



ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL,
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NOVEMBER 2016 Newsletter

DIARY DATES:

Wed/Thurs 22 nd /23 rd November	Parent/Teacher Meetings	Early close Wednesday, 23 rd November – Classes from 1 st – 6 th leave at 2.45 pm
Thursday, 15 th December	Christmas plays – Junior/Senior Infants 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.	Ms. Amond 9.45 Ms. Byrne 10.15 Ms Cosgrave 10.45 Ms Cormican 11.15 Mrs Moreau 11.45 Mrs Hennessy 12.15

HALLOWE'EN WALK Many thanks to all who donated to our Parents Council Hallowe'en Fundraising Walk. Thanks to your generosity €1,106.54 was raised on the day. It was great to see pupils and staff members enter into the spirit of the occasion by dressing up. Thanks also to the Parents Council who gave their time over several mornings to count and lodge the money. The funds raised will be used to enhance the school's educational resources.

JUNIOR INFANTS ENROLMENT Enrolment forms for our three Junior Infant classes for the 2017-2018 school year will be available at the school from Thursday, 1st December 2016. Forms will be available throughout December 2016 and January 2017 and should be returned no later than Tuesday, 31st January 2017. Due to the large number of applicants for the past two years we have seen an increase in the age profile of our Junior Infants. This has proven to be very beneficial as our Infants are now more mature and can focus much better on the school programme. The school's Enrolment Policy is available at reception and can also be viewed on our website.

MINI-SCIENTIST/ Science Week Many of our classes, from Junior Infants to 6th, were busily engaged in lots of different activities during Science Week, 14th – 18th November. As part of Science Week also, two of our 4th classes and all of our 5th and 6th classes were involved in the Intel Miniscientists competition. On Wednesday 16th November, judging at school level took place. The displays, the variety and the standard of all projects were fantastic. Every group amazed the judges with their knowledge and the presentation of their investigations. Well done to every boy and girl who participated. Unfortunately the judges could only choose three projects and one of these would go forward to the regional finals which will be held in December, at the Intel Ireland site in Leixlip. The three projects chosen showed the importance of following the scientific process from beginning to end.

First prize went to Isabella and Sophie, from Mr. O'Connor's 6th class, with their project 'Pollution Solution'. Second prize went to a group of three boys, Mark, Reuben and Ruairí from Mr. Kennedy's 6th class with the project 'How do hydraulics work?' Third prize went to Chelsy, Emily, Isabel and Lauryn from Mr. Kelly's 4th class. Their project was 'Which drinks rot our teeth the most?' Isabella and Sophie will represent our school in December at the regional finals. We all wish them the very best of luck.

On Thursday 17th November all classes from 1st – 6th went to view all of the projects. It was a great learning occasion for all involved. We would like to thank pupils, parents and staff for all the work and in particular Mrs Mary Keane, our Science Co-ordinator.

SPORTS

Boys Football: Our under 11 boys footballers had a fantastic unbeaten run in Division 2 of the league this year. The boys beat St. Conleth's Newbridge, Monasterevin and Rathangan in their first three games and topped the group. This set up a Semi Final against Scoil Uí Riada, Kilcock. The match was played in difficult conditions and Sallins were delighted to come away with a hard fought two point win. The final against Kill was played in Moorefield on a very blustery Tuesday afternoon. Sallins played with the wind for the first half and went into half time as comfortable leaders, managing to keep Kill scoreless. Playing against the wind in the second half proved very difficult. Kill came back strongly and cut the margin to two points, leading to a tense last ten minutes. Thankfully the defence held out and Sallins lifted the cup after a brilliant game of football. We look forward to seeing these footballers tog out for Sallins again in the future! Maith sibh!

Girls Football: The girls u11 Gaelic football team made it through to the league final. They played against Caragh who were the better team on the day. The girls showed fantastic team spirit and fought until the end. We are so proud of them. They will come back even stronger next year!

Hurling: The hurling team travelled to Moorefield GAA on Wednesday 19th October for the U11 Div 2 Final. They were up against Gaelscoil Chill Dara. After a sluggish start which left the team two points down, Sallins eventually shook off the nerves and found their feet. A goal and a point got the team going before trading a point with the Gaelscoil. With the first half coming to an end, some great work in defence won possession for Sallins and this led to a fine goal by captain Stephen Wilson.

Sallins had their noses in front at the break and they upped their work rate from the throw in, hitting the net twice after some brave forward play from Cillian Power and Ben McDonnell. The boys continued to defend very well and scrap for every ball. Tired legs were helped by great work from the substitutes who came on and Sallins finished the stronger, scoring another two goals. The players were delighted at the final whistle and they brought home the U11 trophy for the 3rd time in 4 years. A special thank you to Luke Kiernan and Seán Power from Sallins GAA who helped us out during the season. Comhghairdeas to all of the players involved in the panel. WELL DONE!!

Soccer: Our boys' and girls' 4th class soccer teams are currently training for the 4th class soccer blitz which will be held in The Mill Hall in Celbridge on Thursday 24th November. The blitz starts at 10am and finishes at 2pm approx. We wish both teams the best of luck!

Rugby: Our 'A' team began their season by playing Newbridge College 1st year 'C' team in Newbridge College on Wednesday 26th October. The match was close in the first 15 minutes, but Sallins pulled away with 3 tries before half-time. Sallins continued to put in a great performance during the second half and finished up winning 7 tries to 2. Tristan O' Connor and Jude Kehoe scored 2 tries each, with further tries from Seán Tipper, Paddy Martin and Ben McDonald.

Upcoming rugby fixtures:

 Away vs St. Gerard's on Thursday 24th November. Kick-off @ 3pm in Bray.

 Away vs Terenure College on Tuesday 6th December. Kick-off @ 2pm in Terenure.

Hockey: The hockey team have started training on the school grounds on Thursdays from 3-4 pm. The team are delighted to welcome many new members and coaches to the team this year. Despite training in cold temperatures, there was a great turn out, with 28 players at training. We look forward to competing in blitz matches after Christmas.

Boys Basketball: The boys basketball team has deservedly claimed two victories out of two in the league campaign. They narrowly beat Scoil Bhríde, Naas by 1 point on a scoreline of 14-13. In their second game, the boys played a tough side from Scoil Mochua, Celbridge, beating them by a basket on a scoreline of 18-16. Well done to all of the boys on a super performance right to the finish in both games. We wish them every success in the remainder of their campaign.

Girls Basketball: Our girls basketball team has also had a successful start to their league. In a close game they emerged as winners against Scoil Bhríde, Naas and followed this with a win over Scoil Mochua, Celbridge. We wish the team continued success in their remaining games.

DEBATING The school debating team had their first debate of the year on Thursday, 17th November. They debated the motion that children should have televisions in their bedrooms against St. Patrick's National School, Newbridge. Both teams debated in a comprehensive and persuasive manner. However, in the end, the adjudicators declared the Sallins team to be the winners. Well done to Gillian, Orla, Sophie, Ailbhe, Bernard and Conor and we wish them continued success.

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL SCHOOL OF THE YEAR We are delighted to have been awarded Large School of the Year by Cumann na mBunscol. Each year approximately 85 schools are considered for recognition not only of their sporting prowess but also of their sportsmanship and respect. Thank you to all in our school community whose hard work and dedication brought us this honour.

CHRISTMAS ANNUALS Christmas annuals will shortly be available for purchase from the school office. The cost is €3 per annual. We will inform the pupils when they have arrived.

MATERIAL COSTS Many thanks to all those who have paid Materials Costs over the last few weeks. This money pays for items such as classwork photocopying, art & craft materials, swimming and in the case of Junior Infants, copies and pencils. These items are not covered by Department of Education & Skills grants. To keep the amounts as low as possible they are set at cost price for parents. Should any parent have difficulty with the Material Costs please do not worry. If you call to the school in person or contact us by phone we will make whatever arrangement we can to help, in strictest confidence.

CREDIT UNION We have been informed by Naas Credit Union that they are no longer offering the School Savings Scheme directly through local schools. Children can, from now on, access their accounts in the local Credit Union branch. We encourage those who have been saving with the Credit Union to continue to do so.

ANIMAL FOOD COLLECTION Again this year we held our animal food collection during World Animal Week in aid of Kildare Animal Foundation. During this week we had a guest speaker; Michelle, a KAF volunteer, with her rescue dog Ben. Ben was a big hit with the children. Michelle spoke to classes from Junior Infants to Second about the work carried out by the Foundation and about caring for animals, particularly around Hallowe'en. Michelle also thanked the children for their generosity in collecting the animal food and explained its importance to the Foundation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who donated food. Yet again the Animal Foundation was overwhelmed and delighted with the amount of food delivered to them from Sallins.

ARTS & CRAFTS – Budding Artists Congratulations to all our pupils who took part in the recent art competitions held by the Lions Club and the Credit Union. We had a fantastic response from the children and the teachers and a very high standard of art work was produced.

Well done to Anna Fullam who won First Place in the Lions Club Celebration of Peace Poster Competition. Anna received her prize at a presentation ceremony in Naas last week.

Congratulations also to our four winners of the Credit Union Art Competition, Aida Finnerty (Junior Infants); Sofija Razumovska (Senior Infants); Daniel Moran (Senior Infants) and Cian Byrne (Second Class) who received their prizes at a presentation ceremony in Scoil Bhríde last week.

The school welcomes a return visit from artist Amelia Peart and her Printmaking Workshop on the 29th and 30th November for the three Third Classes. We hope once again that the children will enjoy this invaluable experience working collaboratively with an artist.

On the 2nd December the school welcomes back Paddy O'Connor, a local woodturner, who will demonstrate the skills of woodturning to the three Fourth Classes.

We are delighted to welcome local artist, Irene Comerford, who will facilitate a Christmas Art Workshop on the 1st and 6th December for all First and Second Classes.

The children are looking forward to all these great artistic adventures.

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS Please be aware of the importance of having an **up to date** phone number and address and an **up to date** contact number for a person who will be available to collect your child in the event of he/she having an accident or becoming ill during school time.

SALLINS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION Sallins Business Association will be holding a pub quiz on **Thursday, 24th November at 8 pm** in the Railway Inn, Sallins to raise funds for the Christmas Extravaganza at Supervalu on Sunday, 18th December.

SALLINS CELTIC Sallins Celtic Football Club is holding a major fundraiser called 'Lipsync' in Spring 2017. It is holding a pre launch night on Thursday 24th of November upstairs in the Bridgewater Inn at 8 pm so please go along if you are interested in supporting the club.

PARENTS COUNCIL Our Parents Council has organised a blue token collection with Tesco, Monread. If you shop there please support the school by dropping your blue tokens in the St. Laurence's cylinder.

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Noel Lanigan,
Principal.