
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

ST. PIUS X BOYS' N.S.

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I'd like to congratulate two former members of staff on their appointments: Mr. Kenneth Kerins has been appointed Principal of a school in Co. Cavan and Mr. Ian Matthews has accepted a position in a school in Navan, closer to home. Both members of staff made enormous contributions to St. Pius for many years and I'd like to thank them both and wish them well. They will be missed hugely on our campus. Following the retirement of Ms. Gráinne Duignan, Mr. Liam Gaynor has been appointed Deputy Principal of St. Pius. I have no doubt that Liam will discharge his new responsibilities with his usual efficiency. We have some new members of staff on board this year and I know you will make them feel very welcome. Ms. Sinéad Ní Loinsigh is working with one of our senior infant classes, while Mr. Michael Coughlan and Ms. Ciara Mooney have taken up position with first class. New faces in SEN Support are Mr. John Murtagh, Ms. Niamh Redmond and Ms. Amy Gallagher.

The Board of Management is delighted to welcome Ms. Caroline Coyne as a new board member. Caroline replaces Ms. Fiona Cryan who has stepped down from her position. Fiona's valuable contributions to board meetings and initiatives will be hugely missed and the board wishes to acknowledge her enormous contribution over many years. Caroline Coyne is well known to you as chairperson of the Parents' Association. She brings a wealth of experience and common sense to the board and I have no doubt but that she will be an excellent voice on behalf of children and parents. Ms. Sinéad Lally is the new teachers' representative on the Board.

DERMOT LYNCH

CONTRIBUTION: If you have overlooked the school contribution of **€130.00** per pupil for the school year 2014/2015, it's not too late. Our school's running expenses get higher every year and we depend hugely on your contributions to help provide the resources and create the environment for your son's education. This also covers your son's pupil insurance, stationery, art supplies, homework journals, access to PE teacher etc..



Upcoming Events

Parent Teacher Meetings

Week of 17th November

Confirmation 28th February

First Holy Communion

16th May

Parents' Association

Taking over the reins from Caroline Coyne as chairperson of the Parents' Association is Ms. Shannon Ward. Shannon is already well known to most people in the school community. Shannon has terrific organisational skills and devotes a great deal of time to the scheduling and management of out of school activities for your children.

The Parents' Association has been very generous to the school. We received a cheque in the sum of €13,000 from the PA last month. This money will be spent to upgrade the IT facilities in school to the benefit of all of our students. The maintenance and development of our IT infrastructure, in particular our interactive whiteboards, is a continual drain on our resources. However it is money well spent as our students and teachers have access to the finest electronic hardware and digital resources. A sincere thank you.

St. Pius X Sports News



HURLING



We look forward to another exciting year of hurling in St. Pius X BNS. Coaching is already underway during school for our Senior Infants, 1st and 3rd classes with our GPO coach from Faughs - Tommy O'Mahony. Junior Infants, 2nd and 4th classes will have an opportunity to showcase their skills with Tommy in Term Two. Hurling coaching for the Stars of the Future in our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes will begin after school in the New Year. Along with Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Corcoran, Mr. Smith and Mr. Dillon, we welcome aboard Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Ní Loinsigh and Mr. Murtagh to our Hurling Coaching Academy for 2015. A huge thank you must be given to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Ó'Fátharta for all the hard work they have put into hurling in our school over the past number of years. They instilled a love of the sport in so many boys and their presence will be greatly missed around St. Pius. We wish them every success in their new positions in Kilkenny and Galway respectively. We must also mention the great work of Faughs Hurling Club and thank them for their continued support. If there are any boys who wish to join Faughs please contact Tommy on 0868114643.



GOLF

The golfing season is now truly underway and the boys are thoroughly enjoying the experience. We are fortunate to have teamed up with the Spawell professional David who is on hand to tutor the boys. We will finish our current session at the mid-term break and re-commence in the spring when the weather and the light will be more favourable. Please encourage the boys to keep practising. We are currently trying to organise the introduction of Trigolf within the P.E. curriculum.

FOOTBALL

What a season it has been for St. Pius X Gaelic footballers! In Junior football, we have for the second year in a row fielded three teams (Green, Navy and White). We are one of the few schools in Dublin to do this and it is a testament to the levels of skill and engagement with Gaelic games in the school. All three Junior teams had their share of victories, receiving compliments from other schools on their abilities and their good sportsmanship.

Our Senior Team has had an excellent season, qualifying for the higher Corn na nGearaltach competition for the first time in over two years. The season ended for them when they lost out in their Semi Final game to Ballyroan in St Enda's Park on Thursday 9th October. The match was a tough contest and Pius players battled right up to the end. Our senior team members have been drawn from a panel of over 30 players from 4th - 6th class, an illustration of the level of interest and competition there are for places in our school's top team.

This year, we had over 80 boys involved in the Cumann na mBunscol league, a record for our school. This would not be possible were it not for the assistance of our players' parents who are always on hand to offer support and lifts to all our games. Both the school and its teams are indebted to those who help out on match days. Equally, our teams would not exist in the first instance, were it not for the expertise and encouragement of our coaching staff. This year we were joined by some new coaches, who together with our existing staff made such a memorable season. Huge thanks to **Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Murtagh, Ms. Smith, Ms. Ní Loinsigh, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Coyle, Mr. Kealy and Ms. Cuglan.**



Ceol

The after-school choir is back up and running since September. With the absence of our esteemed choir master Anne Purcell, we are very lucky to have a fantastic group of willing and experienced teachers to keep it going. As long as there are boys who want to sing, Aoife Stewart, Ciara Mooney and Louise Smith will guide them in the right direction.

We were delighted to welcome back all our boys from last year, and especially our new members from this year's 3rd classes. This year we have over 60 boys in the after-school choir. The boys have begun their new repertoire of songs for this year in preparation for any events which may arise throughout the school year.

A number of boys from 5th class represented our school in a performance at Féilte - a Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence in the RDS on Saturday, October 4th. The boys sang with boys and girls from four other schools. It was a wonderful occasion and the choir received a standing ovation and many effusive tweets on the Teaching Council Twitter.

Over the summer, the choir was given the honour of performing at its first wedding! In July, on the hottest day of the year, a group of 35 boys put their uniforms back on and travelled to Roscommon to perform at the wedding of Aoife Stewart. They performed to a packed church and blew everyone away. They were, in fact, the talk of the wedding for the rest of the weekend.

Every second year, hundreds of schools around Ireland take part in the National Children's Choir. This year our three 5th classes are very busy learning the huge repertoire of songs needed to take part in this highly anticipated event. Along with their class teachers and under the guidance of Rob Kealy, Aoife Stewart and John Murtagh the boys are preparing for their first cluster rehearsal which will take place in November. All this rehearsing will culminate in a fabulous concert complete with a full orchestra, which will be held at the end of the school year in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght



School Quiz

Our new school quiz for third to sixth classes is now in progress. The quiz is conducted in class every Friday and is designed as an individual fun quiz. 25 marks are available for each quiz. Best four results out of the five quizzes in phase 1 will count. Our leadership board for each class and further information are available on the school website www.piusxbns.ie under the quiz tab.

Wicklow Way Walk

A big thank you to all the parents who participated in the 4th stage of the Wicklow Way in June. It seems like a distant memory now! Hopefully all the sore limbs are long forgotten. Thanks to your generosity and support we collected over €4000. These funds will go to the upkeep of our computer technology, interactive whiteboards and data projectors. Currently, reconnaissance is being carried out on the next stage of the Wicklow Way so it's time now to start exercising those limbs again. Look forward to seeing you on the next adventure! Many thanks to Vincent Ryan and Fiona Cryan for all their hard work in organising this hugely successful event.

SCHOOL PICK- UPS: In the interest of Health and Safety we would request that you refrain from using the area just inside the school gates/garden area as a waiting area between 1.30 and 2.30 each day.

- ❖ **NEWB:** Tusla (Child and Family Agency) / NEWB is charged with investigating pupil absences in excess of 20 days in a school year. We are legally obliged to report such absences to the NEWB.
- ❖ **PUPIL UPDATE FORM:** Please ensure we have an up to date mobile number for you. We shall contact you by text occasionally with school reminders and memos. In the case of an emergency we may need to contact you urgently. If your details have changed or if you are in doubt, complete the recently distributed pupil update form (also available on school website), and return it to Karen, the school secretary.
- ❖ **SCHOOL OPENING TIMES:** The school is open to receive children from 8.45a.m. The school authorities cannot accept any responsibility for children prior to this time. Children finish school at 1.30p.m. & 2.30pm. Please ensure you have arrangements in place for collection and that they are very clear to your child.

CHILD PROTECTION: The school adheres to Children First Guidelines as issued by the Department of Education & Skills.

YARD RULES: For Health & Safety reasons we would ask you not to :

- ❖ Bring dogs into the school yard at any time of the day
- ❖ Drive into the yard at any time of the day
- ❖ Cycle, rollerblade, use scooters etc. in the school yard at any time.
- ❖ Play football in the yard before school opening hours.

APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHERS: Those wishing to meet with teachers are requested to arrange appointments with Karen, our secretary, in the office. This will allow teachers time to arrange suitable supervision and planning of class work.

JUNIOR INFANTS 2015: We would like to remind you that the closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2015 is **30th November 2014**.

LOST PROPERTY: If you have misplaced any items of clothing please come in and check in our lost property as unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

SCHOOL CLOSED: Monday, 27th October – 31st October inclusive.

School will close at **NORMAL TIME** on Friday, 24th October

Closed Friday December 19th at 12 Noon until Monday 5th January 2015.

Closed Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February, 2015.

Closed Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March, 2015.

Closed Friday 27th March @ 12 Noon until Monday 13th April, 2015.

Closed Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th May 2015.

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

Closed Tuesday 30th June 2015 at 12 Noon.



❖ **ST. PIUS X CHURCH CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUP**

The Children's Sunday school group takes place at the 11.30am Mass during school term in St. Mary's room at the back of St. Pius X church. The aim of the group is to bring the Gospel alive through art and discussion in a child friendly manner. This is for children 4 years or older who have not yet made their First Holy Communion. If interested please bring your child along. Please note parents are not permitted to stay in the room during the lesson. All volunteers are Garda vetted and new volunteers are always welcome.

