

Summer 2017 Newsletter St. Pius X Boys' National School

Another year gone by in the blink of an eye, and it has been a terrific year. The boys have yet again proved themselves to be the envy of every Principal in the country – courteous, mature, industrious, mindful, respectful . . . How do I know this? Every time I go into a classroom, every time I meet the boys in the yard, and most importantly every time a visitor comes to the school the conduct, the engagement, the manners are nothing short of exemplary. Is it any wonder that all our teachers arrive into school every morning in good humour? Speaking of good humour, everyone is in great form with holidays on the horizon. Don't forget that we're back on **Thursday 31st August**. Thank you to everyone in the school community who helps put this school up there with the best in the country – Bevin Humphreys and the PA., Fr. Gerry and the parish team, Bernie Anderson and her squad, our friendly lollipop ladies and our Board of Management under the watchful leadership of Mr. Ronan McMahan. Mr. Jim Power is stepping down from his role on the Board after many years of service – many thanks Jim, you've been a treasury of knowledge and wisdom. Karen Reddy, our indispensable school secretary, plays a hugely important and highly valued role. During Dermot's recent illness, Karen assisted me hugely with reminders and prompts, ensuring that school administration functioned without interruption. What can I say about our teaching crew? Certainly the most agreeable, co-operative and conscientious group of people one could possibly work with. Their versatility, their patience and their sensitivity have to be witnessed to be believed. Nor can I forget Helen, our friendly and multitalented caretaker, who can turn her hand to anything. To our parents, may I say this on behalf of the staff: I wish to acknowledge your unflagging support and your many words and gestures of appreciation and gratitude. Have a lovely summer.

Liam Gaynor

Deputy Principal

"Education is the passport to the future. Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". Malcolm X

New model of support for SEN

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) has recently rolled out a new system of supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The focus of this model is centred on the needs of pupils and is less concerned with specific diagnoses. As a result, the previous system of individual allocations is no longer in effect. From September 2017, the school must assess the overall needs of the school when deciding where to deploy supports in the coming academic year. As with previous years, the school will continue to support all pupils who need assistance. New guidelines from the DES also emphasise that in-class support is the preferred method of delivery for pupils with SEN. The excellent reputation of St. Pius X BNS in the area of SEN has been recognised by many, including our National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), other outside professionals and parents. We will continue to deliver measured, targeted help to those in our school community who require it, while at the same time incorporating this new approach to SEN.

School Choir

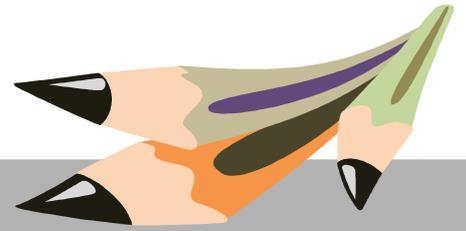
Another great year for St. Pius X boys' school choir! The boys' dedication to the weekly practices really paid off when they performed so beautifully at the First Holy Communion Mass in St. Pius X Church in May. While its popularity is reflected by its high numbers, we are looking forward to new members from third class this coming September. Well done to all the boys involved this year; as always they pulled out all the stops and once again did us proud!

Gaelic Football

All of our football teams enjoyed a tremendous season once again this year, representing the school with distinction and at all times, conducting themselves in a most sporting manner. Two teams recently took part in a football blitz in Terenure College, organised by Templeogue Synge Street and Terenure College. This was a fitting way to bring a very successful year to a close. Our Junior Navy team displayed great skill and heart in this competition and were unfortunate to lose out narrowly in three of their games, winning a further two. The Junior White team progressed to the final having won all three of their group games. In the decider, they faced Ballyroan having beaten them previously in the competition. In an enthralling game which had a vast array of skill, physicality and sportsmanship on display, we lost out by the narrowest of margins on a score line of 3 points to 2. While the boys were understandably disappointed, they can rest safe in the knowledge that they acquitted themselves and their school with pride.

Many of these boys will make the transition from junior to senior next year and the future of Pius football looks very bright indeed! 2nd and 3rd took part in a blitz in Bushy on Tuesday 20th. With over 80 pupils, it was an excellent opportunity to see the future stars of St. Pius! With 5 teams already entered in Cumann na mBunscol for the coming school year, it promises to be an exciting one. All teachers are looking forward to the buzz and atmosphere of training in Bushy Park in September already. To all the parents for their continued support *go raibh mile maith agaibh*. To the boys, continue to practise the basic skills over the coming summer months and we look forward to seeing you all in September - fresh, fit and ready for the challenge of another year of school football.

Templeogue Synge Street
Monday 3rd July to Friday 7th
10am to 2pm daily
August dates to follow



Finally, a word of thanks to all the teachers who give so willingly of their own free time to help develop and enhance GAA games in our school. Without their commitment, enthusiasm and expertise, over 70 boys would not be representing their school on playing fields across Dublin in the Autumn. Appreciation too must go to our local club, Templeogue Synge St and their GPO, Kevin O'Donovan for all their support. This year Kevin worked with a staggering 14 of our 18 mainstream classes, developing skills and above all, enshrining a love of games and exercise. Kevin is also currently providing CPD for some of our teachers in the area of coaching and enhanced training skills. Many thanks to one and all who have helped in anyway with football this year, the school and its pupils are indebted to you.

Hurling 2017

This has been a very positive year for hurling in our school. We fielded 5 school teams allowing all hurlers from 4th to 6th class to take part in the Cumann na mBunscol leagues. Every boy in the school from Junior Infants to 4th class has been given the opportunity to develop his skills in the back yard. Also, our 3rd class boys took part in a fun hurling blitz in Bushy Park recently.

Team of the year was our senior navy team! In a league with seven schools, they came out on top winning all of their matches and were the first team to receive a set of brand new Cumann na mBunscol medals. Our sixth class hurlers won the South Dublin Shield v St. Josephs in Terenure College to mark the beginning of the hurling year.

Hurling Contd

Sporting our new school jerseys, our senior white team competed in the Corn Marino. Unfortunately, they came up short in the cup quarter-final against Bayside. Our junior green team competed in Go Games South 2 and finished in 2nd place which was a great achievement. Our Junior Navy and White teams also did brilliantly. With matches against St. Joseph's, Lucan BNS, Booterstown and Maelruan's, Pius managed to mix it with the best.

We would like to thank all of our hurlers who took part and their parents for their support during the hurling season. Thank you to all our sixth class hurlers who will be leaving us soon. This group of players has created many memories together on the hurling field that we hope they will cherish forever. We wish them all the best in their new schools and indeed their hurling careers.

A huge thank you must be given to our excellent GPO Tommy O'Mahony for the work he has put into hurling in St. Pius. We must also mention the great work of Faughs hurling club and thank them for their continued support. Last but not least, a massive thank you to our many teachers who give so generously of their time and for their continued dedication and commitment to promoting hurling in our school. Pius Abú!

FAUGHS SUMMER CAMPS

10th – 14th July and 21st – 25th August

10am to 2pm

Contact: Tommy O'Mahony 086 8114643

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

Running Club

In the last few years, our running club has gone from strength to strength. St. Pius X BNS Running Club, currently in its 4th year, provides an opportunity for both 5th and 6th classes to take part in running, at their own pace and intensity. The motto of the club is that "your only opponent is yourself!" Runners of all abilities can challenge themselves and increase their fitness at a level that they are happy with.

The Running Club concluded this year with the annual Jubilee Run which took place on Friday, 23rd June. The winner of the perpetual Jubilee Cup was Lucas Weber. Aside from this competition, our runner club members took part in various race meets throughout the year. The South Dublin Cross-Country event in St. Enda's being a particular highlight with Sean Quinn winning a gold medal and the school team picking up silver.

The boys also prepared for the competitive events at Santry Sports, in Morton Stadium. Pupils from a range of classes participated in a variety of different events. A highlight of Santry was Jonas winning a bronze medal in the high jump. The work put into the track and field events by all the teachers is particularly appreciated. Well done to all the competitors for representing their school with pride and distinction.

We would again like to acknowledge Templeogue Tennis Club who have kindly allowed us 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

Quiz Winners

After 15 rounds and hundreds of questions starting way back in October, we announced our quiz winners at assembly on Friday. Special well done to Derry Murphy, Doire Sheridan and Gordon Tracey winners of the St. Pius X Jubilee perpetual quiz trophies.

6th Class Winners – Mr. Gough

1. James Brennan
2. Rory King
3. Ushen Wijayarathne

6th Class Winners – Mr. Dillon

1. Cuán Manning
2. Aaron Egan
3. Lucas Weber

5th Class Winners – Mr. Murtagh

1. Doire Sheridan
2. James Fowler
3. Tom Graham

5th Class Winners Ms. Redmond

1. Gordon Tracey
2. John Chew
3. James Geoghegan

4th Class Winners – Mr. Kealy

1. Ben Kelly
2. Partick Evoy
3. Conor Markey

4th Class Winners – Mr. Réamonn

1. Henry Waters
2. Ryan Laing
3. Ashen Wijayarathne

3rd Class Winners – Mr. Coughlan

1. Derry Murphy
2. Oisín Costello
3. Bill Donegan

3rd Class Winners – Ms. Brennan

1. Donagh Murphy
2. Seán Denvir
3. Joe Plunkett

3rd Class Winners – Ms. Stewart

1. Lochlann Murphy
2. Louie Hendrick
3. Harvey Brennan

Golf:

We have come yet again to the end of another successful golfing calendar culminating in our participation in the Castle Schools Cup. All involved had a tremendously enjoyable experience.

Unfortunately the weather gods were not very kind to us. However the boys played very well in the unfavourable conditions. Congratulations to them as they achieved the highest team total since the competition began.

Sincere thanks to Hilary Haydon for his time and sponsorship of the event.

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

A big thank you to Ross Young, the golf professional in the Spawell for his time and expertise.

Wicklow Way Challenge:

Alas the 7th instalment of the Wicklow Way Challenge never materialised due to the inclement weather during the week prior to the 11th.

On behalf of St Pius X, I would sincerely like to thank you the parents for your willingness to participate and for your continuing support of the event. We will explore a future date perhaps late September/early October as a possible time for the trek. I would sincerely like to acknowledge the trojan work of the walk committee for their time and invaluable support. Future information will be posted on the school website www.piusxbns.ie, and through E-mail and text.

Keep up the training over the summer break.

Looking forward to the walk on the wild side in September!!

Vincent Walk Co-ordinator.