



OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

St. Pius X Boys' National School

HALLOWE'EN NEWSLETTER

Warmest congratulations to Mr. Lorcan Coyle who assumes the role of Principal of St. Pius X BNS in November. I know that everyone in the Pius community will give Lorcan their full support. I have known Lorcan both as a friend and colleague for many years and I have no doubt about his ability, his enthusiasm or his commitment to the position. I wish Lorcan many happy and fulfilled years in the big chair and I know that the school will go from strength to greater strength under his wise guidance.

Dermot, as you are no doubt aware, retired at the end of September. The boys gave him a wonderful send-off concert on his last day. The great man was moved to tears. I'd like to pay tribute to the wonderful work that Dermot did for the school as Principal since 2002 and I hope he has a long and happy retirement.

I wish to welcome our new members of staff – Ms. Áine Maxwell, Ms. Eimear Brogan, Ms. Bróna Waine, Ms. Niamh Crosbie and Ms. Ciara Downes – together with newish members Mr. Darragh Glynn, Ms. Christina Brennan and Mr. Sean Kelly who are with us now for their second year or more. Welcome to the school Board of Management to Mr. Simon McMahon who replaces Jim Power.

Our Parents' Association have set the new man a most pleasant challenge – how best to spend the cheque in the sum of €22,775 with which they presented the school? With so many matters in need of attention, he will have some difficult decisions; but this is a wonderful amount of money to have in funds and it will be well spent to the benefit of all of the boys. Thank you Bevin and your wonderful team.

I return to my role of DP next month. This has been an exciting experience for me and I wish to thank the boys, parents and staff for your unstinting support and encouragement over the past ten months. Not a day went by without cheerful smiles from the boys making me glow within.

Liam Gaynor

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change" Wayne Dyer

INCOMING PRINCIPAL

As some of you may already know, I will take up the role of principal in St. Pius X BNS after midterm. I am delighted to be appointed to this new position and am acutely aware of the responsibility with which I have been entrusted. I would like to thank our school's Chairperson, Ronan McMahon, the interview board and our own Board of Management for the faith they have placed in me with this decision. I promise to work hard towards the betterment of all our pupils and ensure the high standards for which Pius is known continues for many years to come. Like many of you, I'm ambitious for St. Pius and I'm ambitious for its future. Following on from my time as a student (way back when!), I first came to St. Pius as a teacher 15 years ago on the 1st September 2002. Since that time, I have watched our school continue to develop and grow into the dynamic, caring and welcoming community we all know today. My primary goal as principal will be to maintain and enhance the different aspects of school life, be they academic, extra-curricular or pastoral that make St. Pius the special place it is. The role of you, the parent body, will be crucial in this endeavour. As with my predecessor, I will rely on the support of both our Parents' Association and our individual families within the Pius community in developing the school. I would also ask for your patience and help as our school transitions and adjusts to this new chapter of its life. I'd like to also thank, in the first instance, Liam Gaynor, our acting Principal for the amazing work he has done for the past 11 months. His stewardship of the school in a time of flux and change has been hugely positive and the school owes him a massive debt of gratitude for his service. Secondly, I'd like to thank members of staff, parents and the pupils themselves for their messages of support and congratulations since my appointment was announced last week. Each was gratefully received and hugely appreciated.

I hope you all have a lovely mid-term and look forward to working with you all in the coming months and years.

Go raibh míle maith againn go féir.



SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

If you have overlooked the school contribution of €140.00 per pupil for the school year 2017/2018, 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.

Uniforms and Hairstyles:

Proudly wearing the school uniform is an integral part of the St. Pius culture. We respectfully request parents to ensure that boys wear full school uniform with black shoes or black runners every day with the exception of sports days. We ask too that hair be kept neat and tidy, not too short / not too long without any dyes, designs or motifs. This is for the same reason as the wearing of uniforms – that there is a degree of uniformity among the boys and that no pressure is brought to bear on any student to observe current clothing or hair fashions.

Please note that uniforms may be purchased from the office on **FRIDAYS ONLY** from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Please do not drop into the office at any other time in the expectation of purchasing uniforms.

Golf

Golf in St Pius X has resumed on alternate Mondays for Mr Glynn's and Mr Dillon's 6th classes. A new initiative began this year with the use of the Tri-golf equipment as part of the golf sessions in the School Hall. New training aids and equipment were purchased to enhance the enjoyment of the game. These sessions will focus on the short game skills and hopefully will engender among the boys participating a deeper grá for the game of Golf.

Many thanks to you the parents for encouraging your sons to take part and to the teachers supporting the golf programme after school. We look forward to working with the Spawell professionals in the Spring of 2018.



Choir

The choir team were delighted to welcome so many new boys from 3rd class this year, as well as welcoming back familiar faces from 4th, 5th and 6th class. The boys have been busy singing their hearts out since choir practice resumed in September. The choir's first appearance this year was at the Opening Mass celebration where they admirably performed a selection of hymns to bid welcome to the new academic year. Our next performance will be of a more festive nature when the boys will once again sing at both of our carol services in the school in December. At the moment, the boys are enjoying singing more modern songs, and on Mondays you might hear some Ed Sheeran or Imagine Dragons renditions coming from the GP room! The choir are always delighted to welcome new members- come along and join us on Mondays from 2.30 to 3.30 in the GP room (3rd to 6th classes).

The Choir Team

Reminder: School closed Monday 6th

November due to an in-service teacher training today. School will re-open Tuesday 7th November, 2017.

Gaelic Football Season 2017

The strong history of Gaelic football in St. Pius added another impressive chapter with an amazing season. With the majority of our games played, below are the season reports from 4 of our teams. As with all teams and extra-curricular activities, huge thanks to all teachers who gave so freely of their time and energy with this endeavour, taking teams organising matches and facilitating training sessions. Their efforts, combined with the support of parents and, of course, the engagement of the boys themselves, greatly adds to the life of our school. Big thanks too to **Mr. Smyth** for his input at training and matches throughout the season as well as the assistance and guidance he gives us as a member of the Cumann na mBunscol governing committee.

Junior Green

Our Junior Greens have had a hugely successful year so far. We got the season off to a great start beating Ballyroan in the first match of the league. The boys showed great skill and teamwork and **Mr. Glynn** and **Ms. O'Connor** knew there was something special about this team!! Our second match against St. Joseph's was a thriller with Pius coming out on top again. We were down a few points at half time but the boys showed great determination and hunger in the second half to come back and win comfortably in the end. Mr Lynch was a happy man leaving the pitch after beating the local rivals during his last week as principal!! Next up were Scoil Bríde Foxrock. This was a tough match on a very cold day and the boys battled tirelessly and got some outstanding goals to get them over the finish line.

Following this were Hollypark who we knew would be hard to beat. This match was very close and there were some tremendous battles all over the pitch but the Pius boys showcased some excellent tackling, passing and shooting and came out on top of a very hard-fought game. The hard work they put in during training all year was very evident on the pitch. Junior Greens are out again in their final match of the season against Lucan after the mid-term break. With both teams having won all their matches so far, it promises to be a cracker of a game and the winners will top the table!! Best of luck to the Junior Greens! Pius Abú

Junior Navy

Under the stewardship of **Mr. Coyle**, **Ms. Shanley** and **Mr Kealy**, this year's Junior Navy team had a tremendous campaign. We were very unlucky in the first match away to a strong St. Mary's team. Following that, we trained really hard and settled as a team with all the boys becoming more familiar with their new positions. We were well prepared for our match away to Booterstown and pulled away in the second half for a great win. Next up was our local derby against St Joseph's in Bushy Park. The boys were really up for this match and did incredibly well to fight out a win in the dying moments of an intense encounter. We were now officially on a roll.

With the wind in our sails we took the short trip to Tymon Park, the venue for our next onslaught. St Mary's Lucan were the unfortunate recipients of an unmerciful beating. The mighty San Treasa were our next opponents away in Glenalbyn. Again, we showed outstanding resilience and composure to claw out a victory and climb to the top of the table for the first time of the season. Our final match against Scoil Bríde Ranelagh was a winner takes all scenario as they were second in the table behind ourselves. We gave up a few early scores and spent the rest of the game clawing our way back. Unfortunately, we missed out by the narrowest of margins in the end having showed great character to get back into the game. Huge credit must go to all the boys for their commitment throughout the campaign and we are very excited about their potential for next year and beyond.

Senior Green

Senior Green Footballers have had a fantastic season this year finishing up with a draw against Ballyroan on Thursday last. The boys started off training eagerly in September and had a great friendly match against Joeys to prepare them for the league. They went on then to play six tough games and had fantastic results with only one loss for the entire league. The boys showed great commitment to training each Wednesday and there were some outstanding performances from individuals and the team as a whole throughout many of the matches. We had a panel of over twenty-three boys, many of whom are eligible to play again next year which is a very exciting prospect. Well done to all the boys involved. Well done to the players and their managers, **Ms. Brennan** and **Ms. Brogan** for all of their work.

Senior White

The senior whites enjoyed a very successful year reaching the semi-final of the cup in Division One. These boys displayed an excellent attitude throughout all their training sessions and matches and from day one, represented the school with distinction. Along the way they played some excellent football defeating St. Colmcilles, narrowly losing to Drimnagh Castle and beating Holy Family Swords in the quarter final.

The final game against Ballyroan proved to be a step too far but the boys can hold their heads high having produced a workman-like display and a never say die attitude right to the final whistle. In particular, the crop of 6th class boys will be sadly missed as they have given the pupils, parents and teachers of St.Pius many memorable footballing moments during the last few years. For the 4th and 5th class boys who were on this team, they have learned much from these older boys and we have no doubt that next year promises to be an exciting season for our senior footballers as these boys will lead the line for the school. Huge thanks to our Senior White management team of **Ms. Redmond, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Murtagh**. Pius Abú!



Running Club

Running club started again this September and it is as successful as ever! The aim of the running club is to improve fitness, to get to know fellow runners and to challenge oneself. Since its return we have seen the biggest turnout of boys that running club has ever had! It is wonderful to see so many well-mannered and enthusiastic 5th and 6th class boys down in Bushy Park each Friday from 2:50p.m – 3:20p.m. The boys are always eager to get started and the improvements in their running can already be clearly seen. We would encourage all boys to continue running during the break to keep their fitness up. Any boy from 5th or 6th class is welcome to join as we are delighted to see the ‘running bug’ continue to grow and develop around St. Pius X BNS. Thank you to Mr. Smyth, Ms. Brennan, Mr. Coyle and Ms. Carroll for organising this very worthwhile initiative.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2016/2017

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|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Ms. Devenney | Adam Walsh | Mr. Coughlan | Cian Whelan |
| | Matthew Gearty | | Seán Denvir |
| Ms. Dunne | Donal O’ Doherty | Mr. Reamonn | Oisín Costello |
| | Daire Fennell | | Haran Murphy |
| Ms. Brennan | Matthew Cunnion | | Dylan Sage |
| | Ronan Kealy | Ms. Redmond | Callum Ferguson |
| Ms. Pleamonn | Gregory Fowler | | Joseph Fowler |
| | Charlie MacDermott | | James Barry |
| | Jack Walsh | | Conor Marrinan |
| | Dara Goodman | | Ryan Laing |
| Ms. Brogan | Aaron Sagoo | Mr. Murtagh | Eoghan Sarsfield |
| | Charlie O’Dowd | | Ben Kelly |
| | David Somers | Mr. Glynn | Eoghan Costello |
| Mr. Kelly | Conor O’Brien | | Aaron Murphy |
| | Connor Laing | | Sam McNamara |
| | Ralph Curran Schutte | Mr. Dillon | Alex Hayes-Judge |

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| Ms. Carroll | Hugh Fennell |
| Ms. Waine | Rhys Ferguson |
| Mr. Kealy | Callum Rafter-Whelan |
| | Liam Sutcliffe |
| | Evan Wynne |
| | Adam Walsh |
| | Tom Roche |
| | Cillian Murphy |