

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

St. Pius X Boys' National School

www.piusxbns.ie

JUNE 2016

## Message from the Principal

It may seem like a cliché, but honestly it's been the best year yet: silverware from Croke Park, Jubilee year celebrations, walks & runs, tours, quizzes, golf, tennis, Gaeilge . . . and to top it all off, our memorable Seussical production. Great teachers, great parents, great boys - a Principal's dream. I'd love to

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*"My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition."*

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*Indira Gandhi*

thank everyone by name but you'd probably have stopped reading by name 101. However, it just doesn't happen by itself. I have a committed Board of Management under the steady stewardship of Mr. Ronan McMahon, an imaginative Parents' Association led by the ever popular and tireless Ms. Shannon Ward and a host of others playing their part – our unstinting school secretary Ms. Karen Reddy, Bernie Anderson who is able to pull tea out of a hat and a terrific team of generous and caring teachers. I wish our sixth class boys Bon Voyage with their new journeys and look forward to welcoming our fresh and eager junior infants in September. Have a great summer.

D. Lynch

## Hurling

What a year it's been for hurling in St. Pius - Sciath Marino Champions 2016! Our Senior Navy team beat Scoil Fhiachra in a thrilling Cumann na mBunsol final in Croke Park. All students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class were there to cheer on their school team. This is a remarkable achievement adding another trophy to the silverware captured back in February when they won the South Dublin Shield. Another big highlight for the boys was our trip to Kilkenny. We visited Mr. Robinson's new school and played a match against The Cats in preparation for the final in Croke Park. This group of players has had a special year and created many memories together that they will cherish forever. Thank you to all our sixth class hurlers who will be leaving us soon.

To add to the senior success, our Junior Green team are the current Go Games 2 South Dublin Champions. They were undefeated in their quest for glory beating St. Joseph's, Scoil Lorcáin, Bishop Galvin, Scoil Bhríde and Ballyroan along the way. Our Junior Navy and White teams' year came to an end with an excellent blitz hosted by St. Mary's Rathfarnham. With schools such as St. Joseph's, Lucan BNS and St. Mary's, Pius managed to mix it with the best and a great day was had by all.

The standard of hurling in St. Pius gets higher and higher every year. Due to the huge numbers taking part in training from as early as February, we fielded no less than 5 school teams allowing 100 boys from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class to take part in the leagues. Every boy in the school from Junior Infants to 3<sup>rd</sup> class has been given the opportunity to develop their skills in the back yard. Also, around 150 boys from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class took part in a hurling blitz over two days in Bushy Park. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support during the hurling season.

A huge thank you must be given to our excellent GPO Tommy O'Mahony for the work he has put into hurling in St. Pius. We must also mention the great work of Faughs hurling club and thank them for their continued support. Last but not least, a massive thank you to our many teachers who give so generously of their time and for their continued dedication to and commitment to promoting hurling in our school. Pius Abú!

B. Dillon

## **Choir**

What a year it has been for the choir! The boys were very busy with their outstanding performances on numerous occasions throughout the year. These ranged from the Opening of the School Year Mass to the Junior and Senior Christmas Carol services in the school hall, not to mention the yearly show in Templeogue for the switching on of the 'Christmas Tree lights'! After Christmas, we were straight back to practising for Communion in February and Confirmation in May whilst playing an integral part in the school musical 'Seussical' in April. The boys were praised on many occasions for their enthusiasm and quality of singing. This would not have happened were it not for their dedication to the Monday practices after school. The 'Pizza Party' was well-deserved for all their commitment throughout the year. Well done to all involved! All boys from third class to sixth class who are interested are welcome to join from September! Thanks Ms. Carroll, Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Redmond, Ms. Waldron and Ms. Mooney.

C. Mooney

## **My Experience with 6th Class**

On the 1st of September 2015 I took on the exciting task of teaching my first group of 6th class students. Although it was the beginning of my third year in St. Pius X BNS, I only recognised a handful of faces as I welcomed my 25 boys into the classroom on their last first day in Primary school. They all looked very neat and tidy and it became clear quite quickly that I had landed myself a very special group of boys to work with. And so, after a few pleasantries on the first day, we got down to business as we all were aware of the busy year that lay ahead of us. One thing I wasn't aware of at the time, was how quickly it would all go by. It seems like the year has just slipped away on me and I can't really get my head around the fact that we are facing into our last two weeks together. I suppose it is true what they say, time really does fly when you're having fun – and fun I most certainly have had this year!! From the challenge of exploring such a dense curriculum with the boys, to projects and artwork that would take your breath away. The experience has been one I will cherish and the special memories I have made with my boys will remain with me forever. Preparing the class for their Confirmation and the pride that overtook me on their big day! Watching the boys display their caring and helpful nature to their Junior Infant buddies is something that cannot be easily described. But what has proven to be the highlight of my first experience teaching 6th class is preparing the boys for the end of their St. Pius journey. Over the last few weeks the boys have reflected on their time here and put together all of their favourite memories into an end of year scrapbook project. The laughs we have shared together in retelling funny stories they recall over their 8 years in this brilliant school is an experience I will forever remember! Teaching 6th class this year has been an incredible experience and one that has been formative for me as a teacher. I am very lucky to have had the opportunity to share the last year of primary school with such a fantastic group of young men. I wish each and every one of them every success in the next chapter of their lives.

Áine Carroll

## **Running Club**

Now in its 3rd year, St. Pius X BNS Running Club has gone from strength to strength. Each Friday up to 100 boys gather in Bushy Park or Terenure College. The aim of the Running Club is to improve fitness, get to know fellow runners and challenge oneself. The club competed in a number of competitive events, the first of which was the South Dublin Cross-Country Competition in St. Enda's Park. We were the school with the biggest representation. We came 2nd in the overall school category and notably had the individual winner, Sean Quinn who finished ahead of 300 runners. Our athletes turned their attention to the Cumann na mBunscol event in Morton Stadium. 26 Athletes competed in sprints, relays, long jump, high jump and hurdles. The school brought home 2 silver medals. To close the running year, the second annual Jubilee Run will take place on Friday June 24th. Huge thanks to Ms Waldron, Ms Carroll, Ms Brennan, Mr Coyle and Mr Smyth for their time in organising this important initiative.

L. Coyle

## Wicklow Way Challenge

Our sixth adventure through the Wicklow hills proved to be an enjoyable and successful occasion and has already been hailed as the best yet!! On behalf of St Pius X, we would sincerely like to thank our parents for participating and for their generous support. We would particularly like to thank the following for their help in supplying essential resources that were needed on the day: Fintan Moore for supplying the first aid kits (thankfully most items stayed in the bags); Bernie Anderson for her generosity and thoughtfulness (All things imaginable at the snack stop); Ronan McMahon for the sponsorship cards.



"I'm really hungry! How do I enlarge the font in my alphabet soup?"

Thanks also to all the SNAs who contributed to a successful exit from the school.

I wish to acknowledge the Trojan work of the teaching staff of St Pius for volunteering for leadership duties and giving up their time. Finally a sincere thank you to Helen and Fiona for their organisational skills. I think the response to the day was unanimous in that it was THE most successful (and challenging!!!) trekking experience to-date. Looking forward to next year's walk on the wild side on the second Sunday of June.

V. Ryan

## Science

Once again this year science has played a key part in the classrooms of St Pius. This year saw the introduction of the new Programmable Lego EV3 Mindstorm. Senior classes designed and built cars and robots, programming them to do incredible things using sensors and commands. As well as this, all classes from Junior Infants to Sixth class completed experiments and investigations which helped the school achieve its 10th consecutive Discovery Maths and Science Award. Every class had its part to play, topped off with Ms Lally's fun science week activities. We had some great speakers who shared their wisdom with us. We also celebrated Engineers' Week Ireland with lots of construction activities and 2nd and 3rd classes took part in Intel's Build a Bridge challenge. This was a great workshop and really helped the boys understand some of the challenges engineers face in their work. At the start of the year Mr Smyth's class entered the Intel Mini Scientist competition. Having worked so hard on a variety of interesting topics, the CSI group impressed the Judges the most, representing St Pius in the regional finals.

M. Smyth

## Gaelic Football

With the Autumn leagues fast approaching the football managers in Pius have begun to plan for the coming competitions. With five teams registered for next September, excitement is already beginning to build. Given the fantastic year Gaelic Football had in St. Pius (an impressive 4 winning teams!) there is a determination among players (and Principal) to replicate that amazing statistic. To this end, there will be a second class blitz during school time on Monday 27th with all boys from these classes taking part. Before the season even begins, however, our footballers have already brought home two pieces of silverware! Congratulations to the footballers on their amazing performance at the inaugural Terenure College Blitz that took place at the start of this month. Two teams were selected from our five Cumann na mBunscol panels. Incredibly both teams walked away with the winning trophies! This competition saw teams from all over the locality take part in twenty minute games. Huge thanks to Dave Farrelly (our school's GPO) and Philip Wallace (Deputy Principal of Terenure) for their work in organising such an enjoyable day of football. Here's hoping that the results bode well for the Autumn! Thanks to all the teachers involved in football in St. Pius who ensure the success, participation and enjoyment happens year after year: Mr. Kealy, Mr. Murtagh, Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Coughlan, Mr. Smyth, Ms. Redmond, Mr. Glynn, Ms. Ní Loingsigh and Mr. Coyle.

L. Coyle

## Tennis

Still in its relative infancy, the St. Pius X BNS Tennis Team was proud to compete in Division 1 of the Tretorn Leinster Primary School League again this year. Across the capital the boys competed against opponents Belgrove Clontarf, Hollypark BNS Foxrock, Willow Park Blackrock and St. Michael's Aylesbury Road. Unfortunately they did not reach the final but were well placed within the group. The school would like to thank Mr. Gough for continuing with this initiative and looks forward to another strong season of tennis next year. Thanks to parents for their support and as always Templeogue Tennis Club for their gesture of good will towards the school team by allowing us access to their courts and facilities on a regular basis. Time now to sit back with some strawberries and cream and enjoy a long summer of tennis ahead. Wimbledon is just around the corner! Game . . . Set . . . and Match.



"I know you care about cleaning up the planet.  
Your bedroom is part of the planet!"

D. Gough

## A Year Teaching in Pius Summed up . . .

This academic year has brought so many great memories for students and teachers alike here in St Pius X BNS. For me personally, I had my first experience with my own class and with the support of my amazing, ever-helpful colleagues around me and an equally fabulous group of enthusiastic and energetic boys, this year has been one that I will never forget. September brought a mix of excitement and nerves as I prepared my classroom. From day one, I knew I was blessed to have a class that came in smiling and spirited. Every morning, rain, hail or shine I would open the door to a group of children who had the warmth and energy that would light up a room.

One of the most memorable experiences was the Christmas play. The boys looked forward to this for months and when the day finally arrived, an atmosphere of fun and energy could be felt in the classroom from the minute you walked in. Each and every boy gave 100% and enjoyed every minute up on stage. It was a proud moment for me, as a teacher and it gave the children an opportunity to show all their parents how much work they put in, all the while enjoying it.

The year itself was jam-packed with activities, from Jubilee celebrations, to Comóradh Eirí Amach na Cásca 1916, two Croke Park victories and the breathtaking Seussical, to mention but a few. As a teacher, I can see first-hand how these occasions create such a positive ambience that every child buys into and thus, makes for a wonderful learning setting for children and a truly happy place to teach. Now as I approach the end of the school year, I feel nostalgic leaving behind a class that have marked the beginning of my career in teaching while also feeling lucky to have a wonderful collection of memories of my first ever class.

A. Gallagher

## Student Council

What a great year it has been for the St Pius X very first pupil council! Just after Christmas, council members Thomas, Elliot, Morgan, Ben, Patrick, Stan, Sam, Josh and Dan were elected by their classes (3rd to 6th). The group has met many times and there have been some great discussions on how to better our school community. The representatives decided to create the first pupil newspaper. A huge thank you to the teachers who helped to make the council such a success: Ms Carroll, Mr Murtagh, Ms Ní Loingsigh, Ms Mooney and Mr Coughlan. We would like to thank this year's representatives and we look forward to next year's pupil council!

M. Coughlan

## **An Ghaeilge**

Bheul, tá bliain eile tharaing agus arís táimid ag baint taitnamh as na laethanta fada gile, buíochas le Dia. Is bliain thar a bheith tábhachtach a bhí ann le Comóradh Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 agus ár gceiliúradh féin de chaoga bliain ónár bunaíodh an scoil!

Ó thaobh na Gaeilge de bhí bliain iontach againn anseo i Scoil Naomh Pius agus tá an teanga beo, beathach i measc na múinteoirí agus na páistí. Is i mí Márta gach bliain a dhéanaimid ceiliúradh ar an teanga agus is sa mhí seo a bhaineann na páistí an-chraic agus spraoi is mó as gach rud Gaelach!

I mbliana is cinnte go raibh ceiliúradh an-taitneamhach againn do choicís na Gaeilge. Bhí an teanga le cloisteáil, ní amháin sna seomraí ranga, ach i bparáistí na scoile, sa halla sport agus sa chlós. I rith na coicise bhí réimse leathan imeachtaí ar siúl, bhí ceolchoirm, comórtas ealaíne, léamh le cara, tráth na gceist agus paráid dos na ranganna sóisreacha. Chomh maith le sin i mbliana le comóradh 1916 ar siúl d'ardaíomar bratach na hÉireann ag geataí na scoile ar an séú lá deá de mhí Márta. Lá an-speisialta a bhí ann. Ní dhéanfaimid dearmad ar an lá sin go deo!

Is cinnte go bhfuil an cultúr Ghaelach an-láidir anseo sa scoil leis na cluichí gaelacha, an ceol agus an teanga í fhéin. Arís i mbliana chan cór na scoile cúpla amhráin álainne trí Gaeilge ag an gCoineartú agus an gCéad Comaoineach. Leis sin ráite, áfach is sna seomraí ranga agus is ag a mbaile a mhúintear an Ghaeilge don chuid is mó agus leis an tacaíocht sin ó na múinteoirí agus ó na tuismitheoirí is cinnte go gcloisimid an Ghaeilge go láidir amach anseo i Scoil Naomh Pius!

Mar a deir an seanfhocal . . . Labhair í agus mairfidh sí!!!!

G. Corcoran

## **Golf**

We have come yet again to the end of another successful golfing calendar culminating in the participation at the Castle Schools Cup. Well done to the boys as we amassed our greatest team score since the inception of the competition. We even got a photograph with the runner up of the U.S. Open, namely Shane Lowry.

All involved had a tremendously enjoyable experience. Fortunately the weather gods were kind to us and the boys played very well in near perfect conditions. Thanks to Hilary Haydon for his sponsorship of the event and to his team for the organisation that is required to successfully run it. A sincere thank you to the boys, their parents and the teachers (who supervised our training sessions in Spawell) for their participation and support throughout the year. We would like to thank David, the golf professional in the Spawell for his time and expertise.

The Tri-golf Programme is now an integral part of the P.E. Curriculum. The boys have taken to it like proverbial ducks (birdies!!) to water. We look forward to another enjoyable and eventful year in September and we envisage even greater numbers willing to participate.

V. Ryan

## **Uniforms & Booklists**

A uniform sale will take place on Tuesday 30th August in our GP Room from Noon to 2pm.

The booklists have been distributed to each class. If you still wish to place your order with Michael Doherty School Supplies through the school and have not already done so you can drop your completed order form to Karen in the office before the 30th June and the books will be in the office in the last week in August for you to collect. If you misplace your copy over the holidays you may retrieve another copy on our website [www.piusxbns.ie](http://www.piusxbns.ie).

K. Reddy

## Seussical

Now that the dust has settled and we have had a chance to reflect on the whole Seussical event, it strikes me what a positive experience it was for all the various parties involved and indeed what a great achievement it was to have delivered five tremendous sell out performances. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and a massive congratulations to each and every boy that was involved in Seussical. Every staff member contributed to the production and it would not have been possible without the hard work and resolute dedication of all the teachers and assistants in St. Pius.

I want to especially thank: The costume team, which was headed up by Ms O'Neill and Helen Browne, assisted by Ms Dunne and Ms Pléamonn for the amazing creativity they showed; the Music team of Ms Carroll, Ms Waldron and Ms Redmond for their expertise in helping prepare the chorus and principal groups; Mr Coyle for his help and guidance from start to finish; Ms Lally for both her fantastic photography skills and diligent work in coordinating our ticket sales and Karen Reddy for managing ticket sales and lots more besides; Ms Coyle for her attention to detail in teaching and perfecting the choreography. The teachers and parents who supervised the dressing rooms and prevented chaos from ensuing backstage!

I am also grateful to the staff who covered classes and all who gave of their free time to make Seussical the success it was. I'd like express my appreciation to our Board of Management, Principal Mr Lynch and Deputy Principal Mr Gaynor, for their incredible support of the production. From day one, they facilitated every request made and left no stone unturned in ensuring that Seussical was a memorable event for the entire St Pius community. We're already looking forward to the next production in 2020!

R. Kealy

## Quizzlers – The Friday Quiz

**Senior Jubilee Trophy:** Rory King

**Junior Jubilee Trophy:** Henry Waters

**6th Class Winners:** Stan O'Beirne, Conor Holohan, Henry Horne

6th Class Runners-Up: Matteo D'Alessio, Charlie McNamara, Cormac Cronin

**5th Class Winners:** Rory King, Cuán Manning

5th Class Runners-Up: James Brennan, Lucas Weber

**4th Class Winners:** James Fowler, Gordon Tracey

4th Class Runners-Up: Lorcan Friery, Morgan Nugent

**3rd Class Awards:** Henry Waters, Patrick Evoy, Ben Kelly, Ashen Wijayaratne

L. Gaynor

Return Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2016		
2016 – 2017 Calendar		
Occasion	Closed	Reopen
Summer Holidays	Noon Thursday 30/6/16	Thursday 1/9/16 @ 8.45a.m.
October Mid Term Break	Monday 31/10/16	Monday 7/11/16 @ 8.45a.m.
Christmas Holidays	Noon Thursday 22/12/16	Monday 9/1/17 @ 8.45a.m.
February Mid Term Break	Thursday 23/2/17	Monday 27/2/17 @ 8.45a.m.
St. Patrick's Day	Friday 17/3/17	Tuesday 21/3/17 @ 8.45a.m.
Easter Holidays	Noon Friday 7/4/17	Monday 24/4/17 @ 8.45a.m.
May Bank holiday	Monday 1/5/17	Tuesday 2/5/17 @ 8.45a.m.
June Bank Holiday	Monday 5/6/17	Thursday 8/6/17 @ 8.45a.m.
Summer Holidays	Noon Friday 30/6/17	
Subject to change in special circumstances		