

HEADLINES

- Parent-Teacher meetings are scheduled for the afternoon of **13th November**. Meetings may be arranged for other mutually suitable times – teacher will be in touch. In general, please don't cold call your son's teacher – make an appointment.
- We're expecting a visit from Sam Maguire on **Friday 25th October**. Problems, problems – it being the last school day before Hallowe'en should I dress as a fan or as a fanatic?!! 2nd class up can wear Dublin Jerseys or something blue!
- Mid Term Break – Children finish school at **normal time this Friday**. School reopens on Monday 4th November.
- Check out www.piusxbns.ie for our latest news
- **Confirmation date:** 8th March 2014)
- **First Penance** in St Pius X Church: Wed 2nd April
- **Communion date:** 17th May, 2014

Other Dates to Remember

- Closed 23rd December 2013 to 3rd January 2014
- Closed 20th & 21st February 2014
- Closed 17th & 18th March 2014
- Closed 14th April to 25th April, 2014
- Closed 5th May 2014
- Closed 2nd & 3rd June 2014
- Closed Friday 27th June @ 12 Noon

ST. PIUS X BOYS' N.S. OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

*"The difference between school and life . . . ?
In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test.
In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."*

From the Principal's Pen

The school year is well under way and the warm summer holidays are now a distant memory. Our junior infants, under the wise stewardship of Aoife McLoughlin and Marion O'Connor are getting to know the run of the school and are making new friends. The Mass for the opening of the academic year was celebrated last month. One of our new initiatives this year is the 'Power Hour' programme when some of our classes are visited by our learning support team of teachers for small group work in literacy. We have several new staff members –, Áine Carroll, Rob Kealy Breda Kennedy, Louise Smith, Michael Smyth and Brenda Young. I know that you will make them feel very welcome. Our newly resurfaced back yard is proving very popular. Our senior infants are honing their hurling skills on the attractive surface. Many thanks to all who helped make it happen – Parents' Association, Wicklow Walk fund raiser, Ulster Bank and the school Board of Management.

Dermot Lynch

Reminders

- ❖ If you have overlooked the school contribution of €130.00 per pupil for the school year 2013/2014, it's not too late. Our school's running expenses get higher every year and we depend hugely on your contributions to help provide the resources and create the environment for your son's education.
- ❖ The NEWB is charged with investigating pupil absences in excess of 20 days in a school year. We are legally obliged to report such absences to the NEWB.
- ❖ Please ensure we have an up to date mobile number for you. We shall contact you by text occasionally with school reminders and memos. In the case of an emergency we may need to contact you urgently. If your details have changed or if you are in doubt, complete the pupil update form (available on school website), and return it to Karen, the school secretary.

Gaelic Football

It has been another exciting football season in St. Pius X BNS! At time of going to press, our Senior Football team was poised to compete in a semi-final fixture against St. Maelruan's, Tallaght on Thursday 24th October. They gained a place in the final four by beating St. Cronan's in Santry on 11th October. A tightly contested match, it saw Pius win after extra time. In the final score, only 2 points separated the two schools. This semi-final, if won, will see St. Pius going to Croke Park to play in the final of the Sciath na nGearalltach. Well done to the boys for getting this far. Here's hoping for a successful result and that their experience in getting to the semi-final stage will stand to the boys on the day. Aside from Senior Football, Pius X BNS, for the first time entered three Junior football teams into the Cumann na mBunscol, Junior White, Navy and Green teams. This was a huge undertaking and would not have been possible had it not been for the large numbers of teachers who give freely of their time to manage the teams. As a school, we're also equally lucky to have so many skilled players to field the required 60 players. The three teams acquitted themselves brilliantly in their respective divisions, winning the majority of their games. Players and parents travelled all over the city competing in the leagues in all types of weather. All credit must go to these young players (some only in 3rd class) who represented their school so well. As the season draws to a close, it's amazing to think that since September, our school has competed in over 25 separate football games. Huge thanks to Mr. Kealy, Ms. Young, Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Smith, Mr. Coyle and Mr. Kerins for all their help in promoting and encouraging Gaelic football in the school. The Sam Maguire trophy will be visiting the school on Friday 25th October. Accompanying the cup will be some of Dublin's All-Ireland winning team. This is a great honour for the school and promises to be an exciting and memorable day for the students (and the teachers who hail from the Capital!). The visit has been arranged by our school's Games Promotion Officer, Dave Farrelly. Dave comes from Templeogue Synge St., our parish club and is involved with training our junior classes during school time on the school's new astro-turf. In addition to his work in schools, Dave also runs the club's popular Junior Football Academy in Bushy Park on a Saturday for players aged 4 - 7. Further details of this can be obtained from Dave on 0879884783.

Music

The after-school choir under the direction of Anne Purcell and Aoife Creaton, is up and running since the second Monday in September. We were delighted to welcome back all our boys from last year, and especially our new members from this year's 3rd classes. The number of boys in the choir has continued to increase over the past few years. This year we have over 80 boys in the after-school choir. The boys have begun their new repertoire of songs for this year in preparation for the concerts and competitions in which they will perform in the 2nd and 3rd term.

A number of boys from 5th class represented our school in a performance at Féilte - a festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on Saturday, October 5th. The boys sang with boys and girls from eight other schools and they were conducted by Anne Purcell. It was a wonderful occasion and the choir received a standing ovation and many effusive tweets on the Teaching Council Twitter.

Traditionally the new school year in St. Pius is marked with a celebration of Mass in St. Pius X Church. This Mass is a very special occasion in the school calendar, with members from the whole school community participating in the celebration. The boys from Mr. Dillon's, Ms. Smiths, Mr. Kerins and Ms. Purcell's classes sang at the Mass and Aaron Peelo and Benn Blanchfield Ryan contributed to the ceremony with their fabulous solo-singing.

While we don't usually mention the 'C' word before Hallowe'en, we would like to mention that following the success of last year's Parents' Choir performance at the Carol Services, we will be repeating this initiative this year! Details to follow after the mid-term! (The rehearsals will take place on a number of Tuesday evenings starting in mid- November).

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

