

Christmas Holidays: Closed @ 12 Noon Friday 19th December : Re-open Monday 5th January, 2015.

February Mid Term Break: Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February 2015.

Patrick's Weekend: Closed Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March 2015.

Easter Holidays: Closed Friday 27th March @ 12 Noon: Re-open Monday 13th April, 2015.

May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th May 2015.

June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd June 2015.

Summer Holidays: Closed Tuesday 30th June 2015 @ 12 Noon 2015.



St Pius X 2014 Wicklow Way Walk

Sunday 15th June 2014

Dear Walker

We are all looking forward to the walk and hoping for good weather on the day.

There is some stunning and spectacular scenery so take a break occasionally, take some “pics” and “smell the flowers”!!!

Outlined in this letter are some of the practical details for the walk:

Groups : We are expecting over 80 walkers on the day. Everyone will be assigned to a group of approximately 8-10 walkers with a group leader. The group leaders are familiar with the route. We ask that you stay with your assigned group for the duration of the walk. If for some reason during the course of the walk you cannot keep up with your assigned group please let the leader know and you can drop back to the next group. The leaders should at all times be aware of which walkers are in their group. Group leaders will be given the mobile phone numbers of all the walkers in their group and the walkers will be given the mobile phone number of their leader.

Transport: Buses will pick up the walkers from the school yard on Sunday morning and bring them to the start in Glenmalur car park. After completion of the walk, participants will be collected from the finish point in Glendalough and brought back to the school yard. The walk is approximately 13km to 14km.

Clothes: Please remember that this is a mountain trek and wear suitable clothes (including light rain gear).

Shoes: Good boots, shoes with ankle support that are “worn in” are recommended. There is some difficult terrain to traverse and some steep (albeit of short duration) inclines to negotiate. Therefore proceed at your own pace and stop when you deem it necessary.

Food & Water: Some tea/coffee and snacks will be available near the start point of the walk to set you off on a “firm footing”. Finger food will be provided in the Glendalough Hotel following completion of the walk. However we would also recommend that you carry some water on the walk and bring a snack. It is envisaged that each group will stop at some point along the route for a break. There are no designated stops along the route but it is recommended that you take occasional breaks.

Dogs: No dogs are allowed on the walk.

Completion Time: We would stress that it is not a race and you should enjoy the walk at your own pace. To give you some idea of timings we estimate that the fastest group will finish in approximately 2- 2.5 hours and the slowest in about 3-3.5 hours.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the day. Keep practising and get the “Child of Prague” statues ready in anticipation of fine weather!!! Further information will be posted on the school website nearer the start date