



# St. Louis G.N.S.

October 2015 Vol 2

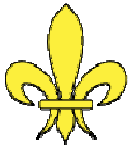


## Website

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



## Receiving the National Flag

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October there was an air of great excitement in our school. This was the day designated by the Department of Education and Skills for the school to be presented with the National Flag, one of the key initiatives of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme for schools. At 1pm we all gathered in the school hall, where Mrs Farrell, welcomed three members of the Defence Forces from Aiken Barracks in Dundalk: Sgt David Mc Carney, Sgt Damien Barry and Pte Shane Long. Several members of the wider school community were also in attendance including School Chaplain, Fr. Stephen Joyce, Chairperson of the BOM, Mr. Packie Mc Adam, members of the Parents' Association and Mrs Anna Mai Rooney, who is currently on secondment.

Proceedings got underway with Sgt Mc Carney giving a short talk on the history, care and custody of the flag. He then read aloud the 1916 Proclamation, helped by 6<sup>th</sup> class pupil, Atlanta Mc Elvaney, who read the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. 5<sup>th</sup> class girls followed with a rousing march, prepared by their Irish dance teacher, Mr. Gerard Mc Quaid. The Defence Force members then presented the National Flag and a copy of the 1916 proclamation to 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils, Natalia Badawika and Ciona Barry.

The whole school sang "Dilín Ó Deamhas", accompanied by Mrs Cunningham on guitar and the visitors were also entertained by some instrumental music, courtesy of Orla Sherry on the fiddle and Eve McNally on flute, while 5<sup>th</sup> class played Inis Oir on the tin whistle. Finally, after a lively question and answer session with the three soldiers, everyone rose for a rendition of "Amhrán na bhFiann." The occasion proved to be a tremendous success and will surely be a memorable one for all our pupils.

## School Mass

On Thursday 15th October, we had a special "St. Louis" mass, marking the opening of a new school year. In honour of the occasion, we invited three St. Louis Sisters who were former members of the staff of our school: Sr. Maura Dempsey, Sr. Máire Cannon, and Sr. Mary Clerkin. We were also joined by Mr. Packie McAdam of the BOM. The celebrant was Fr. Stephen Joyce, our school chaplain.

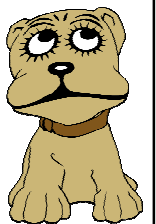
Mrs Cunningham and her 4th class were in charge of the mass preparations and with the assistance of Mrs Gilliland, they planned a beautiful liturgy to reflect our proud St. Louis heritage. For the entrance procession, the girls brought up a variety of St. Louis symbols, including the school crest, the uniform jumper, a timetable from the first St. Louis school on Park Road and the Fleur de Lys. During the prayers of the faithful, we remembered all the Sisters of the St. Louis Order worldwide and thanked God for the marvellous work they have done and continue to do in the field of education.

## Parents' Association

The Parents' Association AGM took place on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Farrell explained the Health Promoting Schools Initiative and launched our new Healthy Eating Policy. Ms. Alexia Treanor from Monaghan Health Centre gave a comprehensive talk on Healthy Lunch Boxes which generated lively discussion among those present. We thank the outgoing Parents' Association officers: Freda Connolly Chairperson, Claire Sheridan Vice Chair, Eneli Otsalt Secretary and Louise Mc Gaughran Treasurer for their tireless work last year and their very significant contribution to the school. The next Parents Association meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 10th at 8.15 pm. New members are very welcome.

## Charity Event

In keeping with school tradition, we are holding a charity event on the day of the Hallowe'en holidays, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and this year our chosen charity is the MSPCA. Each girl is asked to bring in €2 and her class will have a special treat such as a DVD or board games.



## Board of Management

We would like to thank the members of the outgoing Board of Management, in particular the two parent representatives Mrs Anna Marie Woods and Mr Matthew Mc Enaney. We are deeply grateful to them for all their dedication and hard work over the last four years. Our two parent representatives on the new Board 2015-2019 are Mrs Patricia Mc Elwain and Mr Sean Ward

## Holidays during School

We are finding it very difficult to deal with children taking holidays during the school term. Please do not make arrangements to travel with your children during the school term. The children find it very difficult to settle into school on their return and to catch up on what they have been missing. It is school policy not to send work with children on holidays during term as this puts unnecessary pressure on the child and on the teacher when the child returns to school.





### **Gaelic Blitz**



Congratulations to our Gaelic Squad who travelled to Cloghan on Wednesday, 21st Oct to take part in a Gaelic GoGames Blitz. The girls won two out of their three matches, decisively beating both Latton 1 and Rockcorry, while losing out to Latton 2. Thanks to Miss Mc Nally who coached them and travelled with them on the day.

The squad members are Megan Prunty, Grania Curran, Mia Kierans Flynn, Ciona Barry, Orla Sherry, Kelly Croskin, Aoife MC Skeane, Molly Cawley (absent on the day), Jessica Leane, Alibhe Ward, Eve Mc Nally and Chloe Mc Kenna Bell. Well done girls!!

### **DCYA**

Congratulation to Molly Cawley, Aleksandra Woznica, Daisy Walker and Aoibheann Mc Ginnity on being selected to take part in a consultation on the theme "Healthy Lifestyle: have your say" with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This event will take place on November 11th in Dublin.

### **Mindfulness Project**

We are extremely grateful to Monaghan Mental Health Association who have given us the opportunity of 12 weeks mindfulness sessions with our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes. The sessions, will run on Wednesdays and will be facilitated by Julieanne Reel of Mindful Kids Ireland

### **Green Schools' Committee**

Our new Green Schools' Committee has been elected. The members have met with Ms Brady and Mrs Treanor and have been assigned their jobs on a rotational basis. They are Emma Mc Cann, Aiste Ruchlevicuite, Eadaoin Mc Corry, Jessie Cleary Keenan, Niamh Mc Elwain, Mia Butaviciute, Alanna Mc Kenna, Aoife Devlin, Jagoda Skiba, Alanah Mc Kenna, Millie Rose Cleary, Alanna Myers, Orla Sherry, Klara Kovalovsky, Jessica Leane, Evelina Markauskaite, Lauren Sweeney, Alescia Popa, Gabija Visockyte and Alezia Nmezi.

### **Fitness Lessons**

Our 5th and 6th class girls have just completed four weeks of fitness lessons, courtesy of Monaghan Leisure Centre. The lessons were part of the Alcis Project, an initiative promoted by Active Ireland. Two instructors took each class for an hour-long fitness session once a week. The children were supplied with log books where they can record their daily physical activity and there are also follow-up lesson plans which the class teachers can use in their SPHE planning. This was a very successful project and the feedback has been most positive. We are very grateful to Ciarán Murtagh and his instructors for facilitating this wonderful opportunity for our girls.



### **Action Team Partnership**



Yearly Plan 2015/2016

**SPHE** - Support the schools' SPHE focus. The school is ratifying a new Healthy Eating Policy and participating in the Health Promoting Schools. It was decided that the ATP would work with these initiatives in various different areas from lunch boxes to recipes.

**Maths Problem Solving** - Support the school's Problem-Solving Focus. Tables are to be focused on and a book with the tables language will be given to parents.

**Behavioural** - Behaviour In The Playground. The student Committee will conduct a survey with each class group to see what activities they would like in the yard.

**Climate of Partnership Change** – Making the school a more welcoming place. The class groups are going to take one month each to display art work on the tree at the front of the school.

Thanks very much to each and every member of the adult team: David Mc Cague, Anne Healy, Niamh Coyle, Laura Dunlop, Aurelija Miskinyte, Fionnuala Mc Carron, Fiona O' Gara, Maeve Hackett, Tracey Mullen, Bernie Farrell & Anna Mai Rooney. We would like to welcome Mrs. Paula McCorry who has joined the ATP committee this year.

This year's student committee members are Melisa Rutkauskas, Natalia Connolly, Ella Connolly, Ella Lappin, Victoria Sherry, Niamh Mc Guinness, Aoife Mc Skeane, Laura Smyth, Anna Mallen and Sophie Mallen

### **Active Flag Committee**

This will be a busy year for the Active Flag committee members as we have to work to renew our flag. The girls met with Mrs Hannon and together they planned to zone off an area in each of the playgrounds where our pupils can play with hula hoops during lunch break. If this proves to be a success, they will look at introducing other similar activities.

Committee members are: Lauren Ward, Vilte Zakarauskaite, Aoife Connolly, Aoife Fitzgerald, Hannah Sheridan, Toma Zukauskaite, Caitlin Finnegan, Chloe Mc Kenna Bell, Tabatunzie Alexis and Ciona Barry

### **Student Council Initiatives**

The Student Council members have met with Mrs Farrell and have planned some initiatives for the coming months. They hope to run an art competition in November and to provide wet day lunch time activities for the junior classes over the winter. The student Council members are: Mila Junele, Kaitlyn Dearden, Ava Mc Glone, Eliza Naklicka, Aoife O' Gara, Ellie Connolly, Kelly Croakin, Ailbhe Ward, Leah Nguyen Danh and Mia Flynn

### **Health Promoting Schools Report**

Our new healthy eating policy was worked on by the school staff, approved by the HSE nutritionalist and was launched at the Parents' Association AGM. It was sent out to all our families on Monday last and we welcome feedback and comments from you all.

The HSP student committee members are: Daisy Walker, Rhiain Ronaghan, Orlaith Mc Nally, Grania Curran and Gabija Ragaliauskyte

