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*St Louis GNS*

*Newsletter*

*December 2014*

### Parents' Notice-Board

#### Anti-Bullying Campaign

The Anti-Bullying Campaign is being worked on each week by all classes. Last week, the classes each chose a slogan from what they are learning about bullying and its effect on children. These slogans were decorated by Transition Year Work Experience students and are displayed throughout the school. This work formed the first phase of the programme which is awareness. Over the next while, the classes will complete anti-bullying surveys on how bullying has affected them. The results of these surveys will be dealt with by each individual teacher and will form the "Actions against Bullying" phase of the programme. We are confident that this will improve and inform the attitudes of the children about bullying whilst also serving to lessen the instances of bullying in the school.

#### Parents' Association

Welcome to the 2014/2015 Parents' Association. We are very grateful to all the people who have joined the committee this year. A very special thank you to Freda Connolly for taking on the role of Chairperson, to Eneli Otsalt as Secretary and to Louise Mc Gaughren as Treasurer. Thanks also to the following parents who are supporting the officers on the committee: Matthew Mc Enaney, Mila Khokha, Luciano Gungo, Brenda Barry, Margaret McNally, Laura Mc Kenna, Aurelia Miskinyte, Patricia Mc Elwain & Claire Sheridan.

#### Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you all very much for your attendance at the Parent Teacher meetings on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The teachers very much appreciate your support and affirmation.

#### Home Family Liaison Officer

Congratulations to our Home Family Liaison Officer, Mr. David Mc Cague, on the official closing of the Peace Three event in Monaghan Education Centre on Monday at which Minister Humphries officiated. With the assistance of Ms Helen Warman, David ran a very successful workshop for parents on the topic of Positive Mental Health for Children on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Literacy Lift Off

This very successful initiative has just finished in Mrs Mc Kenna's third class. Thanks very much to Mrs Mc Kenna for working on this with her class, to Mrs Flynn and Mrs Healy for co-ordinating the project and to Mrs Dunlop and Mrs Smyth for their assistance. The project will move to second class after Christmas. A special word of thanks to the parents who attended the information session on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Documentary** - Watch out for "Online and Unprotected", a special programme on the hazards of social media to be aired on RTE 1 Television tonight (Thursday) at 9-35pm (parents viewing only)

#### New members of staff

We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Una Cunningham and Miss Grace Gannon, two new teachers on the staff since last Monday. We also welcome Ms Katie O' Connor as Sports Facilitator for the year and Mr. Philip O' Neill as I.T. Expert.

We hope all four of our new members of staff really enjoy their time in our school.

## **Sports**

### **The Be Active Club**

The Be Active Club for second class girls has run very successfully since the beginning of October. It will conclude next Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and will continue on the second Monday back after the Christmas holidays, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Mrs Anne Mc Kenna and Mrs Bernie Farrell for facilitating this programme with Mrs Rooney. Special thanks also to all the parents who have assisted us. We very much appreciate their help and support. They are Pauline Fitzpatrick, Patricia Mc Elwain, Tomasz Przybylski, Breedge Sweeney, Gitana Rupkuvienė and Gemma Mahony

### **Basketball Lessons**

Basketball is continuing each Monday in St. Louis Secondary School for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls. Thanks very much to Mrs Tina Mc Kenna who is supervising the lessons facilitated by Transition Year students. Basketball will finish next Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> until after the Christmas holidays.



## **Maths Challenge**

The Maths Challenge goes out to all students every Tuesday and is being very much enjoyed by all the classes. Everyone is making a huge effort to solve the problems and to gain points for their class. Special thanks to Ms Mullen for her work with this project. A photograph of all the prize-winners will be published before Christmas. Well done to the following girls who have won points for their class since the Challenge began: Alannah Myers, Hazel Mc Morrow, Denisa Novac, Chloë Sweeney, Bella Mahony, Aimee Peppard, Chimene Ferreira, Mariah Otsalt, Anastasia Boboc and Niamh Flynn

## **Department of Children and Youth Affairs Project**

Congratulations to Millie-Rose Keenan Mc Cleary from third class and Lara Mc Caghey from fifth class who are both involved in the recruitment of the new Ombudsman for Children. Both girls are very privileged to be working at this level which gives them the opportunity to show case their special talents. Thanks very much to the girls' parents who are supporting this on-going project and travelling to Dublin with the girls to meetings and training days.

## **Choir Events**

### **The Harlem Gospel Choir Event**

What a wonderful night was had by all in the Garage Theatre on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> when the fifth classes supported the famous choir and had the opportunity to sing and dance with them later in the night. Congratulations to Mrs Mc Geown who conducted the choir and to Mrs Toal who did so much of the background organisation. We simply rocked the night away and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves! A big thank you to the very large number of parents who attended on the night.

### **The Big Switch On**

Congratulations to Mrs Gallagher and the fifth classes who entertained the crowds in Monaghan Town last Sunday for the turning on of the Christmas lights. The girls sang their hearts out and really impressed the crowd.

### **Hallelujah Choir**

Very well done to all the sixth class girls who travelled to take part in the Hallelujah Concert yesterday. They were excellently behaved and sang really well. Special thanks to Mrs Farrell, Mrs Mc Geown, Mrs Healy, Mrs Dowd and Ms Morrow who accompanied the girls and to all the parents who attended the concert and came to collect the girls at such a late hour! We really appreciate it.

### **Science Events and the Museum**

Thanks very much to Mrs Róisín Treanor for organising the visits of Merlin the Magician and The Mad Professor on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> which all the classes really enjoyed. Thanks also to Mrs Treanor for the co-ordination of Museum visits which the girls have learned so much from since September.

### **Recycling Collection**

Please clear out your house for Christmas this weekend by bringing your clothes and shoes for recycling to the school on Monday. We are having another recycling collection for school funds. Thank you very much for your support of the last collection which made us €81 for the school.

### **Do This in Memory Mass**

Please remember the Do This in Memory Mass for the children receiving their First Holy Communion which takes place next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, in St. Macar-tan's Cathedral at 10-30am

### **Action Team Partnership**

The partnership has met on three occasions since Sep-tember and is supporting the work of the school plan in the areas of Oral Language, Mental Maths, the Anti-Bullying Campaign and ensuring that the school is a welcoming place. The people involved will complete the plan for this year at next Monday's meeting and this plan will be included in the next newsletter



### **Junior Achievement**

Mrs Coyle's 6<sup>th</sup> class enjoyed a day of Science experi-ments and fun in Corcaghan Hall on Tuesday, Novem-ber 11<sup>th</sup>. They were presented with their certificates by Mrs Rooney at a special assembly last Thursday.

### **Rainbows Programme**

A Rainbows class for those children dealing with family separations will begin after Christmas. For more information, please make an appointment to meet with Mrs Rooney.

### **Monaghan Mental Health**

Congratulations to the following girls who won awards in the Mental Health Poetry and Writing Competition:

Merit Winners: Kellie Mc Carron, Molly Cawley, Aleksandra Woznica, Alicia Nmezi, Megija Kulite & Niamh Flynn

Highly Commended: Amanda Smarkova, Rose MC Enaney, Natalia Badawika, Lara Mc Caughey, Hayley Mc Quaid & Hazel Mc Morrow

These girls attended a special presentation evening in the Westenra on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> with their families. Lara read on behalf of the school and Alicia was interviewed by Northern Sound. Maith sibh go léir a chailíní

### **Holidays**

Dates for your diary:-

Recycling Centre—**Wednesday 8th December**

"Silly Tie" Day—**Friday 12th December**

Acrobatics Display—**Thursday 18th December (more details to follow)**

Carol Singing in Flemings for fifth classes—**Thursday 18th December**

We will also be in contact next week about our St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Collection

**Christmas Break**— School will close on **Friday 19th December** and re-open on **Monday 5th January**

To keep up with all our news, events and activities, log onto our website at [www.stlouisgns.ie](http://www.stlouisgns.ie)