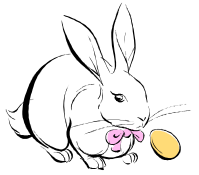


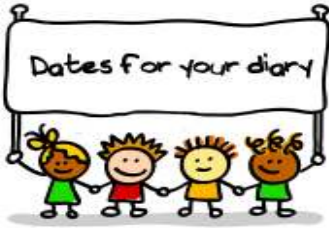
EASTER 2013



ST. PIUS X BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL

Nach bhfuil sé do-chreidte go bhfuilimid ar imeall na casca arís. Tá an t-am ag sleamhnú uainn ar luas lasrach. Tá suil agam go raibh raíthe taitneamhach agaibh uile agus go mbainfidh sibh sult agus súp as an cháisc.

SCHOOL CLOSURES



Closed Friday 22nd March 2013 @ 12.00 NOON

Closed Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th May, 2013

Closed Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th June, 2013

Closed Friday 29th June, @ 12 NOON

First Holy Communion

Preparations for the First Holy Communion are well underway in the 2nd Classes of Ms. Mooney & Ms. O'Donovan. The boys made their first confession in St. Pius X Church on Tuesday 12th March which was accompanied by Ms. Purcell and the school choir. Fr. Aquinas was joined by no less than 4 visiting priests to conduct this solemn ceremony and all concerned were very proud of the boys on the night. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in St. Pius X Church on Saturday, 18th May. The boys are already working hard on their prayers, scrapbooks, artwork and songs in preparation for the big day. They and their teachers are really looking forward to this joyful occasion.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation was received by both 6th classes on Saturday 3rd March in St. Pius X Church. This memorable and wonderful event was celebrated by Bishop Eamonn Walsh who has had a long association with our school with over 20 years of confirmations in St. Pius X Church to his name. The boys also enjoyed the opportunity to chat with Bishop Walsh when he visited both classes in February. Congratulations to Mr Kerins and Mr Matthews on all their hard work in preparing the boys and making their day very special for them and their families. Bishop Walsh's work and that of our own priest Fr. Aquinas have done much in guiding our pupils on their spiritual journey.

Our school website was down for a while in February but has now been restored to all its former glory. Don't forget to log on to www.piusxbns.ie for all the latest news.



St. Pius X schools are preparing to celebrate 50 years in the community (2015). We would like to mark this occasion with the publication of a commemorative book and we are seeking your help in this regard.. We invite you to lend us any suitable material you might have. We are looking for photographs, memorabilia and stories. We promise to look after everything carefully and return them to you safely. You can leave items of interest with either of the school secretaries, or if it's suitable for email, send it to 50@piusxbns.ie.



SPORT

Hurling

Since Christmas our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class hurlers have been training hard in harsh conditions on the new school astro and more recently in Bushy Park. Numbers have been extremely high again this year, allowing us to enter three teams in the Cumann na mBunscol competitions.

First mention must go to our new junior infants who are taking to the ash and sliotar like ducks to water. They are making use of our new astro surface and already emerging talent is evident.

Our 3rd class hurlers played their very first game for the school against St. Joseph's Terenure before the Easter holidays. The talent on display was superb and with over thirty hurlers in 3rd class we fielded two teams. The boys put in a magnificent performance on the day and came away with two wins over our near neighbours. With talents like Matthew O'Reilly, Daragh O'Donovan, Luke Davis, Thomas Ryan, Dessie Ryan, Michael Moore and many more on display, the future of hurling in the school is indeed looking bright.

Our junior navy and junior green teams will take to the field after the Easter holidays and expectations are high for this talented bunch who have already clocked up convincing wins in a number of friendly games. Our senior team got off to a disappointing start in their opening game going down to San Treasa, however with two group games remaining hopes are still high for a quarter final place after Easter.

It was with great sadness that the school said goodbye to our outstanding and long-serving GPO Mr. Seán Crowley. St. Pius X BNS is indebted to Seán for his tireless work and organisation in relation to hurling in the school. Seán has given many young hurlers a love for the game and he will be missed by all. We wish Seán's replacement the very best in his new job. A huge thanks to Richie Hogan for standing in until a replacement has been appointed.



Finally a big thank you to all teachers involved: Brian Dillon, Gráinne Corcoran, Gearóid O'Fátharta and Pat Robinson.



New Games Promotion Officer

Our school's new Games Promotion Officer (GPO) for football, **Dave Farrelly** began training our junior classes this month. Dave comes from our parish's club, **Templeogue Syngé St.** He currently takes boys from both Infant classes and 2nd class for training sessions during the week. The skills developed in these lessons are hugely important in engaging the boys with GAA and promoting our national game. Already it's clear that the classes are really being enjoyed by the pupils and we're sure Dave will be a great asset to sport in St. Pius in the years to come.

Outside of the work he does in school, Dave manages Templeogue Syngé St's "**Junior Academy**" for boys aged between 4 - 7 years. The academy runs from 10.30am - 11.45am on Saturdays in Bushy Park. Dave is eager to see as many Pius boys down in Bushy in the coming weeks to hone their skills! You can contact Dave on 0879884783 or check out Templeogue Syngé St's website <http://www.tssqfc.net/> for more details.

Important: Wearing of mouthguards

Starting next month, all pupils who take part in school based Gaelic football activities will be required to wear a mouthguard. This is to comply with both GAA and Insurance regulations.



School Teams

After Easter, **Mr. Kerins, Mr. Matthews, Ms. O'Connor** and **Mr. Coyle** will begin training boys for our school teams. These teams will go on to compete in the Cumann na mBunscol leagues in September. With huge numbers involved in our local GAA clubs, the coaches will have a tough job picking teams from the selection of great players we have in St. Pius!



Athletics

Well done to the 45 Pius boys who took part in the Inter-Schools Cross Country Race in St. Enda's Park on March 14th. **Ms. Goddard** and **Mr. Coyle** were on hand to cheer on the runners representing the school, drawn from our 3rd - 6th classes. The gruelling 2 km race in tough conditions was hotly contested by over 400 competitors with Pius boys making the top 30 - a great result. Liam Finnegan (6th) and Dylan Cleary (5th) were the school's 1st and 2nd places respectively. The certificates were presented by international middle distance runner, Joe Sweeney. Congratulations to all who took part and for doing their school proud!"

Golf Castle Schools Cup 2013

Castle Schools Cup Monday 27th May 2013.



The above competition is scheduled to take place at the Castle Golf Club on the above date. The competition will involve a team of four representing St Pius X. A further day entitled "Fun Scramble Day" is being organised for those not making the team. Details will follow as soon as we receive them.

A sincere thank you to all the parents who drop and collect for the Tuesday golf sessions in the Spawell. These will continue after the Easter break.

SCIENCE

Engineers Week



This year all senior classes participated in the K'NEX challenge for engineer's week. The boys were challenged to build a design using K'NEX. There were some very impressive models made. Check out the school website to see some of the models!

Ms. Lally's 4th class boys also enjoyed a visit from an Avionic Engineer, Seán's Mum, Donna, who told them all about her work. The boys really enjoyed the talk and got to ask her lots of interesting questions. Check out some of the reports on our website!

Ms. O'Neill's 5th class boys made bridges from pasta to understand some of the challenges that engineers face in their work. Have a look at our website to see some of the models!



National Tree Week

Many classes enjoyed a guided walk around Bushy Park under the guidance of Tom, the park ranger. The boys learned a lot about the trees and their local park.

SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL YARD

We would like to please ask people to refrain from driving into the school yard at any time. A number of neighbours would also like to ask our parents to be considerate to them when parking their cars at collection times. It is very frustrating for people when they cannot access their own homes. Also, please use the one way system and do not obstruct any entrances and be aware of all the traffic markings when dropping and collecting your child?



MUSIC

Our musicians were very busy this term. Having recovered from the highs of the Carol Services, our choir was straight back to work in January. The after-school choir performed to an enthralled audience on the closing night of *Córfhéile na Scoileanna* in the National Basketball Arena on Friday, March 8th. The choir performed three songs, one in English, one in French and a third as Gaeilge. The boys lifted the roof with their wonderful performance which the adjudicator described as "sublime".



Our two first classes, under the direction of Linda Pléamonn and Gráinne Corcoran built on last year's debut experience at the *Córfhéile* to perform a medley of songs as Gaeilge. The adjudicator was extremely impressed with their Gaeilge and loved the 'cool' ending to their performance.

Mr. Ó Fathárta's third class performed three tunes on their tin-whistles: *Fáinne Geal an Lae*, Brahms's Lullaby and *The Sally Garden*. This was an extremely disciplined performance with all eyes on their conductor. The boys played musically and sensitively. We are delighted to have so many boys performing in the *Córfhéile na Scoileanna* as it provides a non-competitive platform for our young performers.

A group of boys from fourth, fifth and Sixth classes lead the singing at the First Confession which took place in St. Pius X Church on Tuesday, March 12th. We are very proud of the tradition in our school where the older boys sing at the liturgical ceremonies and help to enhance the spiritual experience for all those involved.

A group of forty boys from our after-school choir will participate in the performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* by J.S. Bach with two adult choirs and the Orchestra of St. Cecilia. This is the first time the choir has been involved in a performance of this calibre. We are delighted to be involved in this cross-community event which takes place on March 25th in St. Pius X Church. This work has been extremely challenging for the boys and they have been rehearsing at 8.00 a.m. before school for the past few months. The boys are very excited about the performance.

The after-school choir will travel to the Navan Choral Festival on May 9th. The choir will participate in two competitions at this festival. We are delighted to welcome Aoife Creaton to our Music team. Aoife is working with Anne Purcell with the various choirs in the school.

The regional concerts of the National Children's choir are almost upon us. The boys in fourth class attended a group rehearsal in Presentation Primary school on February 21st. This was a very successful rehearsal- the boys have one last group-rehearsal before the concert. The boys will perform on May 1st in the final concert of the National Children's Choir regional concerts. The boys will sing with children from other schools, including St. Pius X Girls' School. This will be a wonderful event- the children will be singing a variety of songs in different languages and from different eras- something to appeal to everybody. The concert will be conducted by Anne Purcell in her role as one of the directors of the National Children's Choir. If you would like to attend this concert, tickets are available from Ms. Purcell.

St Pius X Wicklow Way Walk

Just a short note to remind all you walkers out there that we are endeavouring yet again to trek across the Wicklow countryside on Sunday 26th May (weather permitting). Due to the inconsistent nature of our Irish weather we are scheduling in a second date should the first one be postponed. The second date (if required) will be Sunday 10th June. Further details will be forthcoming after the Easter break.



Please be advised that the terrain is not flat and can be arduous at times so training is advised.

A questionnaire will be distributed after the break to assign groupings and to determine each walking level of proficiency.

Looking forward to seeing you in May(or June)!! Happy training!!!