

# St. Pius X GNS School News

## October 2019



### Mid-term Break

School will be closed from Monday 28th to Friday 1st Nov

### Parent Talk by ZEEKO on Internet Safety 3rd -6th Class

Tuesday 5th November GNS G.P Room 7.30 p.m.

### In-Service Day

School will be closed on Wednesday 20th November 2019

### Parent Teacher Meetings

Meetings will take place on Monday 25th and  
Wednesday 27th November after school.

You can book your meeting via the Aladdin Connect App  
after Mid-term break so be sure to download the APP!

### Charity Colour Day €2

Children may come to school in Fancy Dress this **Friday 25th Oct.** We hope to raise much needed funds for this years chosen charities; The Irish Motor Neuron Association, Laura Lynn Foundation and Our Lady's Hospital. We will also support Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. More information will follow after Mid-Term.



### School Subscription

We were delighted this year to be able to offer a sibling reduction to any family with more than one sibling in either of the two schools. Thank you to everyone who has paid to date. If you have overlooked this payment for this school year, it is not too late. Our school's running expenses get higher every year and we depend hugely on your contributions to help provide the resources for your daughter's education. This contribution covers your daughter's pupil insurance, copies, stationery, art supplies, photocopying, access to PE teacher etc. Outstanding payments can be made online or to the class teacher.

### Junior Infant Applications 2020

The closing date for applications to be submitted for Junior Infant entry 2020 is 4th November 2019.

### Active Week 2020

Parents we need your help and your time!! We are holding our Active Week from Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May to promote health and fitness in our school. We are looking for parents, families and friends who specialise in fitness activities and would like to show case and teach the children their skills and expertise, from gymnastics to yoga, dance to athletics, karate to rugby, Zumba to pilates, scouts to GAA. All activities are welcomed. We would really appreciate any time you can give us. If you would like to help, please contact the school and pass on your name and activity offered to Ms Fitzgerald.

### Aladdin Connect

We were delighted to launch the Aladdin Connect App this week. The aim of the App is to further improve Home/School communication. There are a lot of great features on the App that over time we will roll out. If you have not received a text with your unique code please email Natasha at [secretary@piusxgns.ie](mailto:secretary@piusxgns.ie) with your daughter's name in the subject line.

We will be using the App to arrange the upcoming Parent/Teacher meetings in November. You will be able to book your meeting via the App. Bookings will open after Mid-Term Break so please make sure you download the App in time.

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe two months have already gone by in the new school year. And what a busy two months it has been! Our new junior infants are well settled in at this stage and are looking forward to their first mid-term break. Our sixth class girls have picked up the mantle of senior girls and are already being wonderful role models to the younger classes.

There has been a hugely positive reaction from staff, parents and pupils to our new reception area which was completed over the summer holidays. I would like to thank the board of management for their encouragement and assistance in this particular project and indeed in all they do in the running of the school. The current board will meet for its final meeting in November and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each member for their commitment and contributions made over their four year term: Mr Pádraig Ó Néill (Chairperson), Fr Gerry Moore, Mr John McGlynn, Ms Sinéad McCarthy, Ms Jennifer Cullen, Mr John Broderick and Ms Kathleen Fitzgerald.

Huge thanks as always to our Parents' Association for their tireless work and effort. I'd like to welcome Ms Caroline Costello as the incoming chairperson and acknowledge and thank Ms Linda Healy as outgoing chair. The recent donation received from fundraising is hugely appreciated and contributes enormously to the resources and opportunities we are able to provide to the girls.

The academic year is well and truly up and running and every week seems to bring another project/initiative for the girls to get involved in. The girls are looking forward to using their newly purchased iPads and Chromebooks to facilitate and support their learning. In line with our digital learning framework we were delighted in the last few weeks to roll out Aladdin Connect to all of our parents. We hope that this facility will enhance the school's communication with parents and strengthen our home/school partnership.

A sincere thank you to all of the teachers who volunteer freely of their time to provide all the extra activities, sports and music for the girls-It is very much appreciated. Wishing you all a happy and safe Halloween. **Áine Doyle**

### Gaelic Football

The school football team enjoyed a fantastic run to the Senior Cup semi-final losing narrowly to a fine Belgrove NS side. The team put in excellent performances in a tough group- defeating Loreto Rathfarnham, Gaelscoil Taobh na Coille and Bishop Galvin NS before overcoming Bayside NS in the quarter final. The school was lucky to have a particularly strong panel this year. All players performed brilliantly throughout the campaign with Mia Curran, Ailbhe Dunleavy, Caitlin Ryan, Ella Meade, Hollaí Quinn, Mia Wong Doyle, Rachel Dunne, Grace Brennan and Aimee Broderick giving stellar performances.

**Mr. Neary, Mr. Walshe, Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Buckley and Ms. Bracken .**

### STEM News

What a busy first term we have had. Space Week and Maths Week have provided the girls with lots of challenging activities. 6<sup>th</sup> class girls made a variety of amazing lunar landers and used what they felt would be the best materials to keep an astronaut safe. The school received a lunar image from space. We were lucky with the weather during Maths Week as many classes participated in and completed a Maths trail in Bushy Park, which culminated in a speedy trip down the zip line. 5<sup>th</sup> class girls strolled around the grounds of the school, and using their Maths eyes created conundrums for their fellow students to resolve. Many classes drew "Shape Witches" and showed off their shape and space knowledge. The two 5<sup>th</sup> classes are busily preparing for the Intel Mini Scientist competition which will take place in the school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

This year we are hoping to reduce single use plastic in St. Pius X G.N.S. Our target is to eliminate all single use plastic by January 2020. The teachers will talk with the students about this subject. We would ask you to encourage the girls to use only reusable bottles for their drinks. Many thanks for your ongoing support. **Ms. Smith**

### Music in St Pius X GNS

St. Pius X G.N.S. School Choir is back in full swing. We have sixty-two members this year from fourth, fifth and sixth classes. We are delighted to welcome our 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 shortly after we celebrated National Singing Week and marked World Mental Health Day with the Big Sing! The whole school gathered in the yard to sing some of our favourite songs together. Choral and group singing has been scientifically proven to release endorphins which are natural chemicals released in our bodies that make us feel good – the same ones that are released when we laugh! Group singing has also been proven to reduce stress, increase focus and concentration, and improve memory.

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 and sixth class for their First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year we will also be developing our musicianship skills through the use of the Kodály method of music education.

After Hallowe'en we will begin to prepare for the annual Christmas Carol Service which will be held in St. Pius X Church on Thursday December 19th at 12pm.

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