



St. John of God G.N.S. December Newsletter 2019



DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us. Preparations have begun here for the festive season. Your daughter's Christmas cards should be with you by 4th December in time for posting a bit of SJG cheer to loved ones far and near.

We would like to cordially invite all parents to our Nativity Play and Carol Concert held in the school hall on Wednesday 18th December. This is one of the highlights of the school year and never fails to get the audience feeling nostalgic and full of Christmas magic! In order to facilitate the big crowds that come every year, we request that you attend only the concert allocated to your child's class. The times are as follows:

Junior Infants, 1st, 3rd, 5th class @ 9.30a.m.

Senior Infants, 2nd, 4th and 6th class @ 11.00a.m.

The school choir will be warming up their vocal chords and spreading Christmas cheer with some festive carol singing in Northside Shopping Centre on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December from 10-11a.m. If you're in the area, the girls would get a great boost from your support. We would also love to have some additional bucket shakers so if you are talented in this area please let us know!! We'd love to have you along😊

Christmas Holidays

The school will close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 20th December. Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 12.05 and all other classes will finish at 12.15. We will reopen on Monday 6th January 2020 and wish everyone a lovely break.

Family Mass

This month's Family Mass will take place on Christmas Eve, 24th December in St. John Vianney Church, Ardlea Road at 6p.m. It promises to be a lovely ceremony and as always all our children and parents are most welcome.

SPORT:

- We will be continuing our partnership with Dublin City Council and the whole school will be going GAGA on Wednesday 4th December (Get All Girls Active). The 5th and 6th class girls will be playing an inter-school soccer blitz, testing out the skills they've learned over the last 4 weeks against some tough local competition – Scoil Íde!! Good luck girls. Show 'em how it's done...
- Swimming lessons continue into December for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th class courtesy of Swim Ireland. We are thrilled with the progress being made by the children through this programme.

Well done to all the parents who have come in to help us with planting bulbs and digging holes for our Gardening Project, especially Anna Harvey, (Ava Jodie Clarke's nana) who has been a powerhouse gardener!! It is really exciting to see this project "coming to life" and the children have been delighted to learn about and experience planting their very own garden. It will be wonderful to see the fruits of their labour in the spring time.

The final Rainbows session will take place on Monday 2nd December. Many thanks to the teachers Ms. Kelly, Ms. Quigg and Ms. Clarke who have volunteered their time to facilitate these peer support sessions for children who have gone through parental separation.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

- ❖ We are hosting our **Annual Cake Sale** this **Friday 29th November**. Please clearly label all lids/boxes/plates with your child's name and class. Parents are welcome to wait in the Parents' Room to accompany their child to the Cake Sale if they wish. Otherwise, each class will be brought by their teacher. There will be no homework on Thursday 28th November to allow time for happy family baking and bonding☺
- ❖ The P.A. are organising their annual **Christmas Raffle** with some very exciting prizes up for grabs. Tickets will go on sale on **Monday 9th of December** and the draw will take place on **Tuesday 17th December**.
- ❖ We will take orders for the beautiful **Class calendars until Wednesday 4th December**. Bookmarks won't be available this year so this is your only opportunity to snap a class picture up. Samples are up for viewing in the window at the front of the school. The calendars make a really lovely and unique Christmas gift for family members and are a steal at €5 each.
- ❖ The Parents' Association also organise a **Christmas disco** for the girls. The fun will be happening on **Friday 20th December** from **10.45-11.45**. If anyone would like to come along to the disco and help out you are very welcome. Dancing is optional!

December means... Christmas Flower Arranging time! Nessa will be making beautiful flower centerpieces for your Christmas table with parents on Monday 9th December at 9a.m. We are hoping some parents will help make them with the children then on Tuesday 10th December. This is a highlight of the year and the children really look forward to it. Please let Nessa know if you can come on either day on 086 0439773.

We will be collecting for Sr. Tasneem's bucket for the month of December. The money collected is sent directly to Pakistan where the Sisters of St. John of God run a school for girls. The school is not government funded at all so relies completely on the generosity of others to keep it going. We believe strongly in supporting the education of girls to give them a voice and a brighter future and are happy to raise awareness of this noble cause.



Our Marathon Kids from 6th class in Morton Stadium having run their final mile

Creative Schools

- ✓ The photo on the first page is of a beautiful print piece that 6th class made collaboratively in conjunction with the Artist Deirdre O Reilly who has been working with 3rd and 6th. It is a monumental achievement for the girls to have had their art displayed in the National Gallery. Well done to the teacher Ms. O Riordan, 6th class and Deirdre the artist for making such a beautiful masterpiece!
- ✓ Best of luck to 1st and 4th class who will be doing their **drama exams** with The Dublin Academy on **Wed 11th December**.
- ✓ 5th class have been working with Mary Sheehan on collaborative creative drama as part of the Teacher-Artist Partnership programme and will finish up their sessions in December.
- ✓ **Ukulele** classes will finish up on the **12th December for 3rd class**. 2nd class will be offered the opportunity to learn in the New Year.
- ✓ **Cookery classes** will continue for the older girls who are upskilling themselves and learning nutritious, and easy recipes to cook at home.

Wishing you all a happy, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Le meas,
Aoife McNicholas

