

## St. John of God G.N.S. March Newsletter 2020



Such a gathering of interesting folk!  
Dear Parents and Guardians,  
Welcome to March! **Reminder that SCHOOL IS CLOSED MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AND TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.**

I'm sure you have noticed the really exciting project underway in our yard... We are putting in a **large astroturf pitch with a colourful 60m sprint track** running alongside it. We are so excited about this and can't wait to see the finished product and get the girls using this marvellous facility.

We are also working on an **outdoor classroom** space where the courtyard garden used to be. This space will be filled with outdoor classroom resources like a mud kitchen, sand and water play, storytelling section and picnic benches to work on.

Please support the fundraising initiatives being organised by the Parents' Association. They are so central to us being able to offer these fantastic resources to the children.

- **Easter chicks** will go on sale from 23/3/20
- **Easter raffle tickets** will go on sale 30/3/20.
- **Clothing collection** this Friday 6/3/20 for all your unwanted clothes and shoes.

### World Book Day Events:

**World Book Day** falls on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** this year. As we have Confirmation that day we opted to hold our **Stationery Fair on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February** instead. We had some wonderful characters visit the school on Friday, from Medusa, to the Scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz to one of the 3 Blind Mice! All the children took part in a **whole school "Characters Parade"** and had lots of fun figuring out who was who on the day! Some other events we have planned to promote reading around this time include:

\***DEAR time** (Drop Everything And Read) for 10 minutes daily starting the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

\***Paired reading** will start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and run for four weeks until Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. It is a lovely programme and involves an adult reading aloud at the same time as their daughter every day for 10 minutes. You can then write a little comment in the comment box for that day. The purpose of paired reading is to help reading fluency (the speed and ease that a child reads at). Remember, the focus of paired reading is enjoyment so leave the stress aside and bond with your lovely daughter over a good book 😊

\***Storyteller Christine Thompson** was in all day Monday 2nd March wowing the girls with a fun-filled workshop for each of the class levels. Based around poetry, the workshops used drama as a stimulus for the children penning their own poetic masterpieces. Puppets and myths and legends formed the basis of the storytelling sessions with our younger classes.

\*Our resident librarian **Debbie Doyle** will be trying to get the children interested in books by reading exciting extracts for all the different classes on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**.

\*We have sent home **library membership forms** for all girls in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. This is to encourage the children to join our gorgeous, newly refurbished local library. **1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> will be visiting the library on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** and we can hand in their membership as part of this visit.

**We hope all these events will stimulate a love of reading for pleasure among the children and give them the gift of loving books forever.**

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Béimid ag céiliúradh **Seachtain na Gaeilge ó 9ú go 13ú de Márta**. I rith na seachtaine beidh alán rudaí ar siúl mar: (We will be celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge from 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>/March. Activities will include..

- ✓ Raidió S.J.G. (S.J.G. Radio Station)
- ✓ Tráth na gCeist (Table Quiz).
- ✓ Toraíocht Taisce (Treasure Hunt)
- ✓ Comórtas Ealaíne (Art Competition)
- ✓ Ceolchoirm Beaga (Children's Concert)
- ✓ **Dress Up Day Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
(Green/White/Orange)

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh na páistí an-taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge agus go mbainfidh siad úsáid as an Gaeilge i rith na seachtaine. "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam." (We hope everyone will enjoy SnG and use their Irish.)

### MUSIC:

- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> class are busy practising their **recorders** with tutor June Robbins from the Artane Band Outreach Programme. 3<sup>rd</sup> class will get 8 lessons with June before their big night performing with the **Artane Band on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00p.m.**
- Lovely strumming is coming from the lucky girls in 2<sup>nd</sup> class who have started playing the **ukulele** and are making great progress with their instruments.

### Religion

- The 6<sup>th</sup> class will be making their **Confirmation on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00a.m.** We would ask that everyone takes their seats by 10:45a.m.
- Richard Gavin will take the **Confirmation photos on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00a.m.** As is customary, the girls will have their annual fashion show, where they can catwalk their outfits for the whole school. **6<sup>th</sup> class will finish school on Friday at 12:05.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Class** will be leading the school in a prayer service to mark **St. John of God Day on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March.**
- This month's **Family Mass** takes place in St. John Vianney Church, Ardlea at 11:30a.m. on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March.** All are welcome to attend.



Some of our favourite characters around!

### Active School Flag:

We are working towards our Active School Flag as many of you may know. We have transformed our lunch time in an effort to get all our girls active and moving during break. The girls are really enjoying all the different activities like Dance Friday where they get their groove on for 30 minutes dancing to the latest tunes!

### Cookery Class:

Over the next 4 weeks our mini chefs in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will learn how to make the following dishes from scratch:

1. Chicken fajitas
2. Bounty flapjacks
3. Taco Chips
4. Scones with homemade jam

We hope their families benefit from them practising their cooking skills at home too. Free homework pass to any girl who cooks their family a homemade meal...

### Suas Reading Buddy Programme:

16 children will be reading with a volunteer buddy for 30 minutes twice a week, for 8 weeks. We hope the children will enjoy reading with their buddy and it will help to develop their reading skills and confidence.

Le Meas,  
Aoife McNicholas  
Principal

