



SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER



Seo chugainn an samhradh arís; cé chomh tapaidh 's a sleamhnaíonn an t-am? Tá súil agam go mbeidh saoire thar barr agaibh uile agus feicfidh mé sibh arís i Meán Fomhair le cúnaimh Dé.

Parents' Association: It is difficult to find words that are sufficient to give expression to the efficient organisation and management of our Parents' Association. The association adds another welcome dimension to the life of the school and one which is much appreciated. Its support of the school establishment is the envy of many schools throughout the land. A special word of thanks to Ms. Caroline Coyne, chairperson of the P.A., for her administration, her diplomacy and her vision. P.S. Thanks for the ice-creams on Tuesday!!!!

Board of Management: The school's Board of Management, under the expert guidance and chairmanship of Mr. Rónan MacMahon, has overseen another fabulous year in St. Pius. Working quietly and efficiently in the background it provides the oxygen that breathes life into the St. Pius spirit. Many thanks to the members of the Board who give of their time freely to ensure the best conditions exist to nurture the minds of our children and to provide them with the very best learning experiences.



Happy Retirement: Our very best wishes to Mr. O'Sullivan (Larry) who retires after 35 years in St. Pius. Larry's wonderful rapport with students and staff is renowned. He always looks on the bright side of life and has been blessed with an uncanny ability to help others to do the same. We will miss his great good humour, his sharp wit and the wide variety of funny stories with which he has entertained us over the years. His laughter cheered many a grey day.

Booklist: The booklists have been distributed to each class. If you still wish to place your order through Michael Doherty School Supplies through the school and have not already done so you can drop your completed order form to Karen in the office and collect your order in the school during the last week of August. If you misplace your copy over the holidays you may retrieve another copy on our website www.piusxbns.ie.



School Uniforms: As you are aware we are supplying our own school uniforms this year. This was done on an order basis only. Anyone who placed orders from senior infants to 5th class can collect their orders in the school on **Friday, 19th July** from **11 a.m. to 1pm.** or **Monday, 26th August** between **10 am and 12 Noon.** If you have not placed an order and you still wish to do so you can drop a completed order form to Karen in the office before Friday 28th June and this order will be available to be collected on Monday 26th August, time as above.

Our School Secretary

Behind every successful man . . . ! You have all met or spoken on the phone to our school secretary, Ms. Karen Reddy. Karen has all the skills any school Principal could hope for and she has them in abundance. I will never cease to be amazed at how one person is able to do so many things at the same time! The St. Pius ship is so fortunate to have such a wonderful person in the wheelhouse, one who is so resourceful and who quietly uses her initiative to steer this vessel so expertly and efficiently. Thank you, Karen.

Graduation:

6th Class Graduation took place on Wednesday 26th June at 10 a.m. in the school hall. I would like to wish the boys well as they progress to second level in the Autumn. They have been a credit to themselves and to their parents. We hope they continue to maintain the high standards they achieved while at St. Pius.

Sacraments:

The 2nd class boys of Ms. Mooney and Ms. O'Donovan made their First Holy Communion in St. Pius X Church on Saturday 18th May. Fr Aquinas conducted this wonderful ceremony. The boys worked very hard on their prayers, scrapbooks, artwork and songs in preparation for the big day and it showed. All of the parents and teachers were very proud of the boys and a great day was had by all. A huge thank you to also to the boys who enhanced the Communion service with their wonderful singing and a big thank you to Ms. Purcell and Ms. Creton for preparing the boys so well.



HB Ice-cream Party for DSI



Mr. Gough and Celine would like to thank school staff, parents and children who kindly donated money for last weeks' HB Ice-cream Party in aid of **Down Syndrome Ireland**. It was a very successful day – one the children really enjoyed. The proceeds raised (€950) will go towards essential services which provide much needed support for children with Down Syndrome. A special thanks to Pat and Hillary in Seven Days for ordering and storing all the ice-cream for us.

WEBSITE

Recently due to a security infringement our school website was compromised and had to be re-designed and re-built. Immense credit is due to Liam Gaynor for his hard work and time spent in creating a spanking new website. This is a vital resource for communication between the school and you the parents. The effort and expertise required to maintain this important link with the school is much appreciated.



St. Pius X schools are preparing to celebrate 50 years in the community (2015). We would like to mark this occasion with the publication of a commemorative book, and we are seeking your help in this regard.. We invite you to lend us any suitable material you might have. We are looking for photographs, memorabilia and stories. We promise to look after everything carefully and return them to you safely. You can leave items of interest with either of the school secretaries, or if it's suitable for email, send it to

50@piusxbns.ie



Wicklow Way Challenge May 2013



Our third adventure through the Wicklow hills proved to be a most enjoyable and successful experience. Every group finished successfully through a combination of stealth, sweat, tears and sheer determination! I don't believe any blister pads were used and thankfully the weather-gods smiled down upon us favourably. If we had set out the following day it would have been a wash out!

On behalf of St Pius X, we would sincerely like to thank you, the parents, for participating and for your generous support of our fund raising campaign. We have raised **€8,000** to date.

Sincere thanks to Tom Groarke and his team for the wonderful service that was afforded us in the Glendalough Tavern at the finish. What a superb location to come back to after the exertions of the day! Thanks also to **Ger Elwood** for her supervision of the table settings and bus departures at the finish. We would particularly like to thank the following:

- Fintan Moore - first aid kits (thankfully most items stayed in the bags)
- Patrick and Hilary Duffy - bottled water
- Yvonne and Brendan - marshalling the table of goodies which awaited us after the gruelling climb on the road from Oldbridge
- All the suppliers of the homemade cakes and biscuits that revitalised us on our journey
- Bernie Anderson for her unrivalled resourcefulness
- Thanks also to all the SNAs who contributed to a successful day: Liz and Cynthia for marshalling the buses at the start, Yvonne for her art work and Barbara, Helen, Celine and Marie for the identification neck-bands.

Finally I would sincerely like to acknowledge the Trojan work of the walk committee, most especially **Vincent Ryan** and **Fiona Cryan** for their time and organisational skills and the teachers who acted as leaders on the day. We are already looking forward to another walk on the wild side - possibly the next stage of the Wicklow Way.

SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL YARD

We would like to please ask people to refrain from driving into the school yard at any time. A number of neighbours would also like to ask our parents to be considerate to them when parking their cars at collection times. It is very frustrating for people when they cannot access their own homes. Also, please use the one way system and do not obstruct any entrances and be aware of all the traffic markings when dropping and collecting your child.



SPORTS



Athletics

Well done to the boys from 4th - 6th classes who competed in the Cumann na mBunscol Athletics finals in Morton Park, Santry in May. St. Pius was well represented at all age levels, with each of the athletes putting in strong performances. In the field events, Neil Lambe set a new school record for the shot putt and medalled a bronze for our school. Special congratulations too must go to Rian Maher and Liam Clancy who qualified for the 80m final in the U11 and U10 categories on the second day's track section. Liam went on to claim silver in his division . . . a huge result for himself and St. Pius!



HURLING

This year we entered three teams in the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions. Our junior green team competed in Division 1 and finished in 3rd place which was a great achievement. The junior navy team also did brilliantly finishing in second place in their division. Our senior team which was captained superbly by Jack Dalton, competed in division 2 this year. Unfortunately, the seniors came up short (by a single point) in the shield final of their division against near neighbours St. Josephs. This was a terrific day out in Croke Park for the entire school community and despite the result the memories will stay with the players for many years to come. One of the big success stories on the hurling scene this year would have to be the performances of our third class team. They began training early in January and competed in a number of competitive games. This group of over thirty players went unbeaten in all of their games this year. Future stars such as Luke Davis, Dara O'Donovan, Thomas Ryan, Matthew O'Reilly, Michael Moore, Oisín Horan and many more had a superb year in the Pius jersey. We look forward to working with such talent in the years to come. This has been a very positive year for hurling in the school and we would like to thank all of our hurlers who took part. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support during the hurling season and especially to all those who provided lifts. On the county scene, Seán Fitzgerald and Benjie Bowe (Mr. Robinson's fifth class) represented Dublin in this year's friendship games in Belfast. Seán and Benjie both played in the forwards and gave super performances on the day. The Dubs had a convincing victory over a strong Antrim team in Casement Park. The two boys did their school proud and rumour has it that Dalo is keeping an eye on this pair. Also, hard luck to Cillian Power who was supposed to play on the day but was ruled out through sickness.

A huge thank you must be given to Seán Crowley for the work he has put into hurling in the school over the past years. Seán will be greatly missed around St. Pius and we wish him all the best in his new position in Cork. We would also like to welcome our new GPO, Tommy O'Mahony who will replace Seán in September.

Finally, we would like to give a big thank you to all our sixth class hurlers and their parents who will be leaving us this year. We wish them all the best in their new schools and indeed their hurling careers. We must also mention again the great work of Faughs hurling club and thank them for their continued support. Last but not least, thank you to our four hurling coaches for their continued dedication to hurling in the school; Mr. O'Fatharta, Ms. Corcoran, Mr. Dillon and Mr. Robinson.

GOLF

We have come yet again to the end of another successful golfing calendar culminating in the participation of the Castle Schools Cup. All involved had a tremendously enjoyable experience. Unfortunately the weather gods were unkind to us but the boys persevered and played well considering the conditions. Sincere thanks to Hilary Haydon for his time and sponsorship of the event and J.G.I. for the organisation that is required to successfully run it. We had success in the Gala competition in the Spawell with boys on the winning and runner-up teams. A thoroughly enjoyable and relaxing day was had by all involved.

A sincere thank you to the boys, their parents and the teachers (who supervised our training sessions in Spawell) for their participation and support throughout the year.

A big thank you to David Kinsella, the golf professional in the Spawell for his time and expertise. We look forward to another enjoyable and eventful year in September and we envisage even greater numbers willing to participate.



GAELIC FOOTBALL

Ready for a new season! Next season promises to be an exciting one with **four** teams entering the **Cumann na mBunscol** (Primary Schools' League) this September. In anticipation of this, over 30 2nd class boys have been taking part in football trials in Bushy Park for the past two weeks. It's clear already that competition in the Autumn is going to be fierce with the brilliant skills that have been in evidence from these young players!

3rd and 4th Class Tournament In addition to our 2nd class trials, 3rd and 4th classes took part in an inter-class tournament in Bushy Park. The competition was open to everyone and over 50 boys took part. The outright winners were the "Dublin" team under the captaincy of **Liam Clancy**, with **Max Russell's** "Faughs" taking second place. The games were refereed by 5th class boys, who did an amazing job. Well done to **Rian Maher, Dean Ralph, Sean Fitzgerald, Scott Kavanagh** and **David Horan**. Without their help, the tournament could not have been so successful.

Templeogue Synge St: The 3rd and 4th Class Tournament Cup was presented to the winning team by our school's Games Promotion Officer, **Dave Farrelly**. Dave was appointed in the second term and has already made a huge impact since his arrival in the school. His fun and enthusiastic approach is evident not only in St. Pius but also in Bushy Park where he runs the nursery for **Templeogue Synge St**, our parish's GAA club. He will begin training our junior classes again in September on the school's astro turf. The school is extremely grateful to Templeogue Synge Street for the constant support it has shown to St. Pius in all its footballing endeavours. *As always, football would not exist in St. Pius were it not for the support of our teachers. Many thanks to our team coaches; Mr. Coyle, Mr. Kerins, Mr. Matthews and Ms. O'Connor for their tireless enthusiasm, commitment and dedication*

CHARITABLE DONATION:

Already displaying the fruits of the Holy Spirit they received at Confirmation, both 6th Classes are donating a large sum of money to the Jack and Jill Foundation. Their generosity is commendable and will make a real difference to people living with this disease. A representative of the charity accepted a cheque from both classes at their graduation ceremony.

MUSIC

What a fabulous year of music-making we had this year! For the first time ever, the number of boys in our after-school choir exceeded eighty!! The boys rehearsed every Monday after school and they received their just rewards when they awarded first prize in Navan Choral Festival in May.

The first term was flying by and before we knew it the sound of carol singing was ringing through the halls of the school. This is a very busy month in the school calendar with many classes preparing Christmas Plays and the annual Carol Services. The hall was packed to capacity for the Carol Services with many people having to enjoy the carols from the school yard. Our newly-formed Parent's Choir performed at both our Carol Services this year. They amazed everyone, including themselves, with their dulcet tones. Our Carols in the Yard marked the beginning of the Christmas Holidays and many parents and people from the community joined with the whole school in singing carols in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. Our local conference was extremely grateful for the money collected.

Cór Fhéile na Scoileanna was the focus of the 2nd term. Ms. Pléamonn's and Ms. Corcoran's 1st Classes sang a medley of gníomh amháin to an enthralled audience. Later that day, the boys from Mr. Ó Fathárta's 3rd Class took to the stage to play a number of tunes on their tin-whistles – they were fantastic! The school choir performed on the closing night of Cór Fhéile na Scoileanna and lifted the roof of the Basketball Arena with their three songs, one in French, one in Gaeilge and a song which incorporated sign-language.

On March 25th, forty boys from the school choir performed Bach's St. Matthew's Passion in St. Pius X Church. This was a whole-school community initiative – the conductor, Killian Farrell is a past member of St. Pius X School Choir, and many parents and ex-parents of St. Pius X boys were members of the adult choir. While this work was a challenge for the choir, and outside its usual repertoire, it proved to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

The two 5th classes performed with the National Children's Choir in the National Basketball Arena on May 1st. The boys sang a repertoire of sixteen songs. It was a wonderful concert and the boys really enjoyed performing with all the other children and the professional orchestra -all the hard work during the year paid off! It was a very special and memorable occasion. In June, 20 boys from 5th class were selected to sing with the National Children's Choir in the National Concert Hall. It was a wonderful opportunity for the boys to perform in Ireland's most prestigious concert venue.

The choir travelled to Navan Choral Festival in May and won 1st prize with its performance of a beautiful modern Irish song, 'Éist'. The boys were absolutely thrilled to win, especially our 6th Class boys, most of who have been in the choir since 3rd Class – it was a very fitting reward to, and acknowledgement of, their commitment to the school choir over the years.

Our last 'Hurrah' was the annual Choir BBQ which was held on the 17th of June. The sun came out and the boys enjoyed burgers and sausages in our school yard.

We were delighted to welcome Aoife Creaton to our staff this year. Aoife assisted in all our musical endeavours throughout the year and accompanied the choir in its winning performance in Navan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support during the year, for facilitating early morning rehearsals and attending our many performances.

Anne Purcell



SCIENCE

Fourth class boys received the "Discover Primary Science Award of Science and Maths Excellence" for all their hard work in science this year. The boys submitted a very comprehensive booklet that really impressed the judges.

Fourth class recently attended a workshop in the Mansion House as part of the Digital Dublin celebrations. Here the boys took part in a lego workshop creating a building they thought would be in Dublin in the future. They also were taken to the Round Room of the Mansion House to see all the technology of the future.

Digital Dublin Workshop

By Stephen Moore

On Tuesday 21st May we went to the Mansion House in town to learn all about digital Dublin. Dublin Bus came to collect us at school and brought us to town. We started off with a Lego workshop where we were asked to make a building that we think will be in Dublin in 100 years time. There were huge boxes of Lego with various pieces. You would have every piece you needed. I made a face-scanner to automatically open a door for you! Then we put our model on a long table where everyone's work was displayed. After the Lego workshop was over we had our lunch in a huge room. As a treat everyone got a Lego mini figure. I got an Egyptian mummy. Finally, we were brought into the Round Room of the Mansion House to see all the future technology that our city may have. There was an electric car, a chair that indicated if you were in the right posture and, my favourite, an art screen the size of a TV. There was also an instant message board linked to two computers. Then at 2 o'clock we had to leave the Mansion House. I really enjoyed the trip!

Digi-Dublin

Digital Dublin will be such a treat,
With WiFi on every street we will surf the web
while having a bite to eat!
Fingerprint scanning instead of a lock and voice
activated doors will really rock.
No more litter at my feet because it will
disintegrate when it hits the street.
I-pad 100's will be everywhere, everyone will
have one, even the Mayor.
A cinema on Henry Street where we will sit in
hovering electric seats!
Solar powered and electric cars will zoom down
Lansdowne Road,
Instead of the other cars that were really old.
Traffic lights on the Spire
For all the hover-cars that want to go higher!
Transportation tubes on the street
That can even take you to O'Connell Street!
I think a travelator on Grafton Street will be
really neat,
Or even a teleporter to Phoenix Park instead of
Dublin Bus would be a treat.
I can't wait until the future, when everyone will
own a cool computer!
It will be great can't you see,
And maybe the inventor of all this could be me!
With technology God knows what we can do!
I can't wait to see if MY Digi-Dublin will come
true!

By Ms. Lally's 4th class, St. Pius X BNS

School Holidays - 2013/2014



School Reopens: Monday 2nd September, 2013 @ 8.45a.m.

October Mid-Term Break: Closed Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2013 inclusive.

Christmas Holidays: Closed Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January 2014 inclusive

February Mid-Term Break: Closed Thursday 20th & Friday 21st February 2014

St. Patrick's Weekend: Closed Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th March 2014

Easter Holidays: Closed Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2014 Inclusive

May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 5th May 2014

June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd June inclusive

Summer Holidays: Closed Friday 27th June, 2014 @ 12 Noon.