

# ST. PIUS X BNS NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2018

## *Principal's Message*

The school has been a hive of activity since we started back and it's been great to see. I can safely say that this is the best September I've seen as principal!! (I've definitely used that a couple of times at this stage!).

The painting and signage work over the Summer was met with great reactions from staff, parents and pupils. It showed, in a very tangible way, the supportive and reactive Board we have working on our behalf. I'd like to acknowledge their help and assistance in all they do in the running of the school and in particular the work of our school's chairperson, **Ronan McMahon**.

We are also so fortunate to have such a positive Parents' Association to assist us in all we do in St. Pius X BNS. From fundraising to provision of extra classes, the PA add much to the life of the school. I want to also welcome **Linda Healy** as the new PA's new chairperson and recognise and thank **Ms. Bevin Humphries** as outgoing chair for all the support she showed in her time.

I'd also like to formally acknowledge the resignations of **Ms. Marion O'Donovan** and **Ms. Christina Brennan**. They have both returned to their home counties and made a huge contribution to the school in their time here and will be sorely missed. Congratulations too to **Ms. Brogan** and **Ms. Crosbie** who were appointed as permanent teachers in September by the Board of Management.

I wish everyone a happy and most importantly, *safe* Halloween to everyone in the St Pius X BNS community and look forward to seeing you all in November!

*Lorcan Coyle*

**Principal**

*Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.*  
Nathaniel Hawthorne

## **CHOIR**

The choir is in full swing since mid-September and we are delighted to welcome so many new boys from 3rd class this year. It is also a pleasure to welcome 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. The choir team are excited to announce that this year we will be engaging in a music education programme called the Peace Proms. This programme culminates in a large-scale performance in the RDS alongside numerous other primary schools. This is our first time embarking upon a music programme such as this, and so, we are very excited. 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

## YARD SAFETY

The storm in September played havoc with the Astro surface in the back yard and activities were curtailed for a number of days. The Astro has now been repaired and is better than ever. We would ask parents and visitors to kindly observe our yard protocols – there should be no cycling in the yard by children (or parents!!) and scooters should be walked through to the lockup area behind the PE hall. Ensure that all bicycles and scooters are securely locked as an unlocked bicycle was stolen recently. Dogs are not allowed on the school premises. Please be aware too that the garden area near the school gates is not allocated as a waiting area in the 1:30 – 2:30 period. Please request child minders not to gather here.



## BATTERY RECYCLING

We are re-launching our battery re-cycling campaign in St Pius X B.N.S. for 2018/19. We are encouraging the boys to become the next generation of "guardians of the planet" by re-cycling our wasted and unwanted batteries. In addition to this W.E.E.E. pledge to make a donation to Laura Lynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice, we will be helping families to make the most of short and precious lives. So please encourage the boys to collect old wasted batteries and deliver them to the school. Please visit the website [www.weepledge.ie](http://www.weepledge.ie) for further details and interesting activities.

Thank you as always for your support and co-operation.

## SUMMER WORKS 2018

**Isn't it amazing what a coat of fresh paint can do?**

Grubby hand prints, scuff marks and the remains of Blue Tac past were wiped clean over the summer break and the whole school was given a fresh lick of paint! A lighter, brighter foyer, clean classrooms and corridors and new notice boards welcomed our boys back this September. Returning for the first day of the new school year always brings a sense of rejuvenation and this year the walls themselves echoed this!

It didn't happen overnight - last June Mr Coyle and Mr Gaynor ordered the paint swatches and opened the tester pots. They discussed colour schemes and "feature walls" no less! -(Dermot Bannon has a lot to answer for!!) They managed to agree in the end and we are delighted with the results.

The work was carried out by Des Byrne Paint and Decorating and we can highly recommend them! A debt of gratitude is also owed to our very own JJ who ably assisted.





# SPORT

## GOLF



Following the successful Ryder Cup exploits in Paris France, the time has arrived for St Pius X golfers to show their mettle.

Golf has started on alternate Mondays for Mr Dillon's and Mr Glynn's class. During the Autumn the venue will be the P.E. hall and in the Spring we will arrange a collaboration with a golf professional pending availability. Unfortunately the involvement with the Spawell golf centre has come to an abrupt end. The Tri-Golf schools programme comprises of various fun activities which teach the boys the discipline and skills required to play the game of golf. A series of different target games will help the children master the skills of chipping, pitching and putting. Many thanks to the Golf Team for their participation and willingness to give up their free time.

Looking forward to the emergence of a budding "Rors" on the scene!!

## TENNIS



Tennis continues to go from strength to strength in St.Pius. Tennis is a fantastic sport which specifically focuses on fundamental movement and various other vital skills that will transfer to other sports and provide a life skill for children and great enjoyment. The boys from First class are currently in the middle of their 8 week coaching block with Coach Leo and we have received great feedback about the lessons. Furthermore we will continue the Tennis development in the Senior end of the school with Fourth to receive coaching in the Spring with possibly more classes to follow. We encourage all boys to join any of the local clubs to further enhance their skills.

## FOOTBALL



What a season it has been for Gaelic football in St. Pius. We are proud to say that this year we fielded an incredible five teams for Gaelic football: two senior teams and three junior teams. With over 90 players registered this wouldn't be possible without the hard work and commitment of all the teachers involved so huge thanks to Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Kealy, Ms. Crosbie, Ms. Redmond, Ms. Brogan, Mr. Murtagh, Mr. Geraghty, Mr. Glynn, Ms. McWeeney, Mr. Smyth, Ms. Greally and Mr. Curtin. Their dedication to facilitating training sessions, developing skills and team tactics and organising matches, together with the support of parents who willingly give up their free time to travel to matches and of course, the commitment of the boys themselves, is what makes Pius football so successful and enjoyable for all involved. Below are the season reports from our five teams:

## SENIOR WHITE

This year our Senior Whites have had a very successful year and made it to the quarter final of the cup. Given that our senior team are competing in Division One and coming up against the strongest teams in Dublin, we knew that the task ahead of us was a mammoth one and it was one that needed our full dedication and a lot of tough training sessions and hard work. With that in mind, we were out training in Bushy Park from the first week back in school. The boys displayed an excellent attitude to training and put in a lot of work trying to improve their skills and learning to work together as a team. The first of our group games was away against a strong St. Mary's Rathfarnham side and the boys got off to a great start playing some excellent football and taking some great scores giving us the lead at half time. After the break, Mary's really threw everything they had at us and got back into the game with some hard earned scores. Pius had to really dig deep in the second half and with tireless defending and determination they did incredibly well to hold onto their lead and came out winners in the end. We were off to good start! Our second match was against St. Michael's and we put on a great display of attacking and defending from the get-go. We maintained our lead throughout the game and came out comfortable winners in the end. We were looking forward to our last group game against Scoil Lorcáin. This was on our home grounds and we were on a roll! It was a tight first half but in the second half we took our scores and got some outstanding goals to pull away and come out with an important win! We finished top of our group and had qualified for the quarter finals. We were up against a very strong Lucan side which we knew was always going to be tough and it was. We trained hard in the lead up to the game and the boys were well prepared and all fired up for a win! We made a slow start to the game and gave up a few easy scores but the boys showed amazing resilience and composure towards the end of the half to claw our way back into the game so we went into half time with a narrow lead of 3 points. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be and this wasn't enough to hold off a very skilled Lucan side and they came out winners in the end. Of course, it was very disappointing to lose but it was a huge achievement to get to the Quarter Finals in Division One and the boys can hold their heads high as they did themselves and Pius very proud! With a lot of the team still only in 5<sup>th</sup> Class, we are looking forward to next season already.



## SENIOR GREENS

The Senior Green team had a fantastic season this year finishing up top of their league after an unbelievable unbeaten run. From day one, the boys had an excellent attitude as they started off training eagerly in September and had a friendly match against Joeys to prepare them for the challenging league. They went on to play three tough games, defeating St Mary's and St. Michael's and had a fantastic final result against Scoil Maelruain to come out as outright winners of the league. The boys showed great commitment throughout the season and the display of talent and skill in every game was outstanding. Well done to all the boys involved, especially the crop of sixth class boys who played their final football season for St. Pius with pride. No doubt they gave the 5<sup>th</sup> class boys on the team a fine example of how to lead the line for the school as they step up to head the senior teams for next year. Pius abú!



# JUNIOR GREENS

The Junior Greens had a remarkable year winning all 5 of their games. Home wins against St. Brigid's Foxrock and Lucan BNS, and away wins over St. Mary's Rathfarnham and Hollypark BNS set up a final showdown with local rivals Ballyroan. In what was a free flowing first half the boys produced a superb display of skill, composure and hardwork to lead at the break by 9 points. However, as expected and full credit to Ballyroan they came back at our boys and 2 quick goals reduced the deficit to 3. This was a real test for our boys but showing true grit and determination they dug deep and replied with three points. After that the game ebbed and flowed but working as a true team the Pius boys ensured they never let the lead slip from them, running out 5 point winners eventually. This team have been a pleasure to work with throughout the year and have shown remarkable commitment, dedication and team-spirit. They even trained in Bushy Park on a Monday morning at 8am in preparation for their final game! As always we would like to thank the parents too for ensuring lifts to training and games and providing invaluable support on the line.



# JUNIOR WHITES

Our Junior whites, consisting of a panel of over 30 4<sup>th</sup> class boys competed all over south Dublin this season. Wearing the Pius jersey for the first time, the boys faced some very tough oppositions but battled hard. It is clear that the future is bright with such a large number of boys competing for places on our teams.



# JUNIOR NAVY

Junior Navy's had their final match of the season this week. We were up against Scoil San Treasa and with both teams having won all their previous games in the league, we knew it would be a tough contest with the winner also finishing top of the League as undefeated champions. Scoil San Treasa started well and were 15 points ahead just after half time but then we started to play to our potential. We took control and with our defenders keeping them scoreless and some superb individual and team scores we scored the next 12 points in a row. Unfortunately, we ran out of time in the end and Scoil San Treasa were very lucky to win by 3. Ending the year with such a fantastic comeback and performance and having won all five of their previous games was a just reward for the brilliant effort and commitment the boys showed all year. This really was a superb campaign by a great group of boys with huge potential for next year and beyond.



## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes with our GPO from Faughs - Tommy O'Mahony. Junior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes will have an opportunity to showcase their skills with Tommy in Term Two. Hurling coaching for our *Stars of the Future* in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will begin after school in March. Cumann na mBunscol competitions begin after Easter. 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 0868114643.



## Mangahigh Maths Week Challenge

This year as part of Maths Week the boys of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class took part in the online math challenge Mangahigh. The aim of the challenge was to complete maths tasks and games and win gold medals. The results were just staggering. Over 450 schools in Ireland took part and St Pius X BNS finished in 18<sup>th</sup> place. We achieved a massive 9821 medals which means that the 120 boys completed 4329 activities and spent an unbelievable 378 hours online. Well done to all the boys but in particular to Conor Hanrahan, Sam McMahon Charlie Gillespie and Darragh O'Brien who were top scorers in their classes. We look forward to next year when the whole school will take part and we will aim to be No. 1

