

# St. Louis G.N.S.

January 2016 Vol 4



## Website

To stay in touch with our news, events and activities, log onto the **school's website at**

**[www.stlouisgns.ie](http://www.stlouisgns.ie)**

There are great  
Educational and  
Fun Resources  
in our Learning Zone

## *Happy New Year to you all!*

### Christmas in St. Louis G.N.S.

As always, we had a wonderful pre-Christmas season, with great excitement and activity in the school. We would like to say a very sincere thank you to all our parents for the marvellous support you showed for our Christmas events. Thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class parents who turned out in such great numbers for our Christmas Concert, to all those who sent in food parcels for our Food Appeal, to those who went to Flemings to watch our 5<sup>th</sup> class choir sing and to those who gave donations on the day. We raised a total of €270, which together with the food collected, was presented to the St. Vincent de Paul Society on the day of the holidays.

We had a lovely carol service in the hall on the afternoon of December 21<sup>st</sup>. A group of ten girls, one from every class, performed a little Nativity drama, while the whole school joined in the singing. Our festivities finished up on the morning of the holidays with a visit from Santa who was sporting a brand-new suit!

## Maths Websites

As Problem Solving in Maths is one of our focus areas in our School Improvement Plan this year, we would like to recommend the following websites for you and your child to explore:

[www.mangahigh.com](http://www.mangahigh.com)

[www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk)

[www.drmaths.co.uk](http://www.drmaths.co.uk)

[www.mathwire.com/games](http://www.mathwire.com/games)

[www.haveyougotmathseyes.com](http://www.haveyougotmathseyes.com)

[www.fun4thebrain](http://www.fun4thebrain)

[www.mathsisfun.com](http://www.mathsisfun.com)



## Cake Sale

The Parents' Association are holding their Annual Cake Sale on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. If you are in a position to sponsor a prize for the Cake Sale raffle, particularly if you are in business, we would very much appreciate it. Please contact Tracey about this as soon as possible. Please send in to the office any unwanted gifts or good -as- new toys **only** to sell to the children on the day. Finally, the members of the Parents' Association need help on the evening before the Cake Sale to set up and also on the day itself. If you are available, please give Tracey a call.

## Enrolment for September

St. Louis Infant school are enrolling new pupils all this week and their open day was today.

We will be enrolling into second class next week (Please let your friends and relations who have girls in first class know). If you have a daughter in first class, she will have an enrolment form home on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to be returned by Friday 29<sup>th</sup>.

St. Mary's Boys' School are also enrolling into second class at the moment.

## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February**—Cake Sale

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb**—Peace Proms Event, RDS, Dublin

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb**—Photographer coming to the school

**Thursday and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February**—Mid - Term Break

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April**—First Holy Communion

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** - Confirmation

## Debating

Our 6<sup>th</sup> class debating team had their third and final debate in Monaghan Education Centre on Friday last, 15<sup>th</sup> January. This time the girls faced a team from Urbleshanny to oppose the motion that "Children know how to use the internet safely." In what proved to be a very close argument, with both teams debating to a high standard, St. Louis lost out by a narrow margin. This competition has been a wonderful experience for our girls and the improvement in their public speaking skills since their first debate is very evident. Well done to the team and to their teachers, Mrs Coyle and Ms. Holland. Team members are: Lara McCaughey, Mia Flynn, Grania Curran, Claragh McDermott, Ciona Barry and Rebecca Kearney.

## **Handball**

Congratulations to Juste Audiejaityte, 5<sup>th</sup> class, who has made it through to the Ulster Finals of the Schools' Handball Competition. Juste and Karolina Kaklauskaitė, 6<sup>th</sup> class, will also take part in the Cumann na mBunscol Handball Competition on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>, January, representing our school in the Under 13's Doubles Section. Best of luck girls!

## **Peace Proms Practice**

We are extremely proud of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls who travelled to Swords, Dublin, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January to attend a practice for the upcoming Peace Proms Concert. The conductor singled them out from among all the schools present to praise them for their singing and their dance moves! Thanks to their teachers: Mrs McGeown, Mrs Toal, Mrs Coyle and Ms. Holland for preparing them so well for this event. Thanks too to Mrs Dowd for accompanying them on the day. The actual Peace Proms Concert takes place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February and we look forward to seeing some of you there.

## **Student Council**

The student council meet with Mrs Farrell to develop various ideas that might support the work being done in the school. In order to ensure that we have more pupil-generated content on our school website, they are currently running a poetry competition. One winner will be selected from each of the ten classes and the ten winning poems will then be published on the website. The winners' names will appear in next month's newsletter.

The council are also looking at ideas for our next oral language month in February. So far they would like to have an Open Mic Assembly and promote eye contact among pupils when speaking to others.

## **Food Dudes—Health Promoting Schools**

We are delighted to announce that our school has been asked to take part in the Bord Bia run "Food Dudes" project. As this involves educating our pupils about the importance of fruit and vegetables in their daily diet, it will help to enhance our Healthy Eating Policy and assist us on the road to gaining our Health Promoting Schools' Flag. The children will get the opportunity to taste various types of fruit and veg, which will be delivered to the school on 8 different days. They will also be shown short DVDs which highlight the importance of these foods in a fun-filled, child-friendly way. Mrs Treanor and Ms. Brady from the Health Promoting Schools' Committee will help to co-ordinate this project within the school.

## **Basketball**



Basketball lessons for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils continue as usual on Thursday evenings, facilitated by St. Louis Secondary TY students and supervised by Mrs Cunningham and Ms. Holland. We will soon be selecting a squad of girls to represent the school at a Primary Schools' Basketball Blitz to be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Miss McNally will co-ordinate the preparation for this event.

## **Table Quizzes.**

The Annual Credit Union Table Quiz takes place on **Friday, 29th January** in The Hillgrove Hotel. Our selected teams are working very hard to prepare for this special event under the guidance of Mrs Gallagher. The Cumann na mBunscol Table Quiz will be held the following Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

## **Active Flag Committee**

The student committee members are continuing to work with Mrs. Hannon to promote playground games. They leave out hula-hoops and Giant Connect 4 games in the yard everyday and they have circulated a list of playground games to every class. They are also organising a hula-hoop competition for all our classes.

The adult committee has organised a series of Active Days to be run over the coming months. These will be facilitated by Miss McNally.

## **Action Team Partnership**

The adult committee met on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January and outlined their goals for this term.



**Curricular:** Maths Problem-Solving- a booklet containing the language of problems will be designed and sent to all our families.

**SPHE**- a short descriptor explaining what is covered in this subject area will be included in one of our newsletters

**Behavioural:** Healthy Eating- a healthy recipe for dinner/lunch will be included in every newsletter from next month on.

**Fit for Feb**—an initiative to encourage more physical activity in the playground e.g. dancing and children being taught games that can be played without equipment or cost.