



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

Parents

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENTS AND FAMILIES WHO SUPPORTED OUR **FAMILY BINGO** EVENT ON **SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER**. WE HAD A BRILLIANT TURNOUT AND IT WAS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL BINGO TO DATE 😊

The P.A. are organising a **Cake Sale** on **Friday 29th November**. Each child will have no homework on Thursday 28th November to facilitate some baking and bonding time at home! All the yummy creations will be on sale on Friday.

We will be **forming a new Board of Management** commencing 1st December 2019 and running for 4 years. We are looking for two parent nominees to become members of the Board of Management. **One mother and one father**. If you are interested in putting your name forward please let the school know by **Friday 8th Nov**.

We are working with the School of Education in UCD on a long-term research project called **Children's School Lives**. The research will follow our current group of Junior Infants each year up until 2nd class. This year's focus is on the transition from pre-school into primary school.

A massive thank you to Fran, Trish, Lucy and the whole Dunne family who worked so hard over the midterm break and built the beautiful planter boxes that will soon be filled with gorgeous flowers, sensory bushes, fragrant herbs and wild flowers to help the bees in their pollination. We are really excited about this wonderful gardening project and are so grateful for this amazing generosity of time and effort. Thank you Dunes!

The enrolment Ceremony for Communion will take place on Tuesday 26th November at 6.30p.m. in St. John Vianney Church. The Enrolment Ceremony for Confirmation will be at 7.30p.m.

November is the month of all souls and we will be remembering those we have lost in a book of remembrance for the month.



DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

Our wonderful football team were proud winners of the CnmB final in Croke Park. This achievement will stay with them always. It was with great pride that we watched our girls, led by their captain Ava Coyle, play their hearts out. Thanks to Ms. Gerrard, Ms. Carr and Ms. Shannon for their dedication and hard work coaching the girls for this competition, Colm McDonald who has been developing the children's football skills over the past few years, all the supporters at various matches and the parents who came in to do the girls' hair and face painting! And of course our wonderful SJG TEAM! We are so proud of you 😊

Next Wednesday 13th November our 6th class girls will be running the final mile of their **Marathon Kids programme in Morton Stadium, Santry**. The girls have run an accumulated distance of a marathon (26 miles) over the past number of weeks and have felt the benefits of being active and fit. It will be a lovely day to celebrate their achievement and have their hard work pay off.

The heartiest of welcomes to our brand new caretaker Martin Whelan. Martin is a lovely addition to our school staff and we are delighted to have him on our team.

SPORT:

1. Kieth O Halloran continues lending his expertise to our children from S.I. – 6th class with his soccer sessions every Friday.
2. Our partnership with Swim Ireland also continues for the month of November for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes. We are really thrilled with the great progress being made by the children due to the excellent pupil/teacher ratio in the classes.
3. GAA coaching runs every second Thursday with Colm McDonald.
4. The whole school is getting fitter and healthier as we continue our daily mile.

Creative Schools

A collaborative art installation that 6th class worked on with their teacher Ms. O Riordan and the artist Deirdre O Reilly will be exhibited in The National Gallery this Friday 8th November along with a power-point presentation on our approach to working creatively in Visual Art and focusing on the process not the product. It is such a thrilling and exciting achievement to have visited the National Gallery last year as a class and now to have their work hanging in it...

- ✓ 5th Class are also exploring their creative side, this time through drama and are engaging really well with Mary Sheehan who is working with them for 2 hours a week exploring the theme of the environment through Drama.

Ukulele classes for 3rd class will continue until Christmas and then we will be inviting children in 2nd class to begin learning this lovely instrument.

- ✓ Cookery classes continue after school for 5th and 6th class girls. The children are developing life skills and learning to “Cook from scratch”. We even hope to incorporate some vegetables and herbs from our school garden into the meals.

STEM Projects

6th class have been developing their coding skills with **Ozobots**. The programme is run in conjunction with DCU and Trinity and aims to encourage children to get into **coding** by programming little bots to follow their commands.

Suas volunteers are working with some of our children on a **one-to-one maths programme** over the coming weeks. The children are in 2nd and 3rd class and are enjoying their individual time with their mentors and making progress in maths.



Teamwork in Croke Park 2019

Open Day

This year's Open Day will take place on Wednesday 20th November from 11.00a.m.-12.00p.m. We will start proceedings with a 20 minute visit to your daughter's classroom followed by some short performances by the choir, ukulele club and drama (1st and 6th class). We will finish up with a lovely cuppa in the Parents' Room. As usual, Open Day is for all parents, grandparents and family members who would like to come and also for any parents who are thinking about enrolling their child in the school. Please spread the word about this event.

School Attendance

Thank you for your help and support in really striving for good attendance. Attendance really is the cornerstone of success in school. We will be starting a 20 day challenge from Monday 25th November and into December to really encourage better attendance at school. Best of luck to everyone as we “Strive for 5!!”

Junior Infants will get their vaccinations in school on Friday 15th November.

Maths for Fun for Senior Infants will be running on Monday 11th, 18th, 25th November and 2nd December. Contact Nessa for details on 086 0439773.

**Wishing everyone a very happy November,
Le meas,
Aoife McNicholas
Principal**