

DECEMBER
2015

St. Pius X BNS

As another year draws to a close, I'd like to recall just how special a year it was. St. Pius is 50 years old and we celebrated our jubilee in style: Mass with Bishop Eamonn Walsh, jubilee golf classic in Grange GC, Art Expo, Trade Fair and of course our Gala night. I wish to sincerely thank our jubilee committee for organising all of these events and for making them memorable. Don't forget that copies of our jubilee book are still on sale. It really is a collectors' item: price €15.

Our year was a super one for many other reasons besides: Intel award winners, GAA trophy winners, Credit Union quiz runners-up, science and Lego workshops, visit from the Defence Forces and a plethora of individual student awards and distinctions.

Our new Board of Management met for the first time this month and I have no doubt that the school is in good hands with a great mix of enthusiasm and experience under the watchful leadership of Councillor Ronan MacMahon. Your Parents' Association leaves no stone unturned in its mission to forge strong liaisons with the school and its commitment to providing the boys with a wide range of after school activities. Thank you Shannon and all of your helpers and advisors. Don't forget to get your hands on one of the wonderful calendars they have published with pictures of all the boys.

The school hub (aka school secretary Ms. Karen Reddy) is our friendly interface with parents and public. Thank you Karen for the million-and-one tasks you accomplish day in, day out and for making all visitors to St. Pius feel welcome. I have nothing but praise for our wonderful staff of teachers and SNAs who are simply the best. Thank you for making St. Pius X the envy of every Principal in the country.

Have a lovely Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year with lots of things to look forward to, most especially our 'Seussical' Musical in April.

Dermot Lynch

School Choir

Our choir has been rehearsing after school every Monday since September and the big events are arriving hot and heavy: Mass to celebrate the start of the school year, turning on the Christmas lights in Templeogue Village, school carol services, Nativity Play in church and of course Confirmation and First Holy Communion next year. The boys are in great voice under the guiding batons of Ciara Mooney, Áine Carroll, Amy Gallagher, Niamh Redmond and Kate Waldron. We hope that members of the choir may form the chorus of our upcoming 'Seussical' musical next term!!

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Junior Carol Service **9.45 a.m.**

Senior Carol Service **11.15 am**

In the school hall.

St Pius X BNS proudly accepts Our National flag

November 5th will go down as a special day in the history of St. Pius BNS as we were presented with Our National Flag to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising. Firstly, two representatives from the Defence Forces were welcomed and greeted by Mr. Lynch and Mr. Gaynor. Óglaigh na hÉireann then marched through a Guard of Honour, formed by our 5th and 6th class pupils. Formal photographs were taken with the youngest and oldest pupils in St. Pius X – Conor and Shane. Next to the PE hall where the Proclamation was read to all. Well done to Fionn and John Patrick who had the honour of reading a

verse aloud. The boys were given a talk on the history, care and custody of the flag. Finally, the National Flag was presented to the pupils in the school. We finished with a rendition of Amhrán na bhFiann and there was great excitement and a roar went up from the children when Óglaigh na hÉireann gave them homework off that day. The flag will be raised on March 15th 2016 in the school grounds, when all schools in the country will have a day of celebration to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

TENNIS

St. Pius will, for the third consecutive year, enter a tennis team in the Primary Schools League, with the help of Mr. Gough, this coming Spring. Mr. Gough will visit the senior classes in the New Year hoping that both old and new players will come to trials and try to improve on their third place finish in Division 1 last year. The school would like to thank Templeogue Tennis Club for its support of the school teams and the use of its facilities over the past number of years.

SCIENCE

St. Pius X BNS has had a very busy term with science. There were lots of interesting experiments and investigations taking place around the school for Science Week. Mr. Smyth's fifth class boys recently took part in the Intel Mini Science Competition. There was an array of interesting and amazing projects from Nano Science and Flight to Renewable Energy and Volcanoes. The judges were extremely impressed by the level of knowledge the boys had about their projects and found it very difficult to choose a winner. The project entitled "CSI" by Sam Jones, Rory King, Kevin Hogan and Conor Kenny was the winner and these boys then represented St. Pius X BNS in the national final which took place on the 10th December in Leixlip. The boys represented our school excellently on the day and impressed everyone with their interesting project and their level of science knowledge. Well done boys! Mr. Murtagh's fifth class boys were also very busy displaying our new programmable lego. Everyone was very impressed with what it could do and this will be a fantastic resource for all to enjoy in the coming years.



Gaelic Football

What a hugely successful year it's been for football in St. Pius. Before the Halloween break, our Junior Whites had finished strongly in their league and both our senior teams won out their leagues and set the stakes high for our two Junior teams who still had games left to play. Our **Junior Navy** team had one game left to play against Ballyroan in which they came out on top. It was a thriller of a game and the boys showed great spirit and determination. The hard work they put in during training all year was very evident on the pitch. This meant they finished top of the league, undefeated in all their matches.

Following this huge success, the **Junior Green** team, who were undefeated in the league so far, headed into their final game against Hollypark in Terenure College. In a hugely entertaining game, on a cold and damp day the two teams battled it out. After some great scores and tireless effort from both sides the game ended level meaning that both teams share the cup. Well done to all the players involved and huge thanks are due to our football coaches as their commitment and dedication to football in the school is admirable: Sinéad Ní Loingsigh, Niamh Redmond, Rob Kealy, Lorcan Coyle, Michael Smith, Daragh Glynn, John Murtagh, Michael Coughlan and Marion O'Connor. To celebrate the success of the four winning teams an awards night was held on 4th December and on-hand to present the medals were local footballing star Niall Scully and chairperson of Templeogue Synge Street club, Alan O'Brien, who commended the boys on their tremendous achievements.

Last but by no means least, we would like to thank all the parents for their ongoing support for the football teams and providing lifts to and from matches and training which is essential to the success of football in the school. We are looking forward to next year already and on behalf of all the football coaches we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Calendar

Closed **Tuesday 22nd December @ 12 Noon**

Reopens Wednesday 6th January 2016

Closed 18th & 19th February 2016

Closed 16th March @ **12 Noon**

Reopens 4th April 2016

Closed 2nd, 3rd and 4th May 2016

Closed 6th 7th and 8th June 2016

Closed Thursday 30th June 2016 @ **12 Noon**

Speaking of Calendars we still have some of the Parents' Association 2016 School Calendar featuring all of the children from 2015/2016 school year available in the office at a cost of €6.00 for 1, €10.00 for 2, €12.00 for 3 and €15.00 for 4.

Sacraments

Confirmation: Saturday 27th February 2016

Communion: Saturday 21st May 2016

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

A big thank you to everyone who supported our 2015 St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection. The enormous generosity was just incredible. Your help makes all the difference. Christmas will be a challenging time for so many families and your support is greatly appreciated.



Seussical the Musical

Preparations for our production of Seussical Jr., which takes place on the 27th - 29th of April next, are in full flow at present. We have been astonished by the huge level of interest that pupils and staff have shown in participating in the show. One hundred and fifty five children presented themselves for the auditions and the team of teachers involved was truly flabbergasted at the amazing talent we have in the school. We will endeavor to accommodate all of those children in some capacity. After four gruelling rounds of auditions, that tested the boys on their singing, acting, dancing and stage presence, the team has finally gathered core group of pupils that will make up the principal roles in the musical. This was a very difficult task and a huge thank you to all the teachers (Ms. Waldron, Mr Coyle, Ms. Coyle, Ms. Mooney, Ms. Carroll, and Ms. Pléamonn) who helped us get to this point and all the staff that have volunteered to help in some capacity over the coming months.

This promises to be an amazing journey for all the children involved and this show will be on a greater scale than anything the school has attempted before. Therefore, we ask parents to give as much help and support to the show as they can, to help make this an experience that parents, children and staff will never forget.

Rob Kealy

Art Masters

It has been a busy year for the St. Pius Art Department! The exhibition and sale of the children's art before the summer holidays was a great success. The framed pictures are no doubt hanging proudly in homes across the parish, and further afield in the homes of grannies, granddads, aunts and uncles. Each piece was signed so keep it safe, an early masterpiece may well make millions at auction in the not too distant future!! We were straight back at it in September. The school was decorated to welcome our old friend Sam Maguire and then again for the 1916 flag presentation.

Santa's elves were possibly the only ones more busy in recent weeks than our young art and crafters! Bare walls in our G.P. Room and Hall were bedecked with all things of colour and glitter. The transformation always adds something special to the magic of plays, concerts and carols. The boys must be thanked for all their hard work, the S.N.As for assistance in getting it all finished and hung. . . and the teachers for being brave enough to let the boys loose on the art shelves!!

Triona O'Neill



"The perfect Christmas tree?

All Christmas trees are perfect!"

Charles N. Barnard