



St. PIUS X BNS SUMMER 2014



As another wonderful Pius year draws to a close, I'd like to thank you (the parents) for the very many contributions you have made to the school – ferrying children to and from events, supporting ventures and initiatives of every kind and most especially for the courtesy and respect you give to our teachers always. I'd like to congratulate our pupils who have been outstanding – their behaviour and manners, their performance inside the class and out and their great good humour make me proud to be Principal of such a great school. I'd like also to acknowledge the great work of our teachers who give of their expertise and time so generously, both before 2:30 and afterwards, day in, day out.

Goodbye: A few members of staff are leaving us this year. **Pat Robinson** has been offered a position as Principal in Kilkenny and **Gearóid O'Fatharta** will take up an appointment in his native Galway. **Marion O'Donovan** and **Aoife McLoughlin** are trying out a teacher exchange for the year. We shall miss all four enormously.



Happy Retirement: Most notably our Deputy Principal, **Ms. Gráinne Duignan**, a member of staff since 1969, is retiring. Gráinne's service to the school down the years has been nothing short of extraordinary. She has taught so many boys and has seen so many changes. She brings with her a vast collection of memories, deserved pride in a job well done and our sincere thanks for her unstinting dedication during a long and successful career. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Booklist: The booklists have been distributed to each class. If you still wish to place your order with 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. 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 again this year. If you missed the two sales in June the next sale date is **Wednesday 27th August, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Graduation: 6th Class Graduation took place on Wednesday 25th June at 9.30a.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.

Some modifications are planned for our school building during the summer months to make our school more accessible to mobility impaired pupils. Many thanks to our Board of Management which makes this, and so much more besides, possible. I cannot let the occasion pass without congratulating Ms. Caroline Coyne and the Parents' Association – what a super group of people! Let me not forget Karen Reddy, our school secretary. I'm vaguely aware that some people of the opposite gender have the ability to multitask. Karen embodies this capacity and does so always in the best of good humour.

I wish to draw your attention to a serious concern that I have: mobile phones and social media are part and parcel of the modern world and when managed properly can enrich our lives hugely. However, over the past few weeks we have become aware of boys in senior classes playing a particular game on



phones, the outcome of which could have nasty consequences. It appears that total strangers who obtain a high score are granted special status in the group and are allowed interact socially (chat) with trusted members. I don't need to point out the potential ramifications of this. I urge you in the strongest terms that if you allow your son to participate in such activities that you make yourself **fully aware** of what is involved. Talk to your children about Internet and social media safety.

Wicklow Way Challenge

Our fourth adventure through the Wicklow hills proved to be an enjoyable and successful occasion and will go down in the annals of trekking folklore (yet again)!! I believe few blister pads were used on the day and thankfully the weather-gods smiled down upon us favourably even without the help of the Child of Prague!!

Sincere thanks and praise to Alan 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 Ms Lally for organising the bus departures at the finish.

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 would particularly like to thank the following for their help in supplying essential resources that were needed on the day. Fintan Moore for supplying the first aid kits (thankfully most items stayed in the bags). Patrick and Hilary Duffy for supplying the water and slaking our thirst at the half way point. Liam (for superb photography). Valerie and Brendan for marshalling the table of goodies which was awaiting us after the bus journey from St Pius school. We would especially like to thank the suppliers of the homemade cakes and biscuits that replenished us on our journey and particular thanks to Bernie Anderson for her generosity and thoughtfulness.

Thanks also to all the SNAs who contributed to a successful day. I would sincerely like to acknowledge the trojan work of the teaching staff of St Pius for volunteering for leadership duties and giving up their time so generously.

Finally a sincere thank you to Fiona for her phenomenal organising skills (not to mention her culinary skills!!) I think the response to the day was unanimous in that it was a very successful and enjoyable experience.

Looking forward to a future walk on the wild side and possibly the next stage of the Wicklow Way. Watch this space!!! **Vincent.**

A huge thanks to Vincent Ryan – without his planning and organisational skills these amazing walks could not happen. I bet he is already setting the route for next year! (DL)



Sacraments:

The 2nd class boys of Ms. O'Donovan and Mr Robinson made their First Holy Communion in St. Pius X Church on Saturday 17th 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 also to the boys who enhanced the Communion service with their wonderful singing and a big thank you to Ms. Purcell and Ms. Creaton for preparing the boys so well.

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

RUNNING

The inaugural year for the St. Pius X Running Club closed with an endurance run around Bushy Park last Friday. To celebrate the end of the running year, members were treated to a healthy smoothie in the GP room on Monday. The club, which is open to all pupils in 5th and 6th focuses on individual improvement of fitness and healthy routines. Our successes in Cumann na mBunscol Finals in Santry and South Dublin Cross Country competitions are testament to this strong interest in athletics in our school. The Running Club will return next year. Many thanks to the three teachers involved, **Mr. Smith, Mr. Coyle and Ms. Smith.**



HURLING

This year we entered three teams in the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions. Our junior green team competed in Division 1 and finished in third place which was a great achievement. The junior navy team also did brilliantly finishing in second place in their division. Our senior team reached the final of Corn Marino and narrowly lost out by a single point. 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. A huge thank you must be given to Tommy O'Mahony from Faughs for the work he has put into hurling in the school over the past year. 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. Last but not least, thank you to our six hurling coaches for their dedication to hurling in the school; **Mr. O'Fatharta, Ms. Corcoran, Mr. Dillon, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Smith and Mr. Robinson.**

GOLF

We have come yet again to the end of another successful golfing calendar culminating in our participation at the Castle Schools Cup. All involved had a tremendously enjoyable experience. Fortunately the weather gods were very kind to us and the boys played very well in the benign conditions. Sincere thanks to Hilary Haydon for his time and sponsorship of the event. We had an enjoyable day in the Gala competition in the Spawell with 6 boys participating. Many thanks to Timmy Kenna and Carr golf for sponsoring and organising the event. A sincere thank you to the boys, their parents and **Mr Kealy, Mr O' Fátharta and Mr Ryan** (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

A thrilling **3rd and 4th Class Tournament** took place in Bushy Park this month. Over 50 boys took part, showing off their impressive skills. The tournament was open to all pupils in these classes and both previous school players and new additions caught the eyes of the football coaching team during the competition. St. Pius White were the eventual winners with a nail-biting win over Pius Green. Referees were drawn from our 5th Class Football Players. These boys were an integral part of the tournament and executed their duties expertly and in the fairest manner possible.

The new football season starts in September, with competition for places sure to be tough. Trials and team selections will take place in the first few weeks of our return from Summer holidays so keep an eye out for information letters in the first couple of days back. Also a reminder that all boys who take part in Gaelic Football must wear a mouthguard and have suitable football boots.

A big word of thanks must go to our school's Games Promotion Officer, **Dave Farrelly**. Dave works with Templeogue Synge St and has trained Junior Infants – 3rd Class for the entire year. His friendly manner and professional approach to training our pupils in the requisite skills for Gaelic is to be commended. We look forward to another year working with Dave and the important promotion of Gaelic games he does in our school every week. Anyone interested in taking part in Templeogue Synge Street's Gaelic Football camps over the Summer should contact Dave on 087 9884783.

Finally a huge note of appreciation to our school's gaelic football coaches. Their tireless enthusiasm and engagement with the pupils is admirable. Many thanks to **Mr. Kerins, Ms. Smith, Ms. Young, Mr. Kealy, Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Coyle** for all they have done throughout the year.

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 Irish Cancer Society. 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.

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 Dec : 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.

Have a happy and safe Summer!



