



St. John of God G.N.S. October Newsletter 2023

School Garden

On Saturday 7th October, we held a gardening morning to clear out the flower beds and fill them with soil. We had parents, grandparents and aunts helping us out. To the families of Maram (JI), Angie (JI), Valerie (2nd), Kacey and Ayva (2nd & 3rd), Sophie & Emily (4th) and Eve (6th) – A huge THANK YOU! We could not have done it without you. A special mention to David Flood, father of Sophie and Emily, who supplied us with tools and came back a few days later to finish off and tidy it all up. It's wonderful to have a lovely, clear space to plant and grow. Spring bulbs have already been sown and we look forward to seeing the colour they will bring in spring.

Play Therapy

Play Therapist Sinéad Leigh attends our school once per week to work with the children on a 1:1 basis. The sessions take place during the school day and are funded by the school. If you think your child could benefit from this, please contact their teacher or the principal to discuss in confidence.

Family Mass

The next Family Mass will take place on 19th November at 11.30 in St. John Vianney Church, Ardlea Road. Children from our school will be selected to do the readings at this mass. All families are invited to attend the mass, especially those girls preparing for the sacraments of **Communion** and **Confirmation** this year. These masses form an important part of their preparation.

Hot Lunches

Our new hot lunches began on Monday 23rd of October to the delight of the girls. So far it has been a big success. Menus can be changed easily by logging into your account. The choice is wide and varied, there is something for everyone. Our lunches are provided by Glanmore Foods who also provide a snack for the girls for their 10:30 break.



Spooky Halloween art from 5th Class

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a very busy weeks since our last Newsletter. As I write this, practising for our annual Céilí is in full swing, with the sounds of music and dancing echoing around the school.



Céilí na Samhna

We will hold our traditional **Céilí na Samhna** here in the school on Friday 27th October. Each class is busy learning a céilí dance which they will perform on the day. The children are invited to dress up as their favourite Halloween character to celebrate the occasion. We are really looking forward to what is always a great day in the school calendar.

Parents and guardians are invited to a short **Halloween parade** followed by refreshments in the Parents' Room on Friday 27th October @ 1pm. Come down to see the costumes and have a cuppa and a chat with other parents.

Morning Arrival

School starts at **8:50am**, lots of children are coming in after this time and are missing important learning. Things like phonics, spelling, reading, oral maths will often take place first thing in the morning. It can also be stressful for a child to be continually late.

We ask that you try to ensure that your children are on time for school as often as possible. We open our doors from 8:40am to allow time for the children to come in and settle.

If your child is absent for any reason, we ask that you call or email the school on the day.

Cycle Right

The girls in 5th class just completed 7 weeks of cycling training with Colm and Tony of Cycle Right, Dublin Bay Cycling Centre. It was a really positive experience for all and the girls have learned lots of new skills to ensure that they are confident and road aware when out and about on their bikes. The girls said that they would highly recommend the course to next year's 5th class.

Marathon Kids

The girls in 5th and 6th classes are currently taking part in the Marathon Kids challenge. This challenge sees them run / jog a little each day, increasing the distance they are running bit by bit in an effort to run the distance of a marathon in total by the end of the challenge. The final mile will be run in Santry on Wednesday 15th November at 10am. A huge well done to all involved.

Home School Community Liaison Coordinator (HSCL)

Shane our HSCL is currently organising fun science activities for parents and children in **First Class**. These classes take place on Tuesday mornings will continue for a further 5 weeks. It's a lovely way to get involved in your daughter's class. If you need to contact Shane for any reason, you can call or text him on 086 0439773.

Wet Days

As the season changes and the weather starts to get wetter, we remind all children to wear a coat to school. We will try and get out as often as possible for breaks even on rainy days.



Parachute fun for European Sports Day

Parents Association

The PA is running their annual Halloween Raffle at the moment. The prize is a witch pinata with sweets to fill it. The raffle will be held on the day of the céilí. The very best of luck to all!

We are seeking 2 parents (1 Mother & 1 Father) to be **parent nominees on the Board of Management**. If you would like more information or to nominate yourself, please contact the office. Nominees will be elected at the next PA meeting on **Fri 10th Nov at 9 am**. If there is more than one nomination then a secret ballot will take place.

Reminder – Road Safety

Please do not drive into the school at drop off or collection time. It is **unsafe** to do so.

When parking near the school, please park safely and ensure that your children don't run from the car into traffic. We received notification of a near miss last week where a child ran from a parked car out in front of another car.

Liz our lollipop lady is there to assist everyone to cross the road safely, we ask that everyone respect her and obey her signals

27th October – Céilí na Samhna

30th Oct – 3rd Nov MidTerm Break

13th – 17th Nov - Parent / Teacher meetings

15th December – Nativity Play

Is mise, le meas,

Sinéad Feery, Acting Principal