

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



ST. PIUS X BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S CHRISTMAS WISHES

St. Pius X BNS has been a veritable hive of festive fun and activities this past month. I, like the huge audiences who came to see them, was amazed at the quality of the Christmas productions and the young actors we have in our midst! With 9 Christmas plays in 3 days, the GP room was a very busy place to be! Huge credit to the boys, their class teachers and indeed all the support teachers who made it happen. Adding to the festive cheer were our two Carol Services this week. Led by our school choir and our "in house" band, the services were both joyful and full of Christmas spirit. I'm constantly amazed at the talent and enthusiasm we have both within our staff and the pupils in our classes.

This first term has been a hugely positive one for the entire school with innovative and inspiring ideas to be seen in our classrooms. Having said goodbye to our outgoing 6th Classes in June, we have since welcomed our Junior Infants. Both classes have settled in extremely well, with massive credit due to their class teachers, Ms. Devenney and Mr. Kealy, Michelle and the many support teachers who work with the boys on a daily basis. Huge thanks too to our Board of Management, and its Chairperson, Mr. Ronan McMahon for their tireless efforts in supporting and improving the lives of all our pupils. It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge and thank the school's amazing Parents' Association. Under the leadership of Ms. Linda Healy, the PA adds hugely to the school and the community in general. Lastly, but by no means least, I'd like to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Reddy for the stellar job she does in the office. The title of secretary does little to convey the huge role she plays in assisting me in the administration of a school our size.

**"Love the giver
more than the
gift."**

Brigham Young

INTEL MINI SCIENTIST

This year Ms. O Connor's 5th Class took part in the Intel Mini-Scientist as part of the St Pius X BNS science week. After weeks of hard work investigating their chosen topic the class held an exhibition day, showcasing their project work to parent as well as the other classes. With topics such as Sustainability, Volcanoes, Flight and Water density, it was a very tough job for the judges to decide who would go forward to the regional finals. The winning group, made up of Alex O Dowd, James Prendergast, Derry Murphy and Haran Murphy were victorious with their project on "the Density of Solids and Liquids". They represented St Pius X BNS at the regional finals on December 5th in Blanchardstown IT. Well done to all the boys who took part.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a well deserved holiday and hope you all have an enjoyable break with friends and family.

Mar fhocail scoir ba mhaith liom Nollaig shona, suaimhneach agus athbhliain faoi mhaise a ghuí oraibh go léir.

Le cúnamh Dé beidh 2019 chomh taitneamhach leis an bhliain atá imithe romhainn.

Lorcan Coyle

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the boys who didn't miss a single day in the last academic year.
Certificates were awarded at our last assembly:

Ms. Maxwell

Aidan Dineen, Odhran Gibbons

Ms. Corcoran

Cormac Furlong

Ms. Stewart

Sean Armstrong, Donnacha Cronin, Finlay Timlin

Ms. Redmond

Dáire Fennell, Tom Wallace

Ms. Brogan

Ethan Maguire, Harry Coates

Ms. Carroll

Adam O'Brien, Gregory Fowler

Ms. Pléamonn

Seán Furlong, Aaron Sagoo, Jack Falvey, Charlie Hogan

Mr. Faherty

Hugh Fennell, Sam Donoghue

Ms. Dunne

Jack McCormack, Tomás Marron, Max Mulcahy, Oscar Rush, Seán Réamonn

Ms. Crosbie

Louis Dempsey, Daniel Egan, Cillian Murphy, Liam Sutcliffe

Mr. Murtagh

Oliver Gearty, Isaac Rush

Ms. O'Connor

Oisín Costello, Killian O'Gorman, Ronan O'Gorman

Mr. Geraghty

James Wallace, Tom Bulfin

Mr. Glynn

Ben Kelly, Connor Fennell, Joshua Holloway, Luke Mitten

STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to our elected student council members who have been assigned a variety of pleasant tasks such as welcoming Sam Maguire to St. Pius last month . . .

3rd Class

Mr Faherty: Harry McCafferty

Mr Réamonn: Connor Laing

4th Class

Ms Crosbie: Ronan Moore

Ms Dunne: Harry McShane

5th Class

Mr Murtagh: Hugh O'Neill

Mr Geraghty: Harvey Brennan

Ms O Connor: Ronan O'Gorman

6th Class

Mr Glynn: Jamie Dillon

Mr Dillon: Matthew Herbert



CHOIR

The boys of the choir have worked extra hard this term not only to prepare for the festive season, but also in preparation for their Peace Proms performance in February. Amidst all the festive preparations, 62 choir boys attended a large-scale workshop for the Peace Proms in the National Sports Arena on the 13th December. Even with such a busy schedule this term, all of their efforts and dedication made our Christmas celebrations this year one of the most harmonious yet! New boys stepped up to the challenge of singing solos and our many new members were very excited to perform at their first carol services. Both the junior and senior carol services have undoubtedly been the high point of the festivities, making it one of the most magical days in the St Pius X BNS calendar. The boys performed a beautiful arrangement of Christmas hymns, as well as adding some modern Christmas songs to their repertoire. Thank you to all of the boys for their hard work and dedication to the choir. A special thanks also, to all of the teachers involved with the choir. Choir resumes on Monday 14th January (second Monday in Jan.)

Nollaig Shona dhaoibh go léir.



SOCCER

Following on from the success of last year's soccer, we are delighted to announce that we will be holding trials in January to pick our soccer team for 2019. These trials will be open to boys from 5th and 6th class. Successful boys will represent the school in 5-a side, 11 a-side cup and 11 a-side league competitions. We look forward to seeing all our up and coming stars in the New Year!!

John and Vincent

TERENURE CROSS COUNTRY RACE

St Pius X BNS was delighted once again to be invited to the Terenure Cross Country races organised by Philip Wallace and the students in the grounds of Terenure College on November 30th. On a crisp Friday morning over 120 boys from 3rd, 4th 5th and 6th walked down to the venue and took part in the races. With over 10 schools present competition was tough and the boys really enjoyed their first cross country event of the year. Running Club will resume after Christmas for the boys in 5th and 6th classes on Fridays after school in Bushy Park. We ask that all boys give it a go as running with your friends in a non-competitive way is great both for the body and the mind.

FOOTBALL NEWS

There was great excitement when the Sam Maguire came back to visit St. Pius in November. We were fortunate to be joined by Dublin player Evan Comerford and our GPO Kevin who organised the visit. Members of St. Pius football teams gathered in the hall to greet Evan and the cup and Evan had lots of

advice for the boys. He spoke to them about the commitment and dedication that is needed to be part of an All-Ireland winning team and inspired them to keep working hard at their chosen sport to make it to the top level! Evan presented our Senior Greens and the Junior Greens with their medals for winning their

leagues and got their photo taken with him and the cup! There was great excitement then among staff and pupils as Evan made his way around to all the classes with the cup. We had tremendous fun and we hope to see it again next year. COYBIB!



GOLF

Golf in St Pius X has come to an end for Mr Glynn's and Mr Dillon's 6th class and will resume in the Spring. Sadly the facilities and professional services of the Spawell were withdrawn from us and so the golf sessions were administered in the school hall. The sessions focused on the short game skills and hopefully engendered a deeper grá for the game of Golf among the boys that participated.

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 boys in the Spring of 2019 and hopefully a budding McIlroy will emerge on the scene!!

Vincent

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2018 SVP Food Collection. Your enormous generosity was incredible. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) expects 50,000 families to seek its help over the winter months. Christmas will be a challenging time for so many families and your support is greatly appreciated.



Quiz!

QUIZ TEAM

St. Pius has put in some strong performances in the past few years in the Credit Union Schools Quiz, reaching the national final on occasion. Best wishes to our junior and senior teams who will do battle in the first round in early February. These boys qualified on foot of their performances in Quizzlers, the Friday school quiz:

Senior Team: Oran Garrigan, Henry Waters, Ashen Wijayarathne, Patrick Fleming

Junior Team: Alan Walsh, Rory O'Donovan, Levi Morgan, Tomás Doyle

RECENT VISITORS

St. Pius had a great variety of visitors last month. The Gardai came to talk to the boys about forensics. John, (Wicklow based wood turner) gave the boys a great demonstration with his lathe on how to fashion wood products from lumps of timber. Sam Maguire arrived also and visited every class in the school . . . and of course, our favourite visitor of all, Santa, arrived on Tuesday to make sure that all the boys (and teachers!) are going to bed early.

Active Flag:

We are delighted to announce that we have begun the process of securing an Active Flag. The Active School Flag (ASF) is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. As you will be aware, St.Pius X BNS is already a very active environment both inside and outside the classroom but we hope through engaging in this formal process, the boys' hard work will be recognised. Some of the things we have/will be introducing are:

- Weekly Yoga Slots for each class
- Do Your Talking as You are Walking (DYWAYAT) – Front Yard
- Active Notice Board (Front Reception)
- Student Council will lead playground games
- Active Homework (2 exercises will be added to the website each week and pupils and parents will be encouraged to try these out!!)

As always, we look forward to the help and involvement of the parents in this new endeavour.

Go raibh maith agat,
John and Elaine

ARTS AND PROPS

December is a busy time for the St. Pius X Art Department! As early as November, teachers were coming to me with some rather strange costume and prop requests!!

A spaceship you say?! . . . *leave it with us, we'll come up with something!* Six aliens . . . *who has the facepaint?!* Seven shepherds with crooks . . . *no problem!* Three giant shiny keys. . . *I think we can manage that!* Four fluffy sheep? . . . *somebody order some cotton wool, quick!!* Two bales of hay (one prickly, one soft). . . *lucky we have a few farmers on the staff!!!*

It all came together in the end and along with staging, sound and lighting I think we can all agree that the plays really were spectacular. Congratulations to all the teachers involved and of course to the boys themselves.

The G.P.Room was decorated beautifully for the shows with festive art made by the boys from infants to 2nd. Hopefully you got to see the fantastic art made by all the boys in the P.E. Hall for our carol service. The P.E. Hall is transformed every year for the occasion and it never ceases to amaze me how stunning a showcase of the boys' artistic talents it is. Well done to one and all!

I owe a huge thank you to the older boys, teachers and SNAs who help me hang the art every year. (And not forgetting those who help take it down again!) It's a mammoth task but always so worth it.

Merry Christmas! T. O'Neill and the Art Dept.



DATES TO REMEMBER

School re-opens Monday 7th January at 8.45a.m.

Planning Day: Wednesday 20th February, 2019

February Mid Term Break : Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd February 2019

Confirmation: Saturday 9th March, 2019

St. Patrick's Day: Closed Monday 18th March, 2019

Easter Holidays: Closed @ **12 Noon** on Friday 12th April

Re-opens Monday 29th April

May Bank Holiday: School is closed Monday 6th May

Communion: Saturday 18th May 2018

June Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th June.

Summer Holidays: Closed @ **12 Noon** on Friday 28th June, 2019