

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019

St. Pius X Boys' N.S.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With Christmas nearly upon us, St. Pius X BNS is in the midst of one of the busiest months in the school calendar. In total we had 10 Christmas plays last week in our GP room. The performances have been spectacular and it's clear a huge amount of work went into them. We also had our Junior and Senior Carol Service on Thursday in the school hall with all 542 pupils singing festive tunes. We will "wrap" up the Christmas season with our "Carols in the Yard" for the last half hour of the day on Friday.

Not forgetting those less well off than ourselves, the school held its SVP food collection. The amount of food items seems to increase each year, with Mr Dillon and his class doing stellar work organising it all for the needy of Dublin. We will also collect money for SVP on the day of the holidays during Carols in the Yard.

As you may know already, Mr. John Murtagh was appointed Principal of Our Lady of the Wayside, Inchicore last month. John was a fantastic member of staff who made a hugely positive impact to all aspects of school life during his time here. We also welcome Ms. O'Connor who joined us in November and hope she'll be very happy in our school.

Lastly, I'd like to pay tribute to our retiring Deputy Principal, Mr. Liam Gaynor. It is very difficult to accurately describe the contribution Liam has made in his 21 years' service to the school. He has been to the forefront of innovations; a dedicated ICT room, securing a digital schools' award and director of our Enrichment Programme to name but a few. We will feel his loss, however, most deeply in the person who is leaving. As well as his time as Acting Principal, Liam has been a huge support to staff, pupils and parents alike. I wish him a long and happy retirement and hope he won't be a stranger to the school (particularly when the ICT problems arise!!).

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone back (with resolutions still intact!) in 2020!

Beannachtaí na Nollag Daoibh go Léir.

Lorcan Coyle

Principal



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School Closed 12 Noon Friday 20th December

Reopens Monday 6th January 2020

Sacrament of Confirmation: 15th February 2020

Mid Term: Closed 20th & 21st February 2020

St. Patrick's Weekend: Closed 16th & 17th March

Easter : Closed Friday 3rd April, 12 Noon

Reopens Monday 20th April 2020

May Bank Holiday : Closed Monday 4th May 2020

First Holy Communion: 16th May 2020

June Bank Holiday : Closed Friday 29th May to Wednesday 3rd June inclusive

6th Class Graduation: Friday 26th June

Summer Holidays

Closed Tuesday 30th June at 12 Noon 2020

St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2019 SVP Food Collection. Your 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.



SCIENCE

November saw St. Pius engaged in a very busy Science Week! There were inquiries, investigations and experiments taking place in every classroom! We saw dancing raisins, magnet investigations, static electricity (and static hair!!!) and DIY lava lamps! Second classes were given a design and make challenge where they had to use all their scientific skills to make strong paper bridges! We also had several Scientists visiting our classrooms throughout the week. They spoke to the boys about their jobs and helped the boys carry out a range of experiments. They got to work with polymers and wafer plates! It was great for the boys to see the range of jobs that all use science every day!! Next term will see Ms. O'Connor's boys participate in Science Blast in the RDS so the boys will have a busy first term coming up with their science questions and project to answer these complex questions!!

ART IN ST. PIUS

CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION WINNERS!

I think it's fair to say we swept the boards at the local level of the competition! We won both First and Second places in the 8-10 year old category and First and Second places in the 11-13 year old category.

Our two double wins represent unprecedented success for our school in the Credit Union Art Competition. This competition is traditionally known to be very high standard so we are feeling immensely proud of our young artists!

Eoghan Brennan of 6th Class was the overall winner at local level and will now go forward to the Chapter Level of the competition - so watch this space! We will all be keeping our fingers crossed for him.

We would like to thank The Heritage Credit Union, our local branch, and acknowledge the support they give to the school.



CHRISTMAS ART

As always the school was transformed with stunning artwork to decorate the G.P. Room for Christmas plays and the hall for Carol Service. There is something particularly special about the Christmas themed art . . . and something particularly brave about the teachers who allow that amount of glitter free in their classroom!!

SCHOOL QUIZ

Best of luck to our quiz teams taking part in the Credit Union quiz at the end of January

Senior Team:

Donagh Murphy Derry Murphy Aaron Dillon Conor Tracey

Junior Team:

Rory O'Donovan Darragh O'Brien David Somers Gregory Fowler

FAREWELL

It's time for me to say goodbye as I look forward to my retirement. St. Pius is the most wonderful of schools and it has been an absolute joy and privilege to have taught here for over twenty years. The boys are the very best – enthusiastic, courteous and full of life. I will certainly miss them. I have come to know many parents down the years and would like to thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness throughout my time here. Our Parents' Association is second to none and we are so lucky to have Caroline and her team to continue the strong tradition set down by her predecessors. I'd also like to mention Ronan McMahon and the school Board of Management whose guidance and expertise have brought this school from strength to strength.

And what about my colleagues . . . ? It would be hard to find a more dedicated, hardworking and amiable group of teachers and other staff members anywhere. Long may they continue to make this place a happy and welcoming one. I have worked with four principals in my time here – Paddy O'Brien, Michael Quinn, Dermot Lynch and Lorcan Coyle, each of them carrying a very unique skillset. Their leadership has inspired many. Lorcan has made a terrific start to his tenure and I can assure you that he has the drive, the personality and the wisdom to help this great and happy school meet the challenges of a new age. Finally, I have to mention Karen, whom you all know so well. Karen is able to do a million things at the same time and come through smiling. She has been your first point of contact as school secretary and I'm sure she left you with a positive impression of the place. Lorcan and Karen has both been superb during my time as Deputy Principal and I wish to thank them both most sincerely.

I will sign off now – I will harbour happy memories of St. Pius X BNS for many years to come.

Thank you.
Liam

SCHOOL CHOIR

Congratulations to our school choir who gave two tremendous performances yesterday at our annual carol services. The singing seems to get sweeter every year. The new year will be a busy time for the choir with Confirmation, First Holy Communion and of course our school musical, The Lion King, to look forward to. Thank you to our choir team Áine Carroll, Niamh Redmond, Ami Gallagher, Eimear Brogan, Áine Maxwell, Mark Geraghty, Ciara Robinson and Ailish McWeeney for giving their time after school every Monday.

THE LION KING JR

Preparations for our whole school production of The Lion King Jr are in full flow. After a rigorous auditioning process of over 250 children, where we were blown away by the amazing talent of the boys, we finally selected our Principal cast and leading groups. All the boys who expressed an interest in being part of the show will be catered for. Rehearsals will begin after Christmas and continue until the end of March. Show dates are April 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Templeogue College. The boys in the junior end will attend a matinee performance on March 31st. The girls in the Senior end of St. Pius will also be invited to see a matinee performance of the show.

Putting a show together on this large a scale comes at a high cost so our sponsorship team will be looking for any support possible. This could be a monetary donation, sponsoring a page in the program for your business, or a prize for the raffle. Any support would be gratefully appreciated.

Rob Kealy

