

St. Pius X Boys' National School

December 2016 Newsletter



“Remember, if Christmas isn’t found in your heart, you won’t find it under a tree.”

Charlotte Carpenter.

With the year drawing to a close, I’d like to wish all the members of the St. Pius X community a very happy and peaceful Christmas; may all your Christmas wishes come true, but remember - be careful what you wish for 2016 has been another memorable year for St. Pius with 1916 celebrations, Seussical and multiple successes in the sporting arena. Our junior school quiz team finished in the top ten in the Credit Union quiz final; the numbers in our very popular choir have swelled considerably and our science and technology interests have gone from strength to strength. I cannot praise our boys enough; they proudly carry the St. Pius torch wherever they go and time and again, those with whom they come into contact comment most favourably on their maturity and good behaviour. Thank you parents for making them so. Our wonderful staff of teachers and SNAs . . . suffice it to say that I could not wish for a more pleasant, competent or dedicated complement of people with whom to work. Their positivity and can-do approach make so many things possible and I am indebted to them for their enthusiasm and good will. Karen, our friendly school secretary and Helen, our guardian angel both contribute to the school’s smooth running in ways that have to be seen to be believed. I’d like to welcome our new parish priest Very Rev Fr. Gerry Moore to the parish and the Board of Management. The school board, under the vigilant eye of chairperson Mr Ronan McMahon, carries out its duties behind the scenes with prudence. Let me not forget Ms. Bevin Humphreys and our superb Parents’ Association who provide a wonderful range of out of school experiences for the boys and an occasional large cheque to help our funding.

We look forward to 2017 with confidence; no doubt there will be a host of new challenges and initiatives but rest assured that the core elements of educational development with which we have been entrusted will continue to take centre stage. Thank you for coming to our school plays and carol services and may the close bond between the pupils, teachers and parents of St. Pius long continue.

Liam Gaynor

Deputy Principal

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2016 St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection. Your enormous generosity was incredible. Christmas will be a challenging time for so many families and your support is greatly appreciated.

Credit Union School Quiz

Good Luck to the 2 Quiz teams who will represent St. Pius X Boys National School in the Credit Union School Quiz at the end of January.

Senior Team: James Brennan, Rory King, Gordon Tracey, Ushen Wijayaratne.

Junior Team: Toby Coleman, Sam McNamara, Derry Murphy, Henry Waters.



Terenure College Cross-Country Race.

On November 25th 80 boys from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class took part in the first annual Terenure College Primary schools Cross country race series. Taking part on the grounds of Terenure College, 10 schools and approximately 800 boys and girls took part in very competitive races ranging from 750 metres to 1 kilometre. Not only was it great to see our boys win medals, with a large number of boys finishing in the top 5 of their races, it was great that every St Pius X boy finished their race. As a result of this and the fact that both Sean Quinn, (Mr. Dillon's 6th) and Joe Plunkett, (Ms. Brennans) who won their respective races, St Pius X won the School of the competition. We would also like to thank Philip Wallace and Terenure College for what was a very well organised race meet and we look forward to taking part again. Since its inception the St Pius X Running Club continues to grow, with over 80 boys from 5th and 6th taking part. It is evident at these events the improvement boys are making in fitness and stamina. The aim of the club is to promote a fit and healthy lifestyle and we will resume our Friday sessions in Bushy park at the start of February. Any new boys are welcome to join.

Choir

The Christmas season is a time filled with festive cheer and a particularly busy time of the year for the school choir. This year the boys have worked extra hard to make our Christmas celebrations the most harmonious yet! With new boys stepping up to the challenge of singing solos and the excitement of our new members as they prepared to perform at the first carol services, the choir has been a very magical place to be this term for students and teachers alike. The junior and senior carol services were undoubtedly the high point of the choir's Christmas calendar. The boys performed beautifully at both services, singing all the much loved Christmas hymns, while adding a few new Christmas surprises to their repertoire. It was, as always, one of the most special days in St. Pius X BNS in 2016. Thank you to all the boys for their commitment to the choir. A big thank you also to the music team in the school, Ciara Mooney, Louise Smith, Níamh Redmond, Ami Gallagher, Christina Brennan and Áine Carroll, all coordinated by Liam Gaynor. Nollaig Shona dhaoibh go léir!

Wicklow Way Update

The proceeds from the Wicklow Way walk in June last has been used to purchase new overhead projectors. The quality of the old projectors had deteriorated over the last few months and viewing of the Interactive Whiteboards had become less than ideal. The quality of the new projectors has surpassed our expectations. All the teachers and pupils are delighted with the clarity and viewing, even on a bright day, it is excellent. Thank you all for your support and remember that 11th June next year is the proposed date for our next instalment of the Wicklow way challenge. Don't over indulge over the festive season!!!!

Vincent Ryan

Dates for your Diary

Closed Noon: Thursday 22nd December

Reopen: Monday 9th January 2017

February Mid-Term Break: Closed Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th February

Confirmation: Saturday 11th March 2017

St. Patrick's Day: Closed Friday 17th March & Monday 20th March

Easter Holidays: Closed Monday 10th April to Friday 21st April 2017 inclusive

