



St. Brigid's Boys' School

Christmas Newsletter 2019



Welcome

Our Christmas holidays are fast approaching after what has been a busy first term here in St. Brigid's. Thoughts of Santa Claus, presents and fun fill the air and the school has been a hive of activity in recent weeks with the Christmas Fair, rehearsals for Nativity Plays, Christmas Carols, school Mass and trips to the Pantomime and Theatre. It is a magical time of year for the boys and staff alike!

As you will see throughout our newsletter, life in St. Brigid's has been as busy as ever this term! There have been many joyous occasions and achievements in St. Brigid's over the past few months and we are very proud of the boys for all of their hard work.



As you can see, our new Junior Infants have settled into school extremely well and it was a pleasure to meet their parents at our social event in October.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and peaceful festive season. We will return to school for our next term on Monday, January 6th 2020. Fiona Griffin Principal

New Initiatives

This year saw the arrival of a number of exciting new initiatives in St. Brigid's. We recently elected a Student Council comprising of boys from 3rd – 6th class to allow us to hear the student voice in the school. There was a lengthy election campaign where the boys learned a great deal about democracy and running a campaign. It was wonderful to see such an interest among the boys. One pupil from each class was elected and our Student Council is now in the very safe hands of Ben Arigho, Paul McEnroe, Niall Ramirez, John McCoy, Sean Copelin, Daniel Burns, Oisín Daly and Micheal

Ryan. Many thanks to Mr. Coleman for all his work with the Student Council. They have been kept busy so far in running our Food Dudes Campaign in conjunction with Ms. Lonergan and Ms. Caffrey where they distribute the fruit and vegetables and most importantly the prizes to the classes on a daily basis! They have also been working on the Litter Less Green Schools Campaign and will have many more exciting projects as the year progresses.



Ms. McAdam and her 4th class also have a leading role in our Litter Less and Green Schools Campaign. Following an intensive Litter and Waste Audit by 4th class, an action plan has been put in place and all areas are being addressed to try to make our school a greener place to be. The boys are keeping us all in line and checking the bins regularly! Many thanks to the entire school community for your continued effort in reducing our carbon footprint in St. Brigid's.

Ms. Olivia O'Sullivan, our choir teacher has entered our 5th and 6th classes into the Peace Proms Cross Border Choral Event. The boys will perform on stage in the RDS on Saturday 1st February 2020. We attended a rehearsal in November and the St. Brigid's Boys impressed with their singing and dance move. This is a wonderful experience for the





boys and we look forward to the main event in February.

This year also saw the introduction of our, 'Yard Buddy System'. Boys from 5th and 6th class were invited to apply for the position of buddy, which involves a team of boys helping out on the Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd class yards at lunchtime each day. We have over 60 boys now volunteering as buddies over the course of each month. Their duties involve playing with the boys, teaching games, helping to solve minor problems and disputes and assisting the staff on yard. This system is proving very popular among the whole school community; the younger boys love the company on yard and the older boys are thriving on the responsibility and setting a wonderful example. Our yard is certainly a happier place this year!

Our 6th classes are also responsible for the introduction of a yard line up competition which runs from 2nd – 6th class each day. We look for the best line each day and points are awarded for good behaviour. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 lines each month at assembly and the overall winning line at the end of the year will get a pizza party. We have seen a big improvement in behaviour at line up time and the boys are being rewarded for their efforts. Well done boys and keep it up! As you can see we have been busy this term.

School Activities

This year we have been very lucky to have worked with Microsoft on two exciting projects. In November our 4th classes were invited to attend the Dreamspace Workshop in Microsoft Offices in Leopardstown. On arrival the boys were given a tour of the amazing building, followed by an afternoon filled with photoshop fun and coding, not to mention the many treats and fantastic goodie bags! This week, Microsoft visited us in St. Brigid's to carry out the Hour of Code with our 4th, 5th and 6th classes. The boys completed their task in Minecraft Aquatic Adventurer with ease and really benefited from some inside tips and information! Many thanks to Bryan Alexander, Neil Richardson and their colleagues for the experience.

Although we have had many new experiences this year we have also had time for the events which take place every year. We couldn't let Halloween pass without celebrating



fancy dress style! We didn't let the rain dampen our spirits and the boys and their teachers really got into the spirit of Halloween and made St. Brigid's a very spooky school for a day! The boys in Junior Infants performed an array of Halloween songs and poems for their parents which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Ms. Quinn's and Mr. Devine's 3rd classes enjoyed a great day exploring Airfield Estate in October. The boys had a wonderful day exploring the farm and returned to school full of stories. This trip was funded using proceeds from last years' Christmas Fair. Mr. Duignan's class visited Cabinteely Library for a workshop on Sustainable Development.

5th class engaged in a cycling course during the 1st term. The boys learned about safety and were very active on their bicycles each week. We are delighted to see the large number of boys cycling to school this year. We remind the boys to ensure they are wearing their helmets at all times on the journey to and from school.

Garda Sergeant Dermot O'Meara, from Cabinteely Garda Station, visited both 5th classes and dealt with the issues of road safety and safety at Halloween. A group of dedicated ladies from PMCA delivered a 6 week, 'Drug and Health Awareness Programme' to both sixth classes. The modules covered were smoking, alcohol and drugs. The social, physical and mental effects of these were discussed. Pupils were given an opportunity to role play and act assertively when exposed to drugs and alcohol.

Pat O Connor has our 5th and 6th classes playing some lovely tunes on their tin whistles. Dance classes with Kevin Murphy, from Expanding Dance, continue with every class engaging in a six week module. This term Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 6th class thoroughly enjoyed their lessons. We look forward to Kevin returning to us in January. Johnny Magee from Geraldine Morans GAA club continues to work with the boys on their GAA skills, 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th have received training to date. Swimming continues in Castle Park Swimming pool for the boys in 1st and 2nd class where they are making great strides in their swimming abilities.





Round of Applause

Congratulations to Zach Alexander who was selected to represent the school in the Annual DLR Christmas Decoration Competition. All decorations were made using recyclable, reusable or everyday materials from home. Zack made a beautiful sleigh. Many thanks to all of the boys who made a Christmas decoration this year – we had the largest number of entries ever this year. They are all hanging in pride of place on the school Christmas tree!



Demense in October. All three teams ran superbly and the school was awarded the winners of the Best Boys' Primary School. Well done to everyone for their participation, effort and team work. A special thanks to Mr. Coleman, Ms. McAdam and Mr. Burke for their dedication in training and preparing the boys so well during lunchtime.



Our 3rd and 4th classes were lucky enough to receive five weeks of tag rugby coaching from a Leinster Rugby coach in term 1. The boys thoroughly enjoyed this and displayed real skill and teamwork. The two 4th classes were subsequently invited to attend the Leinster Primary Schools Tag Rugby Blitz in Stradbroke Rugby Club. The boys were delighted to take part in this non-competitive event along with many other schools.



St. Brigid's Annual Conker Competition took place once again this year. Boys from 4th, 5th and 6th class competed. The final was contested by Sean McKenna and Julian Fender. Congratulations to Sean McKenna from 6th class who was the eventual winner and claimed the coveted 'Conker Cup!'

This year we entered four teams into the Cumann na mBunscoil leagues. All four teams performed impressively throughout the league and grew as a team as the year went on. They should be very proud of themselves. The school would like to extend our thanks to all of the teachers who were involved in coaching and training the boys in all leagues this year as well as the many parents who provided lifts to games and supported the boys at their games. We look forward to the upcoming soccer and hurling leagues in the New Year.

A big congratulations to the 45 boys from 4th, 5th and 6th Classes who were chosen to represent the school at the recent Clonliffe Harriers Invitation Cross Country Race in the Santry



A big thank you to all the boys and their families for their very generous contributions to the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. We collected 403 shoeboxes in total this year. Our shoeboxes were sent to boys and girls living in Eastern Europe and Africa. Thank you for helping to give these boys and girls a reason to smile on Christmas morning!



Board of Management

This month saw the election of a new Board of Management for St. Brigid's Boys' School. I would like to thank our outgoing teachers' nominee Mr. John Sheanon and our outgoing mothers' nominee Nicole Delaney for their dedicated service to the Board.

The new Board of Management are:

- Mr. Dominic Coyle - Chairperson
- Fr. Aquinas Duffy – Patron's Nominee
- Mr. Norman O'Leary – Community Representative
- Ms. Helen Hayes – Community Representative
- Ms. Fiona Griffin – Principal Teacher
- Ms. Catriona McMahon – Teacher Nominee
- Mr. Nick Baird – Father's Nominee
- Ms. Gina Cassidy – Mother's Nominee





Parents Association

The Parent's Association Annual Christmas Fair, held on Sunday November 24th was, as usual, magnificently organised and hugely successful. Many thanks to committee chairperson, Barbara Flynn and the Christmas Fair Committee for all their hard work and dedication in organising this special day. At the time of going to print we are eagerly awaiting the presentation of the cheque. Thank you to the Christmas Fair Committee and all the volunteers who helped to make the Fair such a success. The money raised at the Christmas Fair is used to fund activities and trips which take place in the school throughout the year.

Congratulations to the new chairs of the Parents' Association, Sinead Clarke and Laura Herangi. We look forward to working with you both over the next two years. Our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing chairs Emer McGrath and Gareth Gallagher for all their dedicated work for our school over the past two years.

Staff News

Over the past 6 months we have bid farewell to a number of staff members, Ms. Kay Cadogan, Mr. Dónal ÓhÓgáin, Ms. Anita Nolan and Ms. Ellen Grogan. Their presence and the contributions each of them made to the school is sorely missed. We wish Dónal, Anita and Ellen all the best in their teaching careers and their relocations to Co. Westmeath and Co. Kerry.

On October 9th, we bid farewell to Ms. Kay Cadogan as she retired from her teaching career in St. Brigid's. Kay was a wonderful asset to our school for the past twenty-five years. She made an enormous contribution to St. Brigid's both academically and creatively during her time here. Kay was a wonderful influence on the many pupils she taught over the course of her time in St. Brigid's and we wish her all the best in her retirement.



We extend a very warm welcome to our three new teachers who joined St. Brigid's in September. Ms. Jane McNerney, Ms. Ailbhe Caffrey and Ms. Fiona Walsh and our new SNA, Ms. Miriam Kane. We wish Chris O'Sullivan, Laura Hughes, Caoimhe Cooke and Barry O'Mahony the best on their career breaks.

Information for Parents

Aladdin Connect: This year saw the introduction of Aladdin Connect – an online portal for parents to view their child's information on the school administration system. This is a seamless way for parents to update information, submit absence notes, book meetings and grant permissions. Many thanks to all parents who have signed up, downloaded the app and verified their number. If you have still not verified your number please do so to ensure the school is not charged for text messages. We also have an app for our school website (iClassCMS) which can be downloaded from the Apple or Google Play Store.

Absences: With the launch of Aladdin Connect there is no need to phone the school if your child is absent. Please submit the reason online after 10.30 a.m. once the school roll has been completed. The school should be informed in writing in advance of a planned absence. Please note when a child's absence reaches 20 days the National Education Welfare Board must be informed by the school authorities.

School Times: The official school starting time is 8.55am. We expect children to be in time for class. Punctuality is important. The school gates are opened to avoid leaving boys on the footpath outside. However, some children arrive to the school far too early and are left in the yard without parental supervision. Supervision begins at 08.45 a.m. and children should not arrive at school prior to this without parental supervision. On wet days the boys are supervised in their classrooms from 08.45 a.m. The boys should not arrive at school prior to this.

Mobile Phones: Our school policy allows boys to bring their phones to school provided they remain switched off and are stored in their schoolbags while on school grounds. Please see www.stbrigids.ie for our mobile phone policy.

Upcoming Events in 2020

Parent /Teacher Meetings: Parent Teacher Meetings for Junior Infants and Senior Infants will take place in early February.

First Penance: (2nd class): Tuesday, February 11th, 2020

Ceremony of Light (6th class): Tuesday, March 10th, 2020

Confirmation (6th class): Friday, March 27th, 2020

First Holy Communion (2nd class): Saturday, May 23rd 2020 Ms. Buckley's class at 10 a.m. Ms. Sheehy's class at 12 p.m.

**WISHING EVERYONE A
HAPPY AND PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS**

