

# St. Louis G.N.S.

December 2015 Vol 3



## Website

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

**www.stlouisgns.ie**

There are great

Educational and

Fun Resources

in our Learning Zone



## Launch of the Healthy Eating Policy:

Our Health Promoting Schools' Committee has been working hard on the development of our new Healthy Eating Policy. The policy was approved by the HSE nutritionist, the staff, the parents and the Board of Management and is now being implemented. On Friday 13th November, the pupils and staff gathered in the school hall for our in-school launch of the policy. The members of the HPS committee, guided by Ms. Brady and Mrs Treanor, prepared a short presentation to explain the policy to all our pupils. The committee members are: Daisy Walker, 3rd class, Rhiain Ronaghan, 4th class, Orlaith McNally 5th class, Grania Curran and Gabija Ragaliauskyte, 6th class. Well done to them all for their hard work and dedication. Thanks also to our Action Team Partnership Committee for supporting the work of the HPS Committee. The members, with the help of the HSE, have devised a set of healthy eating lunch menus, the first of which was sent home last week.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Our Parent Teacher Meetings will be held tomorrow, December 3rd from 2.30pm to 6pm and at other selected times during the week. We look forward to meeting you all and updating you on your daughter's progress.

## Charity Fundraiser

Last Friday, four of our 6th class girls made a presentation of €400 on behalf of the school to Sinead McKenna of the **Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**. The €400 had been raised by our pupils in a charity fundraiser initiative held on the day of the Halloween Holidays. All our girls brought in €2 each and enjoyed an afternoon of fun, watching a DVD or playing board games. Sinead brought along, Maddie, one of the dogs who is currently being looked after at the Monaghan Shelter. Maddie proved to be a huge hit with all our pupils! Many thanks to Mrs Gallagher for organising this fundraiser and to the four girls, who designed posters to advertise the event: Atlanta Mc Elvaney, Gabija Ragaliauskyte, Alicia Nmezi and Natalia Gancarz.



## Parents' Association

The Parents' Association will have a meeting on **Tuesday next, 8th November at 8.30pm**. We would be very grateful if you would consider joining the Association. The members are looking for parents from all year groups, but especially parents of children in 2nd class as they have no representation for our new seconds. The committee meets once per month and has two main fundraisers per year: the Cake Sale at the start of February and the Sponsored Walk after Easter.



## The Big Switch On

All roads led to Monaghan Town on Sunday 22nd November for the annual Switch On of the Christmas Lights. As is now a school tradition, our 5th class choir, under the guidance of conductor, Mrs Gallagher, took to the stage to perform a medley of Christmas carols and songs. The girls, who gave a wonderful performance, were accompanied on guitar by Mrs Cunningham.

Congratulations are due also to our fantastic team of teachers who ran a highly successful Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate Stall on the day. A special word of thanks to Ms. Mullen and Mrs McGeown for all their advance planning and preparation for this fund-raising initiative. Thanks too to our Family-School Liaison Officer, David McCague who helped out for the entire day. We are very grateful to all the parents and members of the public who bought hot beverages to support us and helped us make over €500 for the school.



The staff of the school would like to thank our sponsors for the occasion: The Westenra Hotel, Beechvale Water, The Town of Monaghan Creamery, An Poc Fada, EUCU, Monaghan Education Centre, Gilmores Cash and Carry, Mc Donalds & The Big Switch On Committee

## Sports



### Be Active

The Be Active Club for second class girls has run very successfully since the beginning of October. It will conclude for Christmas on Monday week, December 14<sup>th</sup> and will resume on the first Monday back after the Christmas holidays, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Mrs Margaret Hannon and Ms. Rachel McNally for facilitating this programme with Mrs Farrell.

### Basketball

Basketball is continuing each Thursday in St. Louis Secondary School for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class girls. Thanks very much to Mrs Una Cunningham and Ms. Rosemary Holland who are supervising the lessons, facilitated by Transition Year students. Basketball will finish on Thursday December 10th until after the Christmas holidays.

### Gaelic Lessons

We are very grateful to Anne McKenna of Monaghan GAA who is currently facilitating six weeks of Gaelic Football lessons with a number of our classes.

### Handball

Congratulations to Karolina Kaklauskaitė, 6<sup>th</sup> class and Juste Audiejaitė, 5<sup>th</sup> class who won all their handball matches in last weekend's Schools' Competition. The girls will now progress to the County Finals.

### Swimming

Very well done to all our girls who took part in the Schools' Swimming Gala in Monaghan Leisure Centre on Sunday 29th November where a number of them won certificates and medals. The squad included: Cíona Barry, Mia Flynn, Sophie Mallon, Lara Mc Caughey & Hannah Sheridan

### Punctuality Drive

We are very grateful to our Family-School Liaison Officer, Mr. David McCague who organised a "Punctuality Drive" during the month of November. This initiative helped to raise awareness of the importance of punctuality and to encourage our pupils to come to school on time. He was assisted by the 6th class girls on the Action Team Partnership Committee, Anna Mallen and Sophie Mallen.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup>, in St. Macartan's Cathedral. Please gather in the Cathedral Baptistry at 10.20am for mass at 10.30am

### Advent Assembly

Congratulations to Mrs Toal and her 5<sup>th</sup> class on a wonderful Advent Assembly which they presented to the school on Friday last. The girls explained all about the Advent Wreath and how Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.



### Literacy Lift Off

This very successful initiative finished in Ms O' Reilly's second class at Halloween. Thanks very much to Ms O' Reilly for working on this with her class, to Mrs Flynn for co-ordinating the project and to Mrs McKenna & Mrs Dunlop for their assistance. The project has now moved to Ms Brady's 2nd class and will continue until the Christmas break.

### Debating

Our 6th Class girls are taking part in Concern's Primary Debating Competition. This involves 3 debates in the first round. The girls had their first debate against a team from Threemilehouse on Wednesday 25th November. Although they lost this debate they acquitted themselves extremely well and gained valuable experience which they will carry forward to their next two debates. Our panel of debaters include Grania Curran, Lara Mc Caughey, Claragh McDermott, Mia Kierans Flynn, Rebecca Kearney & Cíona Barry. Thanks to Mrs Coyle and Ms Holland for preparing the team.

### Sympathy

Sincere sympathy to Mrs Róisín Treanor and her family on the recent death of her father, Mr. Eddie McGonnell. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

## Competition Winners

### Student Council "Animals" Art Competition



During the month of November the council organised an art competition for the whole school. The theme was "Animals" and entries were invited in both 2D and 3D formats. We had an unprecedented number of entries and the council could not believe the high standard in both the junior and senior sections. Judging such an array of entries was no easy task and the council spent three lunch times deciding on the winners. Great credit is due to all those who took part in the competition.

**Junior 3D**—Kamile Staponkute, Judyta Zwiewka, Niamh Mc Elwain, Madeline Mc Connell, Ernesta & Gloria Marut, Bella Mahony, Aoife & Ella Connolly, Alannah Mc Kenna

**Senior 3D**—Alannah Mc Kenna, Tammy Mc Elwain, Natalia Smietana, Jagoda Skiba, Caitriona Gallagher

**Junior 2D**—Mija Stonyte, Lauren Ward, Anora Matthew, Indre Nazarova

**Senior 2D**—Gabija Ragaliauskyte, Ivona Lebed, Aoibheann Mc Ginnity, Klara Kovalovsky-Kiaurakyte, Samanta Lapina and Claudia Bataityte



### Monaghan Mental Health Essay and Poetry Competition

Congratulations to all our girls who won prizes in this year's Poetry and Essay Competition on the theme "Love your Neighbour". The girls and their parents were invited to a special prize-giving ceremony in the Westenra Hotel on Wednesday, 18th November, at 7.30pm. Winners: 4th Class Mrs. Treanor Merit: Aoife O'Gara Highly Commended: Fausta Lekniute, 5th Mrs. McGeown Merit: Caitlin Finnegan, H.C.: Isabella Zinkova, 5th Mrs. Toal Merit: Eve McNally, H.C.: Ivona Lebed, 6th Mrs. Coyle Merit: Lara McCaughey, H.C.: Emma Cadden-Boyle, 6th Ms. Holland Merit: Alicia Nmezi, H.C.: Rebecca Kearney.

### Credit Union Art Competition



Well done to Juste Neimantaite, 6th class who came third in the Credit Union Art Competition with the theme "Happiness Is....". Juste's entry will now go through to the next round of the competition.

### Health Promoting School Competition



The committee ran a Healthy Eating Poster Competition in recent weeks and on Friday 13th November they announced the winners: 2nd Class: Alexandra Karlaite & Ernesta Marut, 3rd Class: Martyna Rygielska & Aoife Devlin, 4th Class: Victoria Sherry & Victoria Knaginiceve, 5th Class: Faith Bambigboye & Amanda Smarkova, 6th Class: Samanta Lapina & Juste Neimantaite. Very well done to them all.

### Monaghan Shopping Centre's Christmas Colouring Competition

Congratulations to Juste Audiejaityte in Mrs. McGeown's 5th class who was one of six children to win prizes in Monaghan Shopping Centre's Christmas Colouring Competition Juste had the honour of travelling with Santa as he arrived for the Switch on of the Christmas Lights on Sunday 22nd November!

## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December-** Parent/Teacher meetings

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.-** Personal Development Days for 6<sup>th</sup> Classes (Notes to follow next week)

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.-** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Concert at 7.30pm

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.-** 5<sup>th</sup> Class Choir carol singing in Flemings

**Christmas Holidays:** Closing Tuesday December 22nd

**Re-Opening:** Wednesday January 6th