

St. Pius X GNS School News

October 2018



NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER
School is a Polling Station

Mid-term Break

School will be closed from Monday 29th to Friday 2nd Nov

Parent Teacher Meetings

Meetings will take place on Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st November after school. Date and time will be allocated by the class teacher after Mid-term break.



Colour Day €2

Children may come to school in Fancy Dress this **Thursday 25th Oct.** We hope to raise much needed funds for our chosen charities; Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, and the Jack and Jill Foundation



School Subscription

Thank you to everyone who has paid the €140 subscription to date. This pays for P.E. costs, Pupil Insurance, Stationery, Art/Craft supplies, photocopying and book rental for each child. Outstanding subscriptions can be made online or to the teacher.

Junior Infant Applications 2019

The closing date for applications to be submitted for Junior Infant entry 2019 is 10th November 2018.

Active Week 2019

Active Week 2019 will run from Tuesday 7th to Friday 10th May. If anyone has an offer or an idea please contact Ms. Fitzgerald.

Communion and Confirmation 2019

6th Class will make their **Confirmation on Saturday 9th March 2019**
2nd Class will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 18th May 2019

Science News



It's been a busy and exciting term in the STEM calendar. Space Week was lots of fun with students investigating the latest news, looking into astronauts' experiences in space and dramatizing them, researching all about, and creating their own papier-maché sun and planets. The two 4th classes are participating in a pilot of a new, potential initiative for primary schools with Engineers Ireland. In St. Pius X, G.N.S., we recognise the importance of coding in our girls' future. It's like learning how to speak and write in a computer's language, using creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication and many other skills. Earlier this week, the 3rd to 6th classes participated in a coding workshop delivered by Declan Holmes from Science Ireland. Junior Infants to 2nd classes enjoyed an interactive weather show with Declan, creating light, forming rainbows and lots more! Thanks to John Tighe from the Dublin City Parks who brought the 6th class girls on a beautiful autumnal tree trail in Bushy Park. A number of pupils were introduced to the Izak9 cubes, which bring Maths to life in the classroom, and where the pupils are active and engaged. They are used to complete challenging maths tasks, solve problems and create and pose the students' own questions. At present, the three 5th classes are busily preparing for the Intel Mini Scientist Competition which will take place in St. Pius X, G.N.S. on Thursday 15th November 2018. The very best of luck to the girls! **Ms. Smith**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The school year is well and truly underway, with winter just around the corner. Our new junior infants have settled in well: they are getting to know the school and make new friends under the stewardship of Ms Godson, Ms Durkan and Ms Gavin. Meanwhile, our 6th classes are now the senior girls and are being wonderful role models to the younger classes.

We've had a fantastic start to the school's sporting year with our footballers reaching the quarter final and our swimmers qualifying for the All Ireland Swimming Championships next February. Running has started back again with an incredible 116 girls taking part on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Our golfers are also back after the mid-term with a series of lessons in Grange Golf Club on a Thursday afternoon. I would like to pay particular thanks to all the teachers involved in providing these activities for the girls – the time they give on a completely voluntary basis is very much appreciated.

Following Ms Marron's retirement, Ms Sheehan has taken over the role of musical director of the afterschool choir and is being ably assisted by Ms Barron and Ms Gavin. Together they are preparing the 5th classes for the National Children's Choir, which will take place in March 2019.

Our girls were very busy doing maths trails, km walks, treasure hunts, puzzles, maths eyes and a maths table quiz during Maths Week, which took place from the 15th to the 19th October. So far this term we've had nature walks to Bushy Park for National Tree week and also a guest presentation from Declan Holmes of Science Ireland, who taught the girls about computer coding and meteorology. Our SSE focus this year is on spoken Irish so if you could encourage the girls to use the "cúpla focal" at home it would be much appreciated.

I'd like to welcome Ms Linda Healy as the incoming chairperson of the Parents Association and thank the outgoing chairperson, Ms Bevin Humphries. Bevin has worked tirelessly in her role and we really appreciate all the work and effort she has put into the school to date. I'd also like to acknowledge the Board of Management – without its diligence, dedication and commitment to St Pius, we would not be the school that we are today. On behalf of the school I would like to express our enormous gratitude for the generous donation the school received last week from the Parents Association.

Work is already underway on this year's calendar and Christmas cards.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Halloween, **Ms. Doyle**



Maths Week 2018

Maths Week started off with a 1km walk which took us 12 minutes and 43 seconds. 5th and 6th Class competed in the Manga High Ninja Challenge, and placed 84th out of 438 schools in Ireland, scoring 1933 medal points over 69 hours and 2 minutes. Junior and Senior Infants went on mathematical treasure hunts around their classroom, and 1st and 2nd Class went on a Maths Trail around the school. 3rd and 4th Class took part in a Maths Trail in Castletown House, while 5th and 6th Class went to Bushy Park for their Maths Trail. For homework we used our Maths Eyes to see when and where we use Maths in our environment. We also looked at different professions that use Maths every day #lusemaths Hopefully you will see some of our Shape Witches as you go Trick or Treating this year. Don't forget to count how many treats you eat! **Ms. Fagan**

Gaelic Football

It was great to see yet another big turnout for this year's football team. This year the league commenced very early so we were out of the classroom and onto the pitch from day one. Our first game took place on a lovely autumn day in Bushy Park. We faced Loreto Rathfarnham and came out with a good win. The following week saw the arrival of 'Storm Ali'. Due to the health and safety of the children we rescheduled our game against Presentation Terenure. Our next opposition we faced was Divine Word. The girls put up a great fight and their 'never say die' attitude was evidently seen. Unfortunately Divine Word came out trumps. October came around fast and with it came a good spell of weather. We faced a tough week in which we had to play Presentation on Tuesday 2nd and Scoil Mhuire of Sandymount on Wednesday 3rd. We had a good win over Presentation and went into Wednesday's game with confidence. Scoil Mhuire proved to be too strong for us but we went out with our heads held high.

Throughout the campaign the girls put in 100% effort and we commend them for their effort. We would like to thank Mr Walshe, Mr Neary, Ms Fitzgerald, Ms Buckley and Ms Bracken for their hard work over the month. We would also like to thank the parents for their continued support and co-operation. Finally we would like to thank Templeogue Syngue Street for the countless hours they put in training the girls. **Mr. Walshe**

Music in St Pius X GNS

St. Pius X G.N.S. School Choir is back in full swing. We have fifty six members this year from fourth, fifth and sixth classes. We sadly said goodbye not only to many wonderful singers from last year's sixth class but also to Ms, Marron. We have big shoes to fill and hope we can bring as much passion and energy to the St. Pius music scene as Ms. Marron did!

We are delighted to welcome many new recruits with beautiful voices who have joined us to continue the wonderful tradition of music and singing in our school.

We began rehearsing in September and have already had our first performance at a school assembly to celebrate Friendship Week. We sang a rendition of a Bruno Mars song, "Count On Me", which celebrates friendship.

On the back of the hugely successful performance of Alice In Wonderland last year, the girls are very enthusiastic to launch into this year's choral programme, which will include performances at competitions and concerts, as well as singing for our friends in second class for their First Penance and First Holy Communion. After Hallowe'en we will also begin to prepare for the annual Christmas Carol Service which will be held in St. Pius X Church on Thursday December 20th at 12pm.

This year fifth class will also take part in the National Children's Choir, for which they have already begun practising and rehearsing. The girls have already mastered complex harmonies and are well on their way to being ready for their first regional rehearsal, where they will meet children from other Dublin schools.

We are all looking forward to another great musical year with lots of excitement and singing in store! **Ms. Sheehan**

