

St. Louis G.N.S.



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Website

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Important Dates to remember:

The school closes this **Tuesday 28th June at 12-25pm** for the summer holidays and will re-open for the students on **Thursday, September 1st**.

The school office will be closed on **Wednesday June 26th** but will be open from 9-30am to 2-00pm on **Thursday 30th and Friday 1st July** and again from **Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th July**.

It will then close for the summer and the office will re-open on **Friday August 26th**

A Word of Thanks

Thanks very sincerely to the members of the Board of Management and the Parents' Association for their wonderful support, guidance and assistance over the course of this school year. On Wednesday June 22nd, the BOM and the Parents' Association had a short meeting together to review the Child Protection Policy and to receive the School Self-Evaluation Report. Mr. Packie Mc Adam thanked the members of the Parents' Association for their consistent support of the school throughout the year. Refreshments were served and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Sixth Class Graduation

We said farewell to our wonderful 6th class pupils on Thursday, June 16th at their special graduation ceremony. The sixth class teachers, Mrs Coyle and Miss Holland prepared a very special evening for us all. The girls presented a beautiful Prayer Service and four very professionally performed songs. They were each presented with a graduation scroll to keep as a memoir of their time in our school. They will also receive a customised auto-graph book and pen before they leave. A special thank you to our Chaplain, Fr. Stephen Joyce and the very large number of parents who attended on the night, to Mrs Patricia Mc Elwain, Mrs Eneli Otsalt and Mrs Dowd who helped serve the tea and to all the staff members who helped out in so many ways to make this event as special as it was. Thanks also to Ms Mullen, Mrs Dunlop and to our caretaker Stephen for all their assistance. We would like to wish our sixth class girls every success and happiness in their new schools in September, and to thank them all for the great contribution they have made to our school over the years since second class and the special memories they have created for the entire school community.



1916 Commemoration in Áras an Uachtaráin

On Wednesday, June 17th, two of our students, together with a past pupil and Mrs Bernie Farrell, travelled to Áras an Uachtaráin to take part in a special ceremony of commemoration to remember the 40 children who died during the Easter Rising of 1916. The invitation to the ceremony arose from the school's participation last year in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs' consultation entitled: "Children Seen and Heard, 1916-2016." Four of our girls took part in the original consultation: Katie Anne McQuaid, (then in 6th class and now a pupil at Beech Hill College), Natalia Badawika, Eve McNally and Hannah Sheridan. All four were thrilled to receive invites to the Áras, though unfortunately Natalia was unable to attend on the day.

We joined with over 200 children and young people from all over Ireland for the historical occasion. The back lawn of the Áras was transformed into a children's playground with traditional games and toys, including a merry-go-round and wooden go-karts. President Higgins and his wife, Sabina, mingled freely with the crowd, chatting and posing for photographs. Following a sumptuous lunch in the marquee, where R.T.E. broadcaster, Joe Duffy, acted as compere for the proceedings, President Higgins delivered a powerful speech. This was followed by a procession of 40 lanterns, one of which was carried by Hannah Sheridan, to represent each of the children who died. As part of the event, children presented a report to Minister for Children, Katherine Zappone, outlining the findings from last year's consultations, including their vision for Ireland in the future. The event concluded with the burial of a time capsule, containing a copy of the report and a tree-planting ceremony.

We had a wonderful and truly memorable day!



Activities

Active Week 2016

The Active Flag Committee has succeeded in renewing our Active Flag for another three years! Following the visit of an assessor on Monday, June 20th, the school was again granted the status of being an Active School and received a new certificate and flag which is valid until 2019. The staff and pupils gathered on the front lawn on Friday afternoon to watch Ciona Barry and Tabatunzie Alexis, the two 6th class representatives on the Active Flag Committee, proudly raise the new flag. Great credit is due to the members of the Active Flag Committee, who have worked tirelessly this year, organising all sorts of physical activities and sports for the pupils of the school.

Led by Mrs Hannon and Miss O' Reilly, the Active Flag Committee organised an Active Week which ran from May 30th to June 2nd. This was a four day week of fun physical activities, culminating in a Sports Day and Active Assembly, which proved to be tremendously popular with all our pupils. On Monday and Tuesday we had the finals of our skipping competition, orienteering lessons and "Walk a mile with a smile" which involved all the classes going on the Greenway Walk with their teachers. We also had sessions of "DEAD" - Drop Everything and Dance, which the children absolutely loved. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly Sports Day. This was held on Thursday morning and was organised in a series of nine stations including a bouncy castle, disco, soccer skills, "Go Noodle" dance, basketball, hula-hooping, javelin throwing and of course the traditional long jump and sack/egg and spoon races. We are very grateful to John Crudden of the FAI who provided coaches to man the two soccer stations.

Later, on Thursday afternoon, the whole school gathered in the P.E. hall for a special Active Assembly. This was an opportunity for our pupils to remember and to celebrate all their achievements in the areas of physical education and activities over the past year.



Tennis

The six week tennis coaching sessions ended a few weeks ago. All classes from third to sixth loved the lessons. Thanks very much to Gary Rodriguez for sharing his expertise and being a really good coach.



Swimming

Swimming lessons ended last week for the second classes. Thanks to Monaghan's Coral Leisure Centre for their co-operation with the school. Special thanks also to Mr. Norman Griffin who delivered a Water Safety talk to the second classes on Friday 17th June.



National Bike Week Art Competition Winners

Congratulations to Amanda Smarkova and Emma Cooney, 5th class, who won 1st and 2nd place respectively in Monaghan County Library's Art Competition, held to mark National Bike Week 2016.



Reading Recovery



Congratulations to Ms O' Reilly on the successful completion of another year of the Reading Recovery Programme. A special thank you to Mrs Gallagher for her help with Ms O' Reilly's class during the year.

The Athletics Squad

The Athletics Squad took part in the County Athletics event on Friday 10th June in the Peace Links in Clones. Despite the relentless rain, the girls put in a strong performance, bagging five medals in total. Special thanks to Mrs Treanor, Ms Brady and Mrs Flynn for their hard work in preparing the squad and to all the parents who attended on the night. Team Members were: Gloria & Ernesta Marut, Emilia Zadlo, Jessie Cleary Keenan, Daisy Walker, Millie-Rose Cleary Keenan, Niamh Mc Elwain, Jessica Mc Donnell, Demi Mc Cann, Rhian Ronaghan, Jessica Leane, Leah Danh, Ciona Barry, Aoife Mc Skeane, Laoise Ronaghan and Atlanta Mc Elvaney.



Retirement

We bid farewell to a cherished colleague, Mrs Fionnuala Toal, who is retiring from teaching this year. Mrs Toal has been a member of our teaching staff for the past 13 years and will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike for her warm personality and keen wit. She showed total commitment and dedication to her profession and had always a genuine concern for and interest in each and every pupil in her care.

Mrs Toal is blessed with the gift of creativity and a love of literature. She introduced her students to a variety of poets, authors and artists and helped them bring their own creative talents to the fore, striving at all times to achieve the highest standards possible.

We wish her a retirement of happiness, good health and lots of good times and we thank her sincerely for her very significant contribution to the education of the pupils in our school

Anti-Bullying Week

Our Anti-Bullying Week was held during the first week of June. The children took part in a variety of classroom activities which they showcased in a special assembly held on Friday 10th. 2nd class recited a poem, 3rd class led the whole school through a Loving Kindness Mindfulness Meditation, 4th class sang songs which they composed themselves, 5th class displayed and explained their artwork, while 6th class entertained the entire school with two anti-bullying dramas. The staff members are very grateful to Family Home Liaison Officer, David McCague, for assisting with the week's activities and for facilitating Anti-Cyber Bullying Workshops in the classrooms.

DCYA Event

Four St. Louis pupils travelled to Dublin on 27th May to take part in a Department of Children and Youth Affairs' consultation on after-school care. The girls: Emma McCann, Willow Fitzpatrick, Guste Vasiliauskaite, Natalia Smietana and Emma Cadden-Boyle were accompanied on the trip by Mrs Mc. Geown and Mrs Cunningham. They thoroughly enjoyed the day-long workshop and took in a few of the historical sights of Dublin, including the GPO, on their walk back to the bus stop!

School Self-Evaluation Report 2015/2016

A Self-Evaluation Report was presented to the BOM and the Parents' Association on Wednesday, June 22nd 2016

The following is a summary of the report:

St. Louis GNS has strengths in the following:

- Pastoral Care
- Collegiality and Relationships
- Staff Collaboration
- Dedication to the highest possible quality of teaching and learning
- Significant Improvements in Maths and Spelling results
- Increased awareness and involvement in Active events following the renewal of the Active Flag
- Significant Improvement of awareness and ability in Oral Language
- Definite improvement in Reading, both vocabulary & comprehension
- Increased awareness of the importance of healthy eating with full implementation of the new Healthy Eating Policy,

The following areas are prioritised for further improvement:

- ◆ Problem Solving in Maths
- ◆ Reading in Literacy
- ◆ SPHE– focus on mental health

The School has examined the Legislative and Regulatory Requirements and are pleased to state that we are compliant with all of the requirements.