

St. Louis G.N.S.

September 2015 Vol I



Website

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

www.stlouisgns.ie

Events Planned for this Week

- Swimming starts for the two 6th classes and Mrs Treanor's 3rd/4th class
- Classes are visiting the Museum for a variety of workshops
- The 5th & 6ths will take part in a Fitness Programme (see inside)

Fáilte romhaibh go léir agus muidne ag filleadh ar scoil arís! We welcome you all to the start of another school year in St. Louis Girls' School. Despite the disappointing summer weather, we are thankful for the time we have had to relax, have fun and enjoy the freedom of the holidays.

A very special welcome to the 52 new girls in second class and the four new girls who have joined us in other classes. We hope you will be very happy in our school and that you will enjoy learning, making friends and growing up with us

We extend our best wishes to Mrs Rooney as she takes up her new role with the Centre for School Leadership. No doubt she will approach this challenge with the same energy and enthusiasm that have characterised her time as principal of this school over the past seven years.

Physical Education

In our Physical Education Programme, the children take part in the five strands of the curriculum. They are games, athletics, dance, outdoor activities and swimming. Each class has 6 weeks of swimming lessons in one school year. Each lesson costs €3-50 and this is a compulsory part of the curriculum. The money for the lesson is collected each week by the class teacher. Please encourage your child to attend her swimming lessons as it is very important for children to learn how to swim while still young.

Please do not ask for your child to be excluded from swimming except in exceptional circumstances. Your child's class teacher will inform her which day will be PE day for this year. On PE day, the children wear their tracksuits and ordinary runners.

Please note that converse runners are not allowed.

Homework

Homework is very important to progress learning and to link home and school. Always take the time to help your child with her homework especially her tables, spellings, reading and learning work. As well as hearing your child's reading, try to take the time to read to her or with her every evening. The **Homework Club** runs each week from Monday to Thursday and is a great opportunity for your child to get her homework done early and to get assistance from the supervising teacher if needed. If you would like more information, call Mrs Gallagher on 086-8128946.

Clubs

The **Friday Fun Club** promotes the development of social skills and self-confidence in a fun and relaxed atmosphere through a wide range of activities. The club will begin in late September or early October. Mrs Flynn and Miss O'Reilly will send out information nearer the time.

The **Be Active Club** for second class students will begin on **Monday October 5th from 3-4pm**. This is a free activity for our second classes. Information will be sent out a week in advance and we will be relying on assistance from parents to help us to run this special activity successfully. Please consider helping us if you can.

Details of the **Rainbows Programme** are attached. If you feel your child would benefit from participation in it, simply fill in the attached form and return it to the school office in a sealed envelope. The Rainbows Programme is a completely confidential service for the children who participate in it.

Basketball for fifth and sixth class students will continue in October courtesy of the staff and pupils of St. Louis Secondary School. Dates will be sent out closer to the time.

Some Important School Rules

Punctuality

Please remember that students should arrive at school each morning before 9-00a.m. The security door will close at 9-10a.m. each morning and from that time on, pupils will have to ring the bell to get in. Being late really disrupts the teaching and learning in the classrooms so please try to be on time. Supervision takes place in the PE hall each day from **8-35a.m. to 8-50a.m.** supervised by a member of staff on a rotational basis. The children walk to their classrooms at 8-50a.m. where they are met by their teacher. If your child arrives before 8.35am or is left after 3pm the school is not responsible for them under the terms of our insurance policy.

Attendance

We will continue to work with our Family School Liaison Officer, Mr David Mc Cague and the Educational Welfare Officer Ms Maria Kieran in order to improve the children's attendance records. We will continue to present Awards Certificates each June to ensure excellent attendance. **We ask you not to take your child on holidays during the school year as this is seriously disruptive to their learning.**

If your child is absent from school, please send in a note to her teacher on her return or give the school office a quick call to explain the absence. This is very important as we record each absence on our student management system. Children who miss 20 days or more will be reported to the National Educational Welfare Board. You will be informed when this is necessary and asked to attend a meeting.

Parental Concerns

If you have a query or concern about your child or any aspect of her learning, please make an appointment to meet with her class teacher to discuss the issue. Please remember that the principal only becomes involved if issues remain unresolved. Your child's class teacher together with our Learning Support and Language teachers work with your child every day and are best placed to discuss her with you. If at all possible, please avoid dropping into see the teacher in the morning as class is starting, as this first stage of the day is a very important one for the children's learning. It is important to remember that September is a settling in month which your child will adjust to in her own time as she gets to know her teacher and her teacher gets to know her. However, if you are concerned about any aspect of her schooling, you are more than welcome to make an appointment to meet with us.

Mobile Phones

It is important that you remember the terms of our Mobile Phones Policy. We would ask you not to send a mobile to school with your daughter unless you feel that it is absolutely necessary. The students are not allowed to have their phones during the day. Each phone is handed to the teacher first thing in the morning. They are stored securely during the day and returned before the students go home at 2-45pm. If it is necessary for your daughter to take her phone to school, you must write a note to her teacher informing her that she will have a phone with her this year. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to have a phone in her possession during the school day or to send messages, make calls, go online, access social media sites or take photographs or recordings. Students are not allowed to have their phones switched on during morning supervision or before they leave the school grounds at 2-45pm.

Bullying

We are continuing our Anti-Bullying Campaign again this year, which involves a series of lessons tailored to each individual class. Any form of bullying in the school will be taken very seriously and dealt with according to the School's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. Cyber bullying will be dealt with in the same way. Advice and assistance will be sought from the Home School Liaison Officer and Monaghan Garda Station. An Anti-Bullying Report will be made at each Board of Management Meeting.

Administration of Medication

We are unable to administer any kind of medication without the written consent of parents. If it is necessary for your child to take medication for a short period, you must come into the school office to sign written permission. If your child is in need of long-term medication, there is an application process to the Board of Management which we will be happy to explain to you.

Child Protection Guidelines

St. Louis Girls' School has adopted the Child Protection Guidelines for Primary and Post Primary Schools according to the Department of Education and Skills. All members of staff have received instructions to report any form of abuse to the Designated Liaison Person. The DLP in the school is the principal, Mrs Bernie Farrell and in her absence, Mrs Margaret Hannon, the deputy principal, takes on the role of DLP.

Parents' Association AGM

This will take place on a date to be decided in October in St. Louis GNS. An agenda and more details will follow later.

Parent Workshops

A range of parent workshops will be available to the school in the coming term. They will be hosted by Mr. David Mc Cague Family School Liaison Officer. These workshops will look at;

- Anti-Bullying
- Importance of Parental Involvement in school going children

Details will follow shortly

Text-a-parent

Our text-a-parent service will be in use shortly again. For those of you who are second class parents and new parents to the school, we are asking your permission to use your mobile phone number which has already been supplied to the school for the service. It is a system which enables the school to send messages directly to parents' mobile phones informing them of upcoming events, changes in plans or school emergencies. There is no reply facility to this service. It is simply for information only. It has proven to be an invaluable means of communication between the school and you the parents. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to contact us. If you have any concern about your number being included in this service, please let us know. Please always inform us immediately if you change your telephone or address details.

School Self-Evaluation Report

A Self-Evaluation Report was presented to the BOM and the Parents' Association on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015

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 Improvement in Maths and Spelling results
- Increased awareness and involvement in Active events following the attainment of the Active Flag
- Significant Improvement of awareness and ability in Oral Language

The following areas are prioritised for further improvement:

- Oral Language
- Problem Solving in Maths

- SPHE

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

Coláiste na bhFiann

Coláiste na bhFiann will once again hold its weekly Gaeilge classes in the school hall from 7.30pm to 9pm for children of primary school age. Please drop in to meet with the leader on Wednesday evening if you would like your daughter to take part in this class. Classes will resume in the school hall next **Wednesday 16th september 2015**

Museum Visits

All our classes will visit the museum during the first term. Two classes will also get the opportunity to be present for the launch of the museum's new brochure and the launch of their exhibition on the history of St. Davnet's Hospital "World Within Walls" Watch out for coverage of these two events in the Northern Standard over the coming weeks!

Further visits are planned for later in the year and we extend a special thanks to Mrs Treanor for organising all the museum outings.

Talented Youth Ireland

The Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland, situated in Dublin City University, provides specialised courses for young people with exceptional academic ability in verbal, numerical or abstract reasoning. Children must have a certain level of ability to participate in these courses. For more information, see the Parents' Notice Board at the main door or go online to www.dcu.ie/ctyi. The nearest assessments take place in Letterkenny in November.

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance

Please consider purchasing the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance for your daughter. Cover is provided in the form of a series of benefits, including medical and dental expenses provided they are not recoverable from any other source. This insurance can be claimed as a result of non-culpable accidents. You can choose a premium of **€9** per annum for 24 hour cover or **€6** per annum for school activities only. It is important to point out that this insurance is entirely optional, but it gives you the opportunity to claim for accidents which happen to your child whether during school hours or for the entire day. If you would like further information, it can be found online at www.allianz.ie/schools. Please fill up the attached application form if you wish to avail of this service and send the form and the correct amount of money into the school in an envelope by Friday 25th September.

Fitness Lessons

Monaghan Leisure Centre is taking part in a project for Active Ireland which aims to involve schools in a fitness regime. The two 5th and 6th classes will each receive hour-long fitness lessons in the coming weeks. We are grateful to Ciarán Murtagh of the Leisure Centre for providing this opportunity for our senior girls.

Pupil Online Database

As you are aware by now, the Department has developed an electronic individualised database of primary school pupils, called the Primary Online Database (POD). POD collects individual information on each pupil, including their PPSN. All of our existing pupils enrolled before this academic year have a record of their data on POD. From this year onwards, it is **compulsory** for all newly- enrolled pupils to have a record on POD in order to be counted for the school's capitation payment and teacher allocation purposes.

Staff

Finally we would like to extend a very special welcome to our two new members of staff: Ms Rosemary Holland who is teaching 6th class and Ms Rachel Mc Nally who is teaching 3rd. We also welcome back Mrs Cunningham who has 4th class again this year.

School Holidays and Important Dates

*School Closes for Midterm—Friday, October 23rd and
school reopens Monday, 2nd November*

*School Closing for Christmas Holidays Tuesday, December 22nd
And reopens Wednesday, January 6th School*

Midterm Break—Thursday & Friday, February 18th & 19th

*Easter and St. Patrick's Day, School closes Wednesday March 16th and reopens
Monday, April 4th*

May bank Holiday—Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd of May

June Bank Holiday Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th

Tuesday, June 28th School Closing for Summer Holidays

Staffing Schedule

Principal: Mrs Farrell

Rang II: Ms. Brady & Ms. O' Reilly

Rang III: Ms Mc Nally & Mrs Treanor

Rang IV: Mrs Treanor & Mrs Cunningham

Rang V: Mrs Mc Geown & Mrs Toal

Rang VI: Mrs Coyle & Ms Holland

*Learning Support/Resource/Language: Mrs Gallagher (Assistant Principal),
Mrs Flynn, Mrs Healy,*

Mrs Gilliland & Mrs Hannon (Deputy Principal)

SNA's : Mrs Dowd & Mrs Dunlop

Secretary: Ms. Mullen

Caretaker: Mr Fanning

Family/School Liaison Officer: Mr David Mc Cague

School Chaplain: Fr. Paddy Mc Ginn & Fr Stephen Joyce