

St. Louis GNS

May 2017 Vol. 8



Dates for your Diary

Service of Light for Confirmation - Thurs. 18th May

Confirmation - Sat. 20th May at 11am

School Closed - Monday 22nd May (Teacher In-Service on New Language Curriculum)

School Closed - Mon. 5th June (Bank Holiday)

Open Evening for new 2nd classes - Thursday 8th June

6th Class Graduation - Thursday 15th June

School closes for summer - Tuesday 27th June (half day - 12.30)

Sponsored Walk

Our Parents' Association held its Annual Sponsored Walk on Friday 7th April, the day of the Easter holidays. Proceedings began at 12.30pm when we all gathered in the front playground, clad in our high-vis jackets and ready for the off. We were delighted to be joined by some parents and family members of the children. We followed a similar route to last year, but because we'd been absolutely blessed with glorious sunshine, we extended the walk a little to include more of the Greenway. On arrival back at the school, each girl received a bag of goodies and the winners of the Sponsored Walk Colouring Competition were announced. There were 3 winners in every class, making a total of 27 and each was presented with an Easter Egg from the members of the Parents' Association.



Great praise is due to all the members of the PA for their excellent organisation of the event. Thanks also to the parents and relatives who came out and joined us on the day. We are very grateful too to all those who supported us financially by sponsoring the children and helping us to realise a grand total of €2,200! Well done to all concerned!

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our second class girls who made their First Holy Communion last Saturday, April 29th. The girls were excellent on the day and everyone was very proud of them. Special thanks to Ms Anne Brady and Ms Úna O'Reilly for all their hard work in preparing for this ceremony, which was beautifully conducted by Fr. Stephen Duffy. Thanks also to Fr. Paddy McGinn and Ms Claudine Marron for their support and assistance and to Mrs Anne Healy for her wonderful floral arrangements. Well done to Mrs Gallagher and the girls from 4th and 5th class who sang beautifully in the choir and thanks to Mrs Hannon for her assistance on the day. We are very grateful too to Mr. Gerard Toal who is always on hand to provide the instrumental music and to the members of the Parents Association, Mrs Claire Sheridan and Mrs Nora Devine for distributing leaflets and Mrs Patricia McElwain who acted as Eucharistic Minister with Mrs Linda Fitzgerald. The whole occasion will be a most memorable one for the girls and their families.



Literacy Lift-Off

This initiative, which involves six weeks of intensive station teaching for literacy, has been completed in both second classes, in Mrs Cunningham's 4th and is now underway in Miss McNally's 3rd. We gratefully acknowledge the work of Mrs Flynn and our Special Education Team who support the class teachers in implementing this initiative.



Standardised Tests

Testing will take place on Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th May. It is really important that your daughter is in attendance on these days to complete all her Standardised Testing as requested by the Department of Education and Skills.

Reading Initiative with St. Louis Infants' School

Our 6th classes have just completed a Paired Reading Initiative with the first classes in the Infant School.. Every Tuesday morning, for 5 weeks, the 6th class girls went into the Infant classrooms to work with their "reading buddies." This has proven to be a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for our girls and we are assured that the First Classes just love it! Many thanks to Miss Louise Corr from the Infant School staff for inviting us to take part in this project.



Sports

FAI 5-Aside Tournament

Congratulations to our soccer squad who took part in an FAI 5-Aside Tournament held in Gortakeegan. The girls progressed from the first round on Wednesday 5th April to take part in the Ulster Finals on Wednesday 3rd May. Many thanks to Paul McGeown for giving of his time to train the squad and to Mrs Mc Geown & Ms Flynn for accompanying them. Squad members are: Ailbhe Ward, Orla Sherry, Orlaith McNally, Jessica Leane, Kelly Croarkin, Kelly Reilly, Molly Cawley, Caitlin Finnegan, Aoife Mc Skeane and Mia Doran.



Tennis

Gary Rodriguez is currently taking all classes from 3rd to 6th for tennis lessons for 6 weeks until the end of May. Please remember to send in a euro each week or you may pay in bulk if you wish.



Athletic Trials

Ms Brady and Mrs Hannon are currently running trials to select a team for the Primary Schools track and Field Competition which will be held in the Peace Link, Clones on Monday 12th June. The selection should be completed soon and training will then start with the squad.

Easter Assembly

On Thursday 6th April Mrs McGeown's 5th class presented a beautiful Easter assembly for the whole school. They dramatised the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday using a variety of narration, mime and music. It was a very reverent performance which delivered the Easter message clearly to us all.



Credit Union Easter Competitions

Congratulations to Molly Cawley, 6th class, who won a prize in the Credit Union Easter Poetry Competition and to Wiktoria Obara, 2nd class, who was also a prize winner in the Colouring Competition for junior classes.

Museum History Competition Well done to three pupils: Aoife Devlin, 4th class, Sarah Gormley 5th class and Georgina McKenna, also 5th class, who won 3rd place prizes in Monaghan County Museum's History Competition. The girls had to write stories based on events in either World War 1 or the 1916 Rising inspired by recent exhibitions in the museum.. They attended a special awards' ceremony in the museum last Friday.

Friends for Life

This special programme is currently being rolled out in our sixth classes, facilitated by Mrs Coyle. The programme is a school based positive mental health programme that promotes emotional resilience and reduces anxiety in children and adolescents. It is the only anxiety prevention programme acknowledged by the World Health Organisation.



Parents Plus Course

A free 6 week Parenting Programme is currently running for the parents of our pupils, on Wednesday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon. This course is aimed at promoting confidence, learning and positive behaviour in children aged 6-12 years and is facilitated by David Mc Cague and Jannette Pun. For more information, contact David on 0879075785.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is being held this week from 2nd-5th May. Each class has chosen a particular item from the Action Team Partnership's list of activities. The children showcased these activities in a special assembly held this afternoon to which the ATP Adult Committee was invited. 2nd & 4th classes sang songs, 3rd class led the whole school through a Mindfulness Meditation, 5th class displayed and explained their artwork and performed a rap while 6th class entertained us with two dramas and showed us their lovely poster work. The staff members are very grateful to Family Home Liaison Officer, David Mc Cague, for facilitating Anti-Cyber Bullying Workshops in the classrooms.

Committee News

Active Flag Committee



Mrs Hannon and the members of the Active Flag Committee are currently running a Handball League in the school with all classes taking part. Such is the interest in handball amongst our girls, that we are looking into the possibility of building a handball wall in the playground. The Parents' Association and Board of Management have pledged their support for this endeavour.

Student Council News

The student council has met with Mrs Farrell to plan their activities for the last term. The girls have decided to work on their own newsletter which will include articles about what they have been learning this year as well as puzzles, jokes and word searches for all to enjoy. They recently presented worry boxes to all our classes which were purchased with generous funding from the Parents' Association.



Website

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



Action Team Partnership Update

The ATP committee has been busily planning its targets for this term: The committee drafted a list of ideas for Anti-Bullying Week from which the teachers could choose for their classes. David McCague, Family School Liaison Officer, will run another Punctuality Drive this month with the help of the student committee. It is also hoped that we will have dancing to music in the playground later in the term as this proved to be very popular with our girls last year.

Health Promoting Schools' Committee

During the months of March and April, the HPS committee members helped to make and distribute porridge for all our classes to taste. This was to raise awareness of the importance of eating a healthy breakfast. Mrs Treanor and Ms. Brady have compiled all the data relating to the work of the committee over the past two years and this has been passed on to the HSE for accreditation. We hope to raise our new Healthy Schools' Flag in the month of June.

Apology

In our March Newsletter we omitted to mention Leah Ward, 3rd class as a prize winner in the Handball Competition.

Tradition Packed Lunch (Healthy recipes courtesy of the ATP Committee)

Fruit

Apple/orange/banana/pear/peach
Two plums/mandarins/kiwis
Handful of grapes/strawberries/blackberries
Any other fruit

Bread

Wholemeal or high-fibre bread
Brown/white soda bread
Brown/white bread
French stick
Pitta bread
Scones

Fillings

Tuna and Sweetcorn
Cold chicken mashed in natural yogurt and cucumber
Sliced ham and tomato sauce and lettuce
Hard boiled eggs mixed with onion in natural yoghurt and lettuce
Curried tuna and lettuce
Grated low-fat cheese with tomato and lettuce
Peanut butter and banana
Sliced Beef

Drinks

Water
Milk
Yoghurt
*Fruit Juice
Homemade Soup
* Should only be taken with meals due to the high sugar content

Alternative Suggestions

Salad Box
Pasta Dishes
Chicken and salad
Cream crackers and low fat cheese