

ST. PIUS X BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think." Margaret Mead



Message from the Principal

The school's current Board of Management met for the last time earlier this month. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members who have worked hard behind the scenes to make this school great: Mr. Ronan McMahon (chairperson), Fr. Aquinas Duffy, Ms. Valerie O'Nualláin, Mr. Jim Power, Dr. Tony Holohan, Ms. Caroline Coyne and Ms. Sinéad Lally not forgetting Ms. Fiona Cryan and Mr. Ken Kerins who served for part of the term.

Welcome to new members of staff, Mr. Daragh Glynn and Ms. Kate Waldron. I hope they both enjoy their time teaching here in St. Pius. Farewell and thank you to Ms. Fiona Carolan who leaves us to assume a permanent appointment in Scoil Carmel.

My thanks as always to our wonderful Parents' Association, presided over by the wonderfully energetic and always smiling Ms. Shannon Ward. It's not every school principal who gets to accept a cheque in the sum of €15,000 for his school. Needless to remark I've been busy spending it. We've just received a new consignment of books to boost our class libraries. We're having the lenses in our projectors cleaned and acquiring some new PCs, new furniture and classroom resources.

Well done to our sports squads. It's not only our recent visit to Croke Park that I wish to mention, but the overall participation in sport throughout the school. There's scarcely a day goes by without training or preparation or a match. It can't happen without the boys . . . or without the parents who offer lifts and support at the games . . . nor without the dedication of the many staff members who give of their time freely after school.

Our school choir gave its first performance at our Mass to open the school year. They sounded wonderful and my thanks as ever to the teachers who train, conduct and provide musical accompaniment to the choir every Monday afternoon.

Dermot Lynch

Jubilee Gala Ball	Contribution
Tickets are now on sale for the Jubilee Ball, Saturday 14th November at The Ballsbridge Hotel. Tickets can be purchased by filling in the form available at www.piusxpa.org and returning it to the class teacher by October 16 th . We would love to see as many parents, friends and associates of St. Pius present as possible.	If you have overlooked the school contribution of €130.00 per pupil for the school year 2015/2016, 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 pupil insurance, stationery, copies, art supplies, homework journals, access to PE teacher etc..

Parent Teacher meetings are scheduled for the 9th – 13th November. Teachers will be in touch with a date and time.

St. Pius X Sports News



FOOTBALL

What a season it has been for St. Pius X Gaelic footballers! And it's not over yet! In Junior football, we have for the third year running fielded three teams (Green, Navy and White). These games are ongoing, with leagues due to finish in November! Stay tuned for updates on their league victories. If that wasn't enough, we have now two senior teams (Senior Navy and Senior Green). For our size, we have the largest number of Cumann na mBunscol teams of any primary school in the country! This is a testament to the levels of skill and engagement with Gaelic games in the school. It has resulted in over **100 boys** involved in our leagues, a new 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. For the first time ever we had the services of **nine** coaches! With most involved with training and matches three times a week, their commitment and enthusiasm is to be admired and appreciated. Huge thanks then are due to our Junior Football coaches; **Junior Green** (Mr. Kealy and Mr. Coyle), **Junior Navy** (Ms. Ní Loingsigh and Ms. Redmond), **Junior White** (Mr. Smyth and Mr. Glynn).

Junior Football (Under 11s)

The **Junior Green** team has done extremely well beating all the schools it has met so far. With a tight game in both of our last two fixtures, (Vs. St. Joseph's and St. Brigid's), the players know that they will have two important games against Bishop Galvin and Hollypark. It should be remembered that our Junior Greens play in the "Dublin South 1" league, with the result that they are competing in the top division in the south of the city. Well done to all our players especially our new recruits in 4th Class! The **Junior Navys** hard work in training has also paid off and they have had impressive wins over Scoil Mhuire, Knocklyon and St Joseph's. They have shown great talent and enthusiasm and are currently top of their league with one match left to play! The **Junior Whites** have had a number of matches, with two alternating panels, allowing all boys to participate. They have battled fiercely at all their games and their tenacity is to be admired.



Senior Football (Under 13s)

Such is the talent in the school, we were able to field two very strong senior teams this year. The **Senior Greens**, managed by Ms. Ní Loingsigh and Mr Glynn had a hugely successful campaign and produced excellent performances in each of their matches. They demonstrated great skill and teamwork and were the undefeated winners in their league. Well done boys on bringing home (what is hopefully the first of many silverware this year!) Congratulations to our **Senior Navy** team winning the **Corn na nGearaltach** in GAA Headquarters, Croke Park against Bishop Galvin. In a tough game against our local rivals, Pius players acquitted themselves well on the hallowed turf of our national stadium. The road to the final involved games at the group stage against Ballyroan, St. Joseph's Terenure and St. Joseph's Clondalkin. At the quarter final stage, we beat Sacred Heart Ballygall in an impressive display on our home pitch in Bushy. For our semi-final fixture, Pius won out against Scoil Assam, Raheny in what was one of the toughest semi-finals the school has ever played. The whole panel, players and subs alike, played their part to get Pius to the finals.

At the end of our final match, Mr. Lynch and the managers commended the whole team for the diligence, effort and commitment they have shown throughout the season. The buzz in the school in the build up to the final was palpable and the atmosphere was electric when we saw our school run out on Wednesday in Croker! Huge thanks to all the parents for their unfailing support of the team. Finally, well done to the management team of **Marion O'Connor, John Murtagh** and **Michael**



Coughlan for all they have done for the team and football in the school generally. Here's hoping our Junior Panels can continue our successful run at football this year!

HURLING 2015:



We look forward to another exciting year of hurling in St. Pius X BNS. Already, coaching is underway during school for our Junior Infants, 1st and 3rd classes with our GPO coach from Faughs, Tommy O'Mahony. Senior 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 springtime. We must mention the great work of the famous Faughs Hurling Club and thank them for their continued support. If there are any boys who wish to join Faughs please contact Tommy on 086 8114643.

GOLF 2015:

A big thank you for your participation in the Golf in Spawell. We will resume in the Spring when the weather and conditions are more favourable.



JUNIOR INFANTS 2015: We would like to remind you that the closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2016 is **30th November 2015.**

LIBRARIES: Another long term project of St. Pius X BNS is to restock our class libraries. We began with our first and second class libraries this year and, thanks to donations made by the Parents' Association these classes received some fabulous graded readers in the past week. The boys will make great use of these books over the next few months.

SCIENCE: The boys have been very busy with their science this term. Mr. Smyth's boys have prepared their projects for the Intel Mini Scientist competition which takes place after Hallowe'en.



Our Science Library, funded by the Intel Seed Grant, is now up and running. The science/computer room has been kitted out with new furniture and some fantastic programmable Lego has arrived. There are several different stations made up of a free Lego station, a gears, levers and pulleys station, a simple machines station, a powered machines station and an EV3 programmable Lego station. We are really looking forward to seeing what the boys make with this fantastic resource which cleverly integrates science and IT.



Our class based quiz for third to sixth classes is now in its second year. Check out our website www.piusxbns.ie for copies of the questions (after each round, of course!!!) and our leader board. Next round takes place on the first Friday after the mid-term. The quiz is a fun activity and encourages our students to listen to the news and sports news. We will have a winner in each class together with an overall junior winner (third & fourth) and senior winner (fifth & sixth).

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.

MUSICAL

We are delighted to announce that St Pius X BNS will be staging “Seussical the Musical Jr” at the end of April next year. This promises to be a huge occasion for the school and many of those within our community will be involved in both the performance as well as the different aspects of the production generally. It will also give an opportunity for pupils who are chosen to realise their potential as unique performers. This show will be on a greater scale than anything we have attempted before. It will involve a larger cast, stage and overall production than previous shows in the past.

The cast will consist of singing/non-singing actors, dancers and chorus. First auditions will take place the second week of November and will be open to **all** children from 4th – 6th class. For pupils interested in singing and acting roles, a selected song from the show will be performed at the audition. The link for this song will be available on the website. We look forward to this ambitious project and thank those teachers involved for their time and effort to date.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Closed 26th October to 30th October inclusive
Closed Tuesday 22nd December @ 12 Noon
Reopens Wednesday 6th January 2016
Closed 18th & 19th February 2016
Closed 16th March @ 12 Noon Reopens 4th April
Closed 2nd, 3rd and 4th May 2016
Closed 6th 7th and 8th June 2016
Closed Thursday 30th June 2016 @ 12 Noon



WICKLOW WAY

A big thank you to all the parents who participated in the 5th staging of the Wicklow Way Walk in June. It seems like a distant memory now!! Hopefully all the sore limbs are confined to distant memories also. Thanks to your generosity and support, we collected €5,729 from the sponsorship cards. This sizeable amount of money will go to the upkeep of our computer technology, Interactive Whiteboards, overhead projectors and replenishing our school library.

Currently reconnaissance is being carried out on our next adventure so it's time now to start exercising those limbs again.

Looking forward to seeing you on the next adventure - 12th June 2016!!

BAIN TAITNEAMH AS AN MBRISEADH