

St. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Scoil Naomh Lorcán

Phone 045 879119

February 2017

Dear Parents,

Diary Dates:

Thurs/Fri 23 rd /24 th Feb	Mid-term Break	School Closed
Monday 13 th March	Religion Programme In-Service	Early Close 12.30 pm
Friday 17 th March/Monday 20 th March	St. Patrick's Day	School Closed
Wednesday 22 nd March	Internet Talk	See below
Fri 31 st March/Sat 1 st April	Confirmation	6 th Classes

Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week was held from 29th January to 3rd February 2017. As part of the celebrations Ms Fitzpatrick's 5th class attended a special ceremony in Ballycane Church with Bishop Denis Nulty. At this service we were presented with a children's bible for each class in the school.

Bookfair: Our annual bookfair was held from Wednesday 15th February to Friday 17th February. This was organised by Ms M. Conway and our Parents Council. This year €6,312.40 was raised and as a result, each of our 24 classes received €157.81 worth of books. We very much appreciate the help of the following parents who organised and co-ordinated the event – Karla O'Connor, Clodagh Bowe-Kehoe, Ciara Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Giltrap, Niamh Sexton, Denise Cunningham, Siobhan Behan, Siobhan Cronin, Anna O'Sullivan, Rebecca Giles, Marie Green, Rachel Churchill, Karen McDonnell and Bernadette Murphy-McKeagney.

Rag Day: Our recent Rag Day for Bia Le Beatha raised €1,420 which is a very generous amount. Thank you to those pupils who donated to this worthy cause.

Library: Many thanks to librarian Trina Coyne for recently providing our school library with extra books.

Intel Mini-Scientist Grand Final: Following on from their success at the Regional Final of the Intel Mini-Scientist Competition in December, Sophie and Isabella from Mr. O'Connor's 6th class, attended the Grand Final. The Grand Final was held in the Helix at DCU on Friday 3rd February. Twenty four schools took part in this stage of the competition. The girls had a very busy morning being visited by at least eight judges. The judging panel was followed by lunch and then a science show 'The Science of Bubbles'. Following the science show the winners were announced. The two girls received the 'Best Communication Award'. This was a great achievement and everybody was delighted. The girls were presented with their award by the Minister for Education, Richard Bruton, the President of DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith and the General Manager of Intel, Eamonn Sinnott.

Isabella and Sophie had a great day and we are all very proud of them. Well done girls!

Sport:

Badminton: Congratulations to 6th class pupil Yen Lin Yip who represented Leinster in the recent u.13 Celtic Badminton Challenge in Lothian, Edinburgh, Scotland. Yen Lin was part of a 12 player team which defeated Ulster, Wales and Lothian on their way to being crowned champions. Indeed, Yen Lin won all of her matches, doubles and mixed. So well done to her from everyone here in the school.

Boys Basketball: The boys basketball team unfortunately lost out to a very strong Monasterevin side in their semi-final a couple of weeks ago. The boys did the school proud and we saw some outstanding and admirable performances by all of the team. At this stage, we would like to congratulate the boys for their dedication and sheer determination throughout the season. We would like to wish the 6th class members of the team the very best of luck in their future basketballing careers! Well done to the team and the coaches, Mrs Anderson and Ms Molyneaux, on a hard fought season.

Girls Basketball: After a successful first round of basketball matches before Christmas, our girls basketball team played their semi-final match against Scoil Mhuire, Ballymany, which they went on to win. Our final match was set for Wednesday 15th February against Scoil Bhríde, Kill in Scoil na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge. It was a fantastic final and both teams gave it their all but Kill eventually ran out the winners. We were very proud of our girls as they gave everything on the court and never gave up. The team will receive silver medals for their participation in the final. Thank you to all the team for their hard work and dedication in training and in matches over the last few months!

Rugby: Our boys' rugby team played 4 matches (A, B, C and D) against The CUS in Bird Avenue on Thursday, 9th February. Sallins recorded 3 wins and 1 loss on the day.

On Thursday 16th February, our "A" team travelled to play St. Columba's College in Rathfarnham, Dublin. The Columba's team were a mixture of 6th class and 1st years. Despite playing a team that was physically bigger, the boys turned in a very good performance, losing narrowly 12-17. Jack Arnold and Ben McDonald scored the 2 tries for Sallins.

Upcoming rugby fixture: Away vs St. Conleth's Junior School on Tuesday, 28th February @ 2 pm in Old Belvedere RFC, 28 Anglesea Road, Dublin 4.

Soccer: Our 5th and 6th class boys and girls soccer teams are both back training at the moment. Boys training is on Wednesdays and girls training is on Thursdays in the school field.

Our girls team are entering the FAI 5-a-side schools competition which is due to take place in early March. Our boys team will play 11-a-side friendly matches against other schools during March and April.

Cross Country Running: Cross country running trials for boys and girls in 4th, 5th and 6th class took place on Friday, 10th February in Sallins GAA. The first 20 boys and 20

girls were selected to be part of the training panel. Training will take place each Friday from 3 pm to 4 pm in Sallins GAA. The annual Cumann na mBunscol cross country race will take place in Hawkfield in April. New trials will be held in early April to select the 12 boys and 12 girls to represent the school at the race.

Seachtain n Gaeilge: A thuismitheoirí, beidh na daltaí an-ghnóthach i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Anois tá siad ag canadh, ag seinm ceoil agus ag damhsa. Beidh ceolchoirm ar siúl sa halla ar an Ceardaoin, 15th Márta. Tá súil againn go mbeidh spórt agus scléip ag gach duine. Má tá Gaeilge agat – cúpla focal fiú amháin, labhair sa bhaile í. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Also as part of our Seachtain na Gaeilge activities, Alexandra College will be coming to us for their annual visit on 8th March. We look forward to this musical celebration of our culture. It is not only a delight to listen to the talented pupils from Alexandra College but also to engage with pupils from our own school who display talents in many musical areas.

We have been invited to travel to Alexandra College on the 9th of March to continue our musical collaboration with the girls. This will be our second visit to the college and one which is eagerly awaited by our pupils.

Easter Raffle: As part of our fundraising, we will have our Annual Easter Raffle again this year. Most parents know by now how this works but for those who do not, here is a brief description: For each euro coin a child brings in he/she will receive a ticket. Any child who brings in €5 will receive seven tickets. From Monday 13th March we will accept donations of eggs from parents. On the day of the holidays there will be a raffle in each classroom. To ensure that as many children as possible win Easter eggs we will limit the number of eggs any child can win to two. Tickets may be bought from Monday, 13th March and, as with all our fundraising, participation is voluntary. Funds raised will go towards providing extra resources for the school.

Internet Safety: Our Parents Council has organised an internet safety day on Wednesday 22nd March. John Wills, who presented on this topic two years ago, returns to give talks to classes from 4th to 6th. In the evening John will give a presentation for parents in the school hall at 7.30 pm. We hope this will be well supported as this is an important topic. We do, occasionally, receive reports of the inappropriate use by pupils of various websites. While these occur outside of school, they are a source of concern and parents should maintain vigilance with regard to their children's use of the internet. It is also important to note that children must be 13 years or older to access sites such as Facebook, Instagram etc.

Yours sincerely

Noel Lanigan
Principal

