



Parent Teacher Meetings

Many thanks for your participation in the recent Parent/Teacher meetings. We hope that the meeting provided you with some valuable insight into your child's progress in school. The meetings were a great reminder that not only have the children been working so hard, but they display wonderful values that contribute to the positive atmosphere in the school.



Enrolment

Offers of places for Junior Infants September 2024 have been made. The initial offers made are 50:50 for boys and girls. Acceptance of places must be made by **1st December 2023**. Late applications can still be made and will be added to the waiting list.

Applications for a place in a specialised class for pupils with DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) for the 2024 school year will be accepted from 8/1/2024 – 1/3/2024. The applications for the DLD class are led by the child's speech and language therapist or a psychologist.

Applications for a place in the Autism Class for the 2024 school year will be accepted from 8/1/2024- 2/2/2024. Applicants must be within the ages of 4 and 7 on the 1st June 2024. Application forms should be returned with a copy of birth certificate, two recent utility bills, and relevant assessment/report. Please see page 4 of the school's Admissions Policy on the school website, for further information.

Science Week

Science Week took place in November, with classes engaging in various activities and experiments and showing curiosity about the world around them. The 4th classes held their own Science Fair, demonstrating some exciting and interesting experiments to 1st class pupils. The younger pupils also enjoyed carrying out their own research experiments.



6th classes

The 6th classes were lucky to attend a VR workshop in DCU. They learned that virtually reality is important in the world around us, not just in gaming!



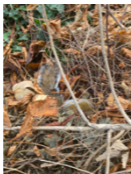
STEPS competition

Mr. Doyle's 3rd class welcomed local engineer Ann Rogers to learn all about her career and the role of engineers in our community. The class has been working very hard on their engineering projects as part of the STEPS competition and were delighted to receive her professional feedback.



Heritage Ireland visit

The 3rd class pupils enjoyed a visit by Heritage Ireland expert, Michael Coughlan. They learned about native birds, bats, and woodland areas and biodiversity as they explored the outdoors around the school. One class was lucky to spot a sleeping squirrel.



Green School

We continue to promote a reduction in litter and waste, with the senior pupils helping by using the litter-pickers at break-time. Ms Gallagher and the Green Schools Committee recently met with Dublin City Council members in school for a workshop about leaf composting. Leaf baskets or moulds have also been installed in the senior school grounds to help turn the leaves into Compost.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Art Project

Artist Kajsa visited the 6th class pupils to discuss an art project on the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The boys showed great interest in the SDGs and are looking forward to designing an art piece on this theme, which they will develop after Christmas and present to Drumcondra Education Centre, as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations.



Sacrament classes

The 6th class boys who are making Confirmation attended their Enrolment ceremony during the Family Mass.



Thanks to the parents' committees from 2nd and 6th class for their help with organising a series of Sunday masses, as part of the preparation for the sacraments.



Father Seamus McEntee celebrates the St Pat's Family Mass on Sunday mornings in the College Chapel at 11am. The Family Mass has a facebook page "St Pat's Family Mass" where updates are posted. This weekend is the first Sunday of Advent, and the Communion boys will be joining the celebration.

The Confirmation boys and girls of the parish met to share some of their preparation with each other. The boys met with the 6th class girls from Corpus Christi to discuss their research on Confirmation names, and possible charities that they can fundraise for later in the school year.



New chaplain

We are delighted to hear that a new chaplain is being appointed to DCU Institute of Education. We look forward to meeting with the new chaplain in due course. Fr Seamus McEntee from DCU has in the meantime been celebrating the family masses for the sacramental classes, with great support from Killian O'Higgins from the family mass group, and we extend our sincere thanks for their support since September.

Month of Remembrance

November is a special month for remembering those who have died. We think of all our loved ones we have lost. They reception has been beautifully decorated With the names of those special people in our thoughts.



Music



Excitement is building in Ms. Baxter's 5th class ahead of next week's rehearsal for the Peace Proms. The pupils and Ms. Baxter have been putting in a great amount of work. We hope they enjoy the rehearsal, and we look forward to the main event in February,

The 2nd classes were lucky to attend a lunchtime concert in DCU to hear various instruments being played by a school orchestra. They also heard some lovely trad music.

Storytelling

Some students from Marino Institute of Education visited 3rd and 4th classes as part of storytelling workshops. The boys really enjoyed listening to the short stories they shared.



Trip to Henrietta Street

The two 5th classes visited Henrietta street to see what life was like in the tenements of Georgian Dublin two hundred years ago. They heard what life was like back then, from rats and mice, no running water, electricity or gas, and two hundred people sharing a building!



Sporting links

The 1st and 2nd classes have been practising their GAA skills with the help of Mark from Na Fianna every Wednesday. The 2nd class boys have also been busy working on the Gymnastics strand in the DCU hall, with the help of the PE department of DCU, over the past few weeks

Table tennis

Thanks to Mr. Skelly and Mr. Carey for their help with the recent Leinster Table Tennis league matches. We have two teams from 5th and 6th class participating. They have played six matches to date - winning five of them. The teams have played away in Castleknock College and St Mary's BNS as well as at home against Ballyroan.



Bikes and parking

Parking facilities for bikes continue to expand. As well as the brand new bike shed in the senior yard, work has begun on a new parking area in the junior yard for boys in 1st to 3rd classes. A reminder that boys who cycle/scoot to school should have a helmet and a lock.

The local guards have been in touch to ask us to remind parents/guardians of about safe driving and parking on Millbourne Avenue and near the school. They will be carrying out patrols at various times. Please do not park or stop in the yellow lines areas/school zone area outside the school gate. Also a reminder that clamping is in operation on the DCU grounds.

Student Council

The Student Council met with Ms. Bassett and Ms Quinn recently ahead of reviewing the Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures. The Council designed a survey for classes from 3rd-6th class, to be completed using Google Classroom. They will be reviewing the survey responses and reminding classes about their rights and responsibilities as regards bullying behaviour. The Student Council will also be deciding on their charity of choice for our Christmas jumper fundraiser.

Parents' Association

Thanks, as always, to our Parents' Association for all their hard work over the past few months. They have been busy working on the delivery of Christmas cards, which classes have just received over the past couple of days.

The PA has also been in contact with the North Pole, to make a special request for Santa to visit St Pat's - fingers crossed!

The uniform and books leftover from the Halloween Fair were given away today in the senior school PE hall. Items were free, but for those who made a donation to St Vincent de Paul, many thanks.

The PA also arranged a successful parents' talk in November, with guest speakers from DCU speaking about homework and literacy.

Board of Management

At the November meeting, The Board received the oversight report on Child Safeguarding and on Anti-Bullying. An update on the school's Ethos Evaluation and year 4's target were discussed. The school's focus for school self-evaluation (wellbeing) was also discussed. An update on the Autism Class and co-education was provided. The Principal provided a report on Teaching and Learning, the treasurer provided a report on accounts, and the P.A provided an update on recent events. The Board extended sincere thanks to the P.A and to all involved in the success of the Halloween Fair.

Christmas

Advent begins this Sunday and over the next few weeks we will be preparing for Christmas. We have already started to collect non-perishable food items this week for the **Society of St Vincent de Paul**. They will be left under the Christmas tree in the Senior Building. All donations will be gratefully received until Friday 8th of December, and we will invite a representative from St Vincent de Paul to call to us from Monday 11th to receive the donations. Thank you in advance for your donations.



Like last year the Student Council will choose a charity for the Christmas Jumper Days in the final week. For those who wish to make a contribution, an Aladdin payment will be set up closer the time.

Christmas cards

The cards have been ordered and will raise much needed funds for our school. Thank you for your support in this venture.

Cinema trip

Christmas cinema trips will take place on Monday 18th (1st-3rd classes), Tuesday 19th (4th-6th classes) and Wednesday, 20th (Junior and Senior Infants). A few treats can be brought in, in a separate lunch bag that day. Permissions and payment details are on Aladdin.

Nativity

The Infant classes will be celebrating their story of the Nativity, with some carol-singing at 9:15am on Wednesday, the 13th of December in the College Chapel.

Carols

The Senior Building will celebrate the Carol Service on Friday, 15th December at 11am in the College Chapel. Class teachers and Ms. Doyle have started the rehearsals. Please help your child to practise carols at home also, as part of homework.

Drumcondra Lighting of the Christmas Tree

This will take place tomorrow, Saturday 2nd December, at 6pm, in Our Lady's Park. Thanks to our choral group from 4th, 5th and 6th class who will join in, singing a few carols. All are invited to this community event.

Finally, our local club, na Fianna, play in the Leinster GAA Club Hurling Championship Final in Croke Park tomorrow against Kilkenny champs O'Loughlin Gaels. Throw-in is at 4.05pm. We wish the team and management the very the best of luck!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Kind regards,
Natasha Bassett
(Principal)