



## October Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians,

October was a busy month in St Pat's, with an exciting lead up to Halloween. Once again we were overwhelmed by the remarkable support and resounding success of the Halloween Fair. This year, we found ourselves making the last minute decision to bring the stalls indoors, given the forecast for strong winds, and everyone responded enthusiastically to make the day as enjoyable and successful as ever. We would like to extend a massive THANK YOU to all who supported the Fair i.e parents/guardians and families, pupils and past pupils, staff, sponsors, local businesses, members of our community, the P.A and the Fair Committee. Our school is fortunate to have an amazing team of volunteers who give so graciously of their time. The fair raised €20,000 and this money will enhance the children's education and environment during the year. Projects earmarked include a proposed sensory garden, some new flooring, additional PE/yard equipment and additional laptops. This would not have been possible without your support. Mile buíochas! Over the next two pages, you can see some photos from the day



# St. Pat's Halloween Fair





## Maths Week

Maths Week is an all-island initiative promoting positive attitudes towards maths and highlighting the importance of maths in our lives. Maths Week was in October, and classes were busy with various fun maths activities, games and puzzles; using maths talk and looking at maths in the environment. Mr. Moore organised some fun activities, such as Tangram Tuesday and Tangram Thursday, which everyone seemed to enjoy.



Links to some parent resource pages are below:

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2024/maths-in-everyday-household-tasks/>

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2024/puzzles-for-all/>

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2024/maths-at-home-activities/>

## DLD Day

In October, we celebrated DLD Day, an awareness day for Developmental Language Disorder. It was great to see many pupils and staff wearing yellow and purple. Special thanks to the pupils in our DLD classes for their wonderful display about DLD and for sharing some facts about DLD over the intercom. They also shared facts about DLD with 112 teachers who are undertaking the Graduate Diploma in Special Education in St Pat's DCU! We were delighted to read all the lovely comments shared on the Zoom Chat! You can read some of them on the next page.

*You guys are doing so well! I love all these facts!*

*You are all amazing guys and thank you for sharing your brilliant facts with us! 🙌😊*

*So lovely to hear from you all! Thank you*

*Well done everyone! thank you!*

*Big well done to all the learners...super job! Thank you xxx*

*that was really lovely! they did a super job!*

*super troopers in St Pats! Thanks all*

*Super Learners, Well Done ! Great Facts*

*Thank you to all the students for sharing information and raising awareness about **DLD** . You were amazing.*



## **Catholic Schools Ethos Review Committee**

As we continue another year of reviewing our practice as a Catholic School, in line with the document *“Understanding and living the Ethos in a Catholic Primary School*, we are reflecting on our Mission Statement this year, consolidating our habit of daily prayer time and promoting care of the natural environment and all people. As the parent representative , Elaine O’Rourke, is no longer on the committee, we extend the invitation to another parent to join for when we meet again in term three.



Sacraments:



Our committed staff and in particular the teachers of 2nd Class (First Holy Communion) and 6th Class (Confirmation) invest a great deal of time and effort in preparing and supporting pupils, along with their families, in the sacramental journey of faith. We recently held parent meetings with the Communion and Confirmation classes. Two parent committees were established to help with the successful Family Masses throughout the year. The Family Masses are part of our programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, centred in the parish celebration of the Sunday Eucharist and in the home. They are designed to facilitate parents, families and the parish's active involvement in the preparation for the sacrament. Many thanks to the parents/ guardians who have joined the committees, and to Fr. Seamus, Killian and Amanda from the Sunday Masses, who help with the organisation. Fr. Seamus recently celebrated the Mass of Enrolment with the Communion class boys, and will soon celebrate the Mass of Enrolment with those making Confirmation. Fr. Ultan has been visiting classes each Friday, in his chaplaincy role to the school.

### **Peace Proms 2024**

Mr. Doyle's and Ms. Walsh's 4th classes will be participating in the Peace Proms 2025 on Saturday, 1st of February. Each year, 35,000 children from schools throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland participate in Peace Proms. Our 4th class pupils will join 3,500 children for a performance with a full symphony youth orchestra in the RDS. This will be a fantastic experience for the class, and the pupils will be busy practising the songs over the next couple of months.



## 5th and 6th Class Spanish

The 5th and 6th classes have been learning Spanish as part of the “Say Yes to Languages” programme, funded by the Department of Education. The new primary curriculum will have modern languages as part of the language curriculum, from 3rd class. Javier is teaching Spanish every Friday to the classes. This is a nice introduction to a new language and culture for our senior classes.



## Tin-whistle

All classes from 3rd to 6th class have been busy learning to play the tin-whistle. Well done on all the Practice! Remember that the tin whistle should continue to be in the schoolbag every Tuesday, when we return after the break.



## Links with the Community

Mr. Carey's 5th class visited Drumcondra library to meet author, Erika McGann on Wednesday 23rd October as part of the National Children's Book Festival. Erika read from her book, *The Strange Tale of Barnabus Kwerk*, and explained where her book ideas come from, and how anything you see or hear can become part of a story.



A visual guide to the local library can be found here, which some of our new visitors to the library may find helpful:

[Drumcondra Library social story](#)

3rd and 4th classes enjoyed being the audience in storytelling workshops by some 1st year student teachers, organised by Ms. Bowe. We look forward to the second part of the storytelling after the break.

The history elective students from DCU met with the 6th classes to work on the strand unit of “local studies.” They took a tour of the local St John the Baptist Graveyard on Church Avenue to learn some local history.

The P.E Elective students in DCU recently worked on orienteering lessons around the grounds of the campus with the 5th classes. (see photos below)

Junior Infants enjoyed a storytelling workshop with writer Muireann Ní Chíobháin in DCU earlier in October.

Mark from Na Fianna will return in November to help coach pupils from 1st-3rd class.



## **Sports News**

### **GAA**

Our football season has come to an end. Well done to all our players on the 6th class team, and on the 5th class panel. They can all be very proud of themselves for representing the school so well. Thanks to Ms. Horan, Ms. Hogan, Mr. Carey and Mr. Moore for helping the team.



## **Clonliffe Harriers Dublin Schools cross-country meeting**

Well done to our three teams who participated in the Clonliffe Harriers event in Santry Stadium in October. Primary and secondary schools from across Dublin took part in the annual event which kicked off the schools' racing calendar. Our three teams were comprised of pupils from fourth, fifth and sixth classes, and they ran their hearts out. Well done to all our athletes for representing us so well. They can be proud of their achievement. In particular, a big "well done" to Sam, from Mr Tubridy's class who took third place in the 6th class category. Thanks to Mr. Skelly for organising our involvement in the event.



## **Olympic Handball**

In November, Mr. Tubridy's 6th class will be taking part in a blitz organised by Olympic Handball Ireland. The blitz involves schools from North Dublin. We look forward to hearing how they get on, and expect that they will all enjoy the experience!



## **Active Staff!**

Well done to Ms Walsh on her recent intermediate championship win with Coralstown Kinnegad!.... and we wish Mr Skelly the best of luck as he runs in the marathon on 27th of October!



## Active Committee

We thank the outgoing members of the Active Committee, and welcome a new committee this year. Members of the new Active Committee are:



Will, Rian and Luke from 1st class and Ms. McCabe's class ,  
Ruan and Rory from 2nd class,  
Aidan and Ethan from 3rd class,  
Alex and Bobby from 4th class,  
Max, Dara and Emma from 5th class and Ms. O'Dwyer's class  
Sam, Nathan, Seth and John from 6th class

The Committee's focus this year will be on maintaining the good work of the previous two years and getting involved in managing yard games and a couple of key activities. Thanks to Mr. Skelly and the committee for reminding us to be a physically active school community.

## Student Council

The Student Council met with Ms. Bassett to share updates from their class suggestion boxes. They will soon be meeting the Lord Mayor, James Geoghegan, to compare and contrast the roles of the Student Council and those of Dublin City Council.



## Green School Committee

The Green School team have been conducting their Global Citizenship: Litter and Waste Survey as part of our effort to obtain the 6th flag. They conducted surveys on their classes and will compare data again after Christmas to see if the school community has widened their Global Awareness in that period of time. The Senior classes also took part in Climate Action Week by writing pledges to the environment that show they understand that small deeds in the community can have a big impact on the world. Thanks to Ms. Gallagher, and well done to everyone and the Green School representatives!



## **Biodiversity**

On Friday the 4th of October, Caroline from Biodiversity in Schools met with Mr. Moore's 5th Class to explore ideas for a proposed Outdoor Classroom near the Junior Building. They discussed things that they would like to see in the area, like benches and water features, and what would be suitable for the boys and girls in both schools. They made their own Outdoor Classroom designs and we are eagerly awaiting feedback from Caroline so we can begin the groundwork. Well done to all the pupils for their great participation.



## **School Zone**

A reminder that we are in a Dublin City Council School Zone. Please park or stop away from the school zone's yellow road markings and walk the remainder of the way. In the interests of safety, there should be no parking or drop-offs in the yellow zone area on Millbourne Avenue or at the staff car-park gate on the DCU campus. A reminder also, to maintain respectful interactions with other drivers in pupils' presence. We are delighted to see many pupils cycling and scooting to school. Please remember that everyone should wear helmets and have a lock. Please also consider a high-vis jacket. Lastly, a reminder that dogs should not be on the school grounds, and are welcome to wait at the gates.



## **Enrolment**

Closing date for initial applications for Junior Infants 2025 is Friday, 8th November 2024. An application received after this date must be treated in the category of a **late application**, as per the admissions policy. This includes siblings. Please ensure sibling applications are made before this date.



Enrolments for the DLD classes and the Autism Class start in January. (There are currently no spaces in the Autism Class, however, a waiting list will be in operation, should a place become available)

## **School Improvement Plan**

We are in year two of our three year School Improvement Plan, which continues to focus on wellbeing, in the area of inclusion. As the New Maths Curriculum rolls out this year, this will be an additional area of focus from this year.

## **Parents' Association**

The P.A was extremely busy in October in preparation for the Halloween Fair. All their time, effort and support with this are greatly appreciated. We hope everyone has a restful break after all the recent business of the Fair! The AGM will take place in November, and the annual Christmas cards will be organised in December. More information will follow.

## **Board of Management**

The October meeting took place on Thursday 24th October.

- ✓The Board received the Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying oversight reports, and the annual review of Child Protection was completed.
- ✓An update on building projects was provided, including solar panels and repairs to heating pipework.

- ✓Proposed amendments to the Mission Statement and Vision Statement were reviewed, and thanks extended to the staff member involved in this area.
- ✓The Charities Regulator Code of Compliance for 2023/2024 was reviewed and ratified.
- ✓The most recent standardised test results were discussed and the staff member involved was thanks for their report.
- ✓The new “Assistant Principal 2” position was discussed, with a view to advertising after the mid-term break.
- ✓Correspondence was considered and the Principal provided a Principal's Report and a Teaching and Learning Report.
- ✓The award for the tender for Hot Meals was approved, and a new bank account is being established for this purpose.
- ✓An update on recent P.A activities was shared. The Board congratulated and thanked all involved in the successful running of the Halloween Fair.
- ✓The Principal briefed the Board on the number of admissions applications to date for the next school year.
- ✓As we come to the mid-term, the Board thanked the staff for the successful opening this school year as a coeducational school, and the addition of Mr.Maguire’s new class.
- ✓Date for the next BoM meeting is 18th of November

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Meetings will take place on Wednesday, 20th of November, from 2:35 pm-5:45pm, and on Thursday, 21st November, from 2:30pm-4:30pm. As always, classes will go home a little earlier, at 2.05pm, on the longer day, Wednesday 20th November. (It will be a normal hometime for the Junior and Senior Infants).

Hometime will be at the usual time on Thursday, 21st November.)

Booking times will be made available through Aladdin in November. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and growth

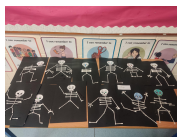


## Halloween

Besides the Halloween Fair, there were plenty of festivities in the run up to the Halloween break.

Our Halloween Dress Up Day took place today. It was great to see all the Halloween costumes during the yard parades. The Halloween Art Competition was a big hit again this year. Well done to all the entrants and Ms. Gallagher for the wonderful, creative and scary designs that filled the reception area of the Senior Building. Ms. Gallagher and her co-judges selected some for special merit and prizes, and all those who entered received merit certs. At Junior Level, special merit went to Eoin from Mr. Skelly's class for his sculpture, and to Dáire from Ms. O'Sullivan's for his drawing. At senior level, special merit went to Kevin from Mr. Moore's class for his sculpture, and to Tadhg from Mr. Doyle's class for his drawing. Well done to everyone for their wonderful, creative and scary work! Here are some photos of the wonderful costumes and some art work:





## **A prayer and blessing for mid-term, from Fr. Ultan**

For all the pupils of St Patrick's National School, parents/ guardians, teachers and families:

Loving Father,

As we come to the mid- term break, we turn to you in confidence and place any difficulties we have into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son.

Enable us to leave behind any worry of the past and any regrets, entrusting the past to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your providence.

Help us appreciate more the need to keep a good balance in our lives. May this mid term break be for us a time of rest and recreation to help restore us and re-create us in your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families, on whom we ask your blessing.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



Wishing everyone a lovely, safe and happy mid-term,  
Ms. Natasha Bassett  
(Principal)