



St. Paul's would like to thank all our Sponsors who were so generous and who helped make our Christmas Fair a great success!



St. Paul's National School Christmas 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to another Christmas newsletter and thank you to Yvonne for all her hard work and patience preparing it and for everything else she does in the school. Thank you, the parents, for your continued support of the school and the teachers. With that support we have been able to do all of what you see in these pages - and much more that you won't see, so thank you! We are just finishing off a great term with fantastic shows and plays and a beautiful, heart-warming carol service and Nativity play. With all of those, and with hampers, shoeboxes and selection boxes it is wonderful to see the spirit of Christmas alive and well in St. Paul's. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and the staff and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2016! See you on Wednesday the 6th of January!

Morag McGowan



Presentation of Our Irish Flag

On the 16th November we welcomed very special visitors, from the Defence Forces, who presented the school with the Irish Flag as part of the 1916 Centenary Celebration Programme. Sergeant Leona Cronin spoke about the history of the signing of the proclamation and John McGuinn, helped out by Adam Cameron, read out the Proclamation. We were invited to write a new Proclamation for 2016, to reflect the values, hopes and aspirations of this new generation. We now look forward to the 15th of March when we will raise our flag collectively with all the other schools in Ireland in memory of the 1916 Rising.

Christmas Fair



Our Christmas Fair this year was a tremendous success, thanks in no small way to the Trojan work our Parents' Association put in prior to the day and on the day. Thank you also to parents who volunteered on the day of the fair. A special thank you goes to the main man himself who left a very busy North Pole to meet with some of the children. The fair raised €10,230 for the school, which is even more than previous years! Thank you!



The children in Senior Infants were very busy farming in the field next door to our school! Our local farmer, Christopher Brownlow, asked the children last June to help him plant some seed potatoes. The children carefully planted the potatoes and kept a very close eye on the field

over the last few months to make sure they were growing. Finally, the time came where the children had to put

back on their wellies and go outside to harvest the potatoes. Each child brought home some of their potatoes and got to cook and taste them at home! There were lots of positive reports on how delicious they were. The rest of the potatoes in the field were going to Tayto Park to be made into crisps! Each child also got a Tayto Park Goody Bag as a thank you for their hard work in preparing the potatoes to make some yummy crisps. Thank you to Farmer Christopher and Sarah Brownlow, Tayto Park and also to Lorna Lyons for organising the event.

Sports Report

The sporting calendar for this term was dominated by the footballers and handballers of St. Paul's. On the football fields, our boys and girls senior teams completed their league games. After a great campaign, the boys narrowly missed out on a place in the final, when they were narrowly defeated by Duleek in a close and tense battle. The boys should be very proud of their efforts and the boys are already looking forward to the New Year when the mini sevens competition will kick off. Our girls also had a very successful campaign. Notable highlights included the great victory over Stamullen and the hard fought draw with St. Joseph's Navan.



The handball leagues have once again been a huge success, with the boys and girls of fourth, fifth and sixth classes participating in the now annual handball festival of fun and skill. A defining feature of all the leagues was the high level of skill shown by the children. Congratulations to all the league winners and we look forward to participating in the Meath Olympic handball competitions after Christmas.



During September and October 2015 4th, 5th and 6th class girls participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Meath primary school girls' football (division 1) shield. We trained every Monday with Ms Ní Mhurchú, Ms Broderick, Ms Curtin and Ms. Talty. Some the skills we've learned are soloing, tackling, taking free kicks and scoring goals. During this league we have played several teams. they were all very good and we had lots of challenges. The first team we played was St. Stephen's National School in Navan. Unfortunately, we didn't win and we also lost to Duleek and Whitecross. The next match was very exciting, we were against Stamullen N.S. it was a great success (the score was 6-4 to 1-9). Our coaches were very proud. We had one tight match against St. Joseph's in Navan, it ended in a draw 1-9 to 3-3. We had great fun and we did a good job getting into the top division. Thank you to all the teachers involved! We really enjoyed it!!
By Jodie Doherty and Alannah Cashman

Congratulations to the following children who missed no days from school this term

Ms Egan's Class: Michael Murray, Grace McNally, Nicole Doherty, Pierce Ryan, Ciara Gill, Tommy Lynch, Liam Wade, Emma Ginley, Cian O'Callaghan, Theo De Bonis, Daisy Kehoe, Seóna Cunningham & Louis Connolly. **Ms Prendiville's Class:** Aoibheann O'Connor, Stephen O'Brien, Martynas Rumsas, Isla Willoughby, Jayden Blake, Emily Malone, John Sherlock, James Pullen, Dylan McMahon, Lauren Doran, Tamara Flynn, Shane Hickey, Seán Moloney, Cara Murray, Isabelle Hetherington & Louis O'Connell Cowley. **Ms Mullen's Class:** Jude Phelan, Jaydon Redmond, Conor Andrews, Grace Smyth, Jacob Brady, Jamie Campbell, Éila Corboy, Max Stone, Ava Smith & Amy Rickard. **Ms Cowley's Class:** Ryan Tinnelly, Noah Murphy, Jamie Fitzgerald, Kian Barker, Ross Peppard, Lucy McCormack, Tadhg Keenan, Darragh Brunton, Ehren Harris, Katie Barker & Rachel McKenna. **Ms Begley's Class:** Dylan Tighe, Sam Grogan, Lauren Murray, Amber Lyons, Harry Kearins, Oisín O'Riordain, Sorsha Lumley & Daisey Magee. **Ms Crosbie's Class:** Nathan Connolly, Ben Hayes, Sebastian Palmer, Kean Moran, Dylan Doyle, Lauren Gallagher, Chloe Murphy, Eliana Callaghan & Alexandru Petrisor. **Ms Ruane's Class:** Ava Doran, Sáoirse Bracken, Isobelle Kelly, Nathan Mooney, Rhea Khreiss, Lucy Reynolds, Max Palmer, Seán O'Sullivan, Daniel Smyth, Marie Phelan & Tiernan Fahey Clancy. **Ms Brennan's Class:** Ava Hennessy, Brógan Ryan, Eva Carroll, Lucy Cameron, Amber Lane, Sadie Prior, Michael Ward, Finn Clarke, Ben Cunningham, Sonia Gieros-Tchorz & Rhys Bracken. **Ms McMahon's Class:** Melissa Connolly, Brendan Twyford, Orla Duruanyawu, Alice Kinsella, Josh Kiely, Rachael Hyland, Caitlin Blake, Harry Ryan, Matilda Stafford, Seán Brown, Calum Boucher, Jenna Willoughby, Grace Gallagher & Eábha O'Brien. **Ms NiChinnéide's Class:** Saoirse Carrigan, Katie Burke, Harry Bogan, Sophia Collins, Vincent McGuinn, Mikael McMahon, Brandon Tighe, Oran Corboy, Alex Knowles, Mazyanne Conlan, Katie Grogan, Éinin Murphy, Aoibhinn Gibson, Lucy O'Reilly & Callum Willoughby. **Ms Broderick's Class:** Dennis Olaru, Katie Keenan, Max O'Reilly, Aoife O'Beara, Joshua Gill, Lauren McKenna, Aiden Clarke, **Tom McCormack**, Emma Graydon, Seán Coleman, Caoimhe Kelleher, Isabel Byrne, Christopher Cannon, Cian Campbell, Mia Grattan & Molly Murray. **Ms Curtin's Class:** Mary-Kate Prior, Tarah Coyne, Aidan Doyle, Lauren Mavimpi Kimbondo, Niamh Colgan, Emily Pullen, Katie Doherty, Evan Sload & Robert Hayes. **Mr McCahey's Class:** Sarah Forde, Katie Gallagher-Breslin, Eve Winston, Ceilim Ryan, Megan Fitzmaurice, Reece Doherty, Charlie Hodgins, Jessica Cronin & Amy Murray. **Ms Price's Class:** Erin Leeson, Mia Foley, Shauna Killion, Charlie Jackson, Conor Daughton, Eábha Brown, Robyn Redmond, Analena Stobie, Ryan Brunton, Saul Harris, Bobby Smith, Sam Cronolly & Seán Twyford. **Ms Kennedy's Class:** Geena Keogh, Caroline Byrne, James Kelly, Grace Kelly, Charlie McCue, Adam O'Connor, Daragh Grennan, Jonathan McDonnell, Cara O'Sullivan, Elsa Johnson & Molly Kearns. **Mr Harte's Class:** Eabha Anderson, Katie Smyth, Daniel Boucher, Eoghan Keary, Megan Xu-Ran Piao, Amy Kinsella, Noah Reilly, Seán Mulvaney, Lauren Clancy & Sophie Cameron. **Ms Bates' Class:** James Cullen, Jacob Mulcahy, Luke Colgan, Seán Harte, Saoirse Lynch, Corina Wade, Grace McTiernan, Lee Gallagher, & Abbie Coyne. **Ms Dennehy's Class:** Caitlin Carrigan, Ryan Dunne, Emily O'Callaghan, Eoin Read, Chris Duruanyawu, Lauren Dolan, Amelie Palmer & Danielle Connolly. **Ms Burke's Class:** Mia McGreevy, Liam Corbett, Rachel Byrne, Aoife Hyland, Seán Phelan, Andrew Brady, Ella O'Reilly, Bronagh O'Sullivan, Zara Collins, Lucas White and Charlotte Hue Hurley. **Ms Moore's Class:** Jack Tormey, Fionn Nolan, Ryan Walsh, Tomás Corbett, Adam Leeson & Katelyn Collins. **Mr Burns' Class:** Eoin Drysdale, Daire McCourt, Kate Hayes, Niamh Gibson, Jason Beggy, Gavin Doyle, Michael Ohoka, Jessica Mulligan, Caoimhe Crowley, Seán Corbett, Zoe Preece & Paul Roche. **Ms Smyth's Class:** Adam Cameron, Seán Kearins, Mark Kearns, Emma Dunne, Josh Doherty, Laurie Johnson & Ella Clancy. **Ms O'Sullivan's Class:** Senan Byrne, Matthew Godkin, Christopher Haskins, Alex Hesse Mason, Grace Hennessy, Will Lanigan, Elizabeth Martin, Dylan McCue & Harry Reilly. **Mr Duffy's Class:** Ava Jane Enright, Lucas Longhi, Aaron Prendergast, Samuel Carroll, Karen Mavimpi, Jessica McMahon, Max Daly, Nathan O'Connor, Mintaras Matijosaitis & Aimee Doherty. **Ms Talty's Class:** Sophia Read & Killian Murphy, **Ms O'Connor's Class:** Troy Farrell & Conor Dickenson.

Message from Santa! Ho Ho Ho!!

Merry Christmas! Everyone up here at the North Pole has been very busy getting ready for our big night. The elves are finishing the toys, the reindeer are getting the sleigh ready and I'm making my list and checking it twice. I am delighted to see that all of the boys and girls in St. Paul's are on my nice list. I am so proud of you all. I love bringing toys to kids who are nice to others and who are always on their best behaviour! Mrs Claus has been baking Christmas cookies for all the elves because they've been working so hard to get all the toys finished. I am going to do my best to bring you something you really like. But remember that the best part of Christmas is sharing time with people who love you. The gifts I bring are just an extra treat! Rudolph and the reindeer are looking forward to visiting your home. Rudolph says he would appreciate it if you would leave out some carrots and cookies because we all get hungry delivering so many toys all around the world. Have a very Merry Christmas! Love, Santa!





Ms Ruane, Ms Brennan and Ms McMahon's 1st Classes



Ms Cowley's Senior Infant Class

Christmas Performances

Junior and Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Classes put on a Christmas show to the delight of the parents and grandparents who were able to attend. 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes sang beautifully in a Christmas Carol Service. A huge amount of additional work is put in by the teachers and the children in the preparation of these Christmas performances. Well done to all!!



Santa Visit

Santa and his elf helpers very kindly came to visit our school on Monday 21st December. They visited each class and provided a little treat to each child!



Ms Begley's Class



Ms Prendiville's Class



Junior and Senior Infants



3rd/4th Class Prize Winners



1st/2nd class Prize Winners



Ms Curtin's 2nd Class



5th/6th Prize Winners



Ms Mullen's Junior Infant

Hallowe'en 2015

The children (and their parents!) again this year embraced our Hallowe'en celebrations and our annual fund raiser for Temple Street Children's hospital! The children dressed up and were encouraged to bring in €2 each for Temple Street. The Children's Hospital was delighted with the cheque for €1,187.68. We thank our Parents' Association who organised a €10 book token as a prize for the two best costumes in each class.



Teachers and SNAs from Rooms 25 and 26



Meet our new green school and active committees

Rainbows

After the midterm we started a new Rainbows programme in the school. This 12 week programme can be very beneficial to children who have experienced death of a close relative or a separation or divorce in their family. Thank you to Ms McMahon, our Rainbows co-ordinator, and all the staff involved in the Rainbows programme.



Cycle Safety

A cycle safety programme was run in the school for 4th class children over a 6 week period.

News in Brief

Enrolment 2016

Applications for enrolment will be posted in January 2016.

Swimming

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes completed a 6 week swimming term in the National Aquatic Centre.

Cash for Clobber

We held another cash for clobber collection in November. Thank you for the many bags received which earned the school €768.

Oliver

Best wishes to Daniel Barnville in Mr Harte's Class who will be performing in the musical 'Oliver' in the National Concert Hall from December 27th December until the 3rd January. Further information is available on www.nch.ie

Ratoath Cardiac First Responders' Christmas Tree Recycling

To support please purchase a tag at Conway's Spar, Cunningham's Super Valu, Sweeney's Centra or the Ratoath Community Centre. Email your address to ComeGetMyChristmasTree@gmail.com Put the tag on your tree and put the tree outside your house by 9am on Saturday 9th January 2016. Website www.ratoathcfr.ie

Parents' Bulletin

Please keep an eye on our new Parents' bulletin which will be updated from time to time on our home page www.stpaulsratoath.ie.

Parking

Please be mindful of our neighbours and do not park in Milltree or Jamestown estates when dropping and collecting your children. We have 452 families travelling to and from school each day, there will always be congestion particularly on wet days, but traffic clears very quickly.

Health & Safety

Please remind your children that, for their own safety, they should wear a helmet and keep to the cycle lanes when scooting/cycling in the school grounds and for everyone's safety be very mindful of other road/path users whenever they are out and about.



Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

For the past few years we have got behind the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal. This year we also decided to support a cause a lot closer to home by providing a school, in a disadvantaged DEIS area, with lots of selection boxes for Santa to deliver on his visit to the school. These appeals were hugely supported and remind the children of the true meaning of Christmas and those who are not as fortunate as they are. We, and Team Hope, were delighted with the 383 shoe boxes received. We also received in excess of 170 selection boxes which were also very gratefully received.



Food Dudes



This year the whole school participated in the food dudes programme. Our junior and ASD Classes received a piece of fruit and veg each day for 16 days and classes from 3rd to 6th had four tasting days spread out over the 16 days. We had apples, grapes, bananas, mandarin, mangetout, carrots, peppers and cucumber delivered over the course of the programme. We were very impressed with how well the children took to the programme and how

keen they were to taste all the fruit and veg (even the cucumber!)



Meet our new Student Council



Book Week 2015

We celebrated book week from 9th—13th November. There were lots of additional book related activities including DEAR time (Drop everything and Read), book browsing in the hall and Class paired reading where the junior classes were matched up with the older classes and the children read to each other. We had a visit from Mr. Smyth AKA Mad Grandad who entertained our Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class Children. The author of the Mad Grandad Series, Oisín McGann talked to our 2nd—6th Classes. We finished the week with a dress up day. Children dressed up as a character from a book of the past or as a granny or grandad. Thank you to our Parents' Association who helped out in the hall all week. Thanks to the book sales that week the school benefitted with €5,596 in additional books.



SVDP Christmas Hampers

For the past few years the school has supported our local SVDP branch and prepared Christmas hampers to be distributed to families in need. Thank you to all the children who brought in an item, and so much more, for the hampers. We were delighted to present 42 hampers this year for distribution.



An Ghaelbhratach

Bíonn gach dalta ag déanamh sár-iarracht chun an ghaelbhratach a fháil i scoil Naomh Phóil. I rith Mí na Samhna, tháinig bean ó Gael Linn chun teastas a bhronnadh orainn. Bhí sí an sásta leis na páistí agus an iarracht a dhéanann said chun Gaeilge a labhairt. Bíonn an coiste gaelbhratach ag beanú na daltaí ag an doras ag am lóin gach lá. Bíonn siad ag úsáid frása na seachtaine chomh maith. Canann gach rang amhrán ghaeilge nó dán ghaeilge sa tionóil scoile gach Aoine. Tá gach rang ábalta Amhrán na bhFiann a chanadh freisin. Tá siúl againn go gheobhaimid an ghaelbhratach an bhliain seo chugainn.



Jingles made a return visit to the school in December when he flew in to check in on the children for Santa in the weeks coming up to Christmas. He visited many classes and reported back to Santa each day on the children's school work and behaviour. It would appear that Santa is very happy to hear about all the great work being done by the children and the teachers!