



## St. John of God G.N.S. September Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. We would like to extend a warm welcome back to all of our girls and to you, their parents and families. We would like to give a very special welcome to all our new Junior Infants. We hope that your time with us in St. John of God G.N.S. will be very happy and fulfilling. This year, we are delighted to welcome some new members to our teaching staff: Ms. Sherwin (Senior Infants). Ms. Shaughnessy (2<sup>nd</sup> class), Ms. Shannon (4<sup>th</sup> class) and Ms. McMenamain (5<sup>th</sup> class). Hopefully we'll be adding a new caretaker to that list in due course! If you know someone who might be interested, C.V.s to the office by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Advance notice too of an imposed **closure for Primary Language Inservice on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October.**

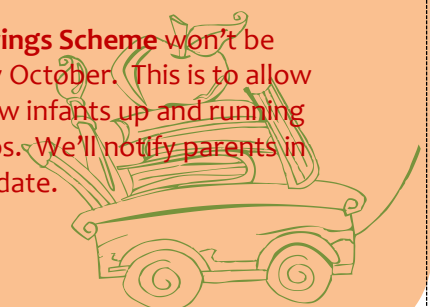
Here's looking forward to a wonderful year ahead for the school community.

### Works ongoing in the school:

- You may have noticed our lovely new boundary fencing that went in this Summer. We are sure that this will make the yard even safer for all our children and are delighted with how it has turned out.
- Extensive work was also carried out on the playground. We are very near completion and hope to finish this work this week/early next week and reopen the playground for the children to enjoy.
- Angela Hetherington (a member of our P.A.) has really kindly organised volunteers from her workplace to come in and clear the inner courtyard in preparation for turning this into a beautiful outdoor classroom space. There are lots of elements to this project, with the initial phase due to take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Parent's Association funding will go towards developing this project over the next two years. Our thanks to Angela for this incredibly generous offer of help 😊

**Good Behaviour Week** will run from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September and during this week there will be an emphasis on reminding the children of the school rules, developing positive habits and exploring ways that we can promote good behaviour throughout the year. Keep an eye out in your child's bag for leaflets for parents during this week and also check out our website [www.stjohnofgodartane.com](http://www.stjohnofgodartane.com).

The **Credit Union Savings Scheme** won't be starting up until early October. This is to allow time to get all our new infants up and running with cards and photos. We'll notify parents in advance of the start date.



## Sport:

- ✓ Best of luck to the Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Team who are going for 3 in a row and their male counterparts who are facing into a replay of their 5 in a row bid against Kerry on Saturday. If either team is successful we will have our almost annual **“Dubs Day” on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>** where the children can wear anything blue to school in celebration.
- ✓ Colm McDonald will be back working with all classes from this Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Colm is a development officer with the G.A.A. and will be working on camogie and football skills with the girls throughout the year.
- ✓ Ms. Gerrard, Ms. Carr and Ms. Shannon are straight out of the blocks training the football panel for the Cumann na mBunscol League this year. Our opening game will be against Gaelscoil Barra this Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.
- ✓ We were so thrilled to extend our partnership with Swim Ireland and we have secured **13 weeks of fully funded swimming lessons for the children in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes starting this Friday.** The girls will receive **complimentary** goggles, cap and bag.
- ✓ A 6 week block of **swimming lessons** in Northside Pool will be commencing on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September for the children in **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes.** The school is subsidising these lessons as we believe swimming is a life-skill that all children should learn.
- ✓ **The Daily Mile** is back! Starting from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, all the girls will be jogging daily with their class, slowly building up their fitness and stamina and increasing their concentration levels. **Children may wear runners with their uniform daily.** 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be doing the **“Marathon Kids” Programme** where they track their distance over time adding up their runs to marathon distance.

The P.A. would like to encourage anyone who has an interest to get involved with this rewarding and vibrant Association. Come along to the **A.G.M. on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.** The **uniform exchange,** organised by the P.A. will be finishing up **Wed. 11<sup>th</sup>.** The children can go as wild as they like with creative hairstyles on **Friay 20<sup>th</sup> September for Freaky Hair Friday!!**



## Creative Schools:

- **As part of our engagement with the Creative Schools Pilot Initiative, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will be working with artist Deirdre O Reilly on a 10 week programme. We hope this will be really inspiring for the two lucky classes and develop the children’s creativity.**
- **You may also have noticed some of the children’s art exhibited in frames around the school. This is to celebrate the creative efforts of our children as artists.**
- **Ms. Noone has recommened her work in speech, drama and communication studies with Senior Infants- 6<sup>th</sup> class and will work with the girls every Wednesday.**

All are welcome to attend the **Family Mass** in St. John Vianney Church, Ardlea Road, this **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30a.m.** especially the families of those children making their Confirmation or Communion this year. The Family Masses are really child-centred and family friendly.

Wishing you all a great year ahead as we work together in partnership for your daughter.

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Aoife McNicholas, Principal

