

Easter Newsletter 2017

As the end of term draws near, we look back on some events which took place this term:

Green School

The Green School Committee has been very busy this term working on the biodiversity theme. Our fifth class students are busy in the garden and under the guidance of visiting teacher Deirdre Keogh they are preparing the beds for planting. We look forward to another bumper harvest this year. We are in debt to Ms. Murphy and the committee for all their hard work.

Operation Transformation

We had a very successful Operation Transformation programme. Each class took on two weekly initiatives: aerobic moves at assembly, which we all thoroughly enjoyed and 15 minutes extra running every week. We celebrated our improved fitness levels on Friday March 10th with a 1km fun run. Don't forget to continue to practise the 6 healthy tips we learned throughout the programme:

1. Reduce treats
2. Replace sugary drinks
3. Make being active fun
4. Less screen time
5. Reduce portion sizes
6. More sleep

Cross - Country running

Our school team has competed in two events to date and have represented the school brilliantly, running distances of 300m and 600m. We are competing against schools in the South Dublin region. We will compete in two more events after Easter, so our training continues in earnest. Thanks to Ms. Johnson and Mr. Murphy.

Cyberbullying and Internet Safety Workshop

The Parent Association invite all parents/guardians of children attending both Holy Spirit Schools to a cyber-safety talk on Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30 pm in the Junior School hall. Paula O'Connor has delivered her "Don't be Mean behind your Screen" presentation in schools around the country and we are delighted to welcome her to Greenhills. We have extended this invitation to St. Damien's School. We believe that this is a talk not to miss.

School Choir

5th and 6th class choir members performed in Córfhéile na scoileanna on Tuesday 7th March in the National Basketball Arena. The choir received a wonderful report and did themselves and Holy Spirit Senior School proud. Their amazing talent and dedication shone through in their melodious performances. We congratulate the choir and offer sincere thanks to Ms. Jameson and Ms. Taffee for their musical expertise.

Grandparents' Day

On Tuesday February 2nd we celebrated our first Grandparents' Day. Fr Roddy opened this special day with a short prayer service where we remembered all grandparents, especially those not with us. Grandparents then had an opportunity to visit the children in their classrooms where they engaged in science experiments, answered history questionnaires, listened to music and poetry, saw Power Point presentations and played games with all the children. Thank you to the Parent Association who treated us all to refreshments in the hall and as a grand finale we enjoyed a visit from Ciarán Kilkenny and the Sam McGuire.

World Book Day

On Monday 27th, we celebrated World Book Day, an opportunity to promote the joy of reading amongst the students. Each class enjoyed reading-based activities and received a book token, which we hope was put to good use.

Fundraising

The Parent Association would like to thank everyone for supporting the cake sale and Cents for Schools initiative this term. We remind you to hold on to the containers and continue to collect coins as there will be another collection date in the summer term

Support Needed

The Board of Management and Parent Association ask all adults to put Friday May 26th and Saturday May 27th in their diaries. Holy Spirit Senior School has organized a bag pack in the Ashleaf and ask for your help between the hours of 5 pm-9pm on Friday and from 10 am-6pm on Saturday.

Youth Trade Fair

Students from 6th class took part in a Youth Trade Fair last December. Each group came up with an enterprising business idea and executed their business venture from start to finish. Products for sale included; decorations and sweet treats, lucky dips and bookmarks, games and fun items. Then on March 29th the students presented their business "Dragon's Den" style to external adjudicators. They are to be congratulated for their business prowess and application to the task. We may have some budding entrepreneurs in our midst! A percentage of the proceeds of their wares are going to the charity "Laura Lynn", a charity devoted to looking after terminally ill children.

Thanks to Claire from the School Completion Project, Hannah and the 6th class staff.

DEIS

The Board of Management is pleased to inform parents/guardians that Holy Spirit Senior Primary School has been reinstated with the DEIS status enjoyed by both St. Peter's and St. Paul's prior to the cutbacks in education. The initial impact of DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) will be the appointment of a Home School Community Liaison teacher, the availability of school lunches, an increase in Department grants to the school and a gradual decrease in the pupil teacher ratio.

Science

We would like to bring everyone's' attention to our Senior School website www.holyspiritsps.ie. Through our website, Mr. Redmond hopes to keep you informed about events in the school. This year, under the guidance of Mrs. Keating, we seek the Discover Primary Science award and all our children have been exploring the world of science: undertaking experiments, welcoming speakers and going on trips. On Tuesday 4th we had a wonderful science fair with our special guests, the children from second class. Take a look at our Latest News section to find an excellent Power Point presentation highlighting much of the work undertaken this year, click on Discover Primary Science 2017 Midterm.

Debating

Thanks to Ms Johnson and the 6th class teachers, our children have once again the opportunity to argue their point of view while debating with local primary schools. To date we have debated against St Damien's and St. Roses, and look forward to more events in the summer term.

Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to Ms. Keating and our very talented quiz teams. In January, we entered twelve teams into the first round of the Credit Union quiz. One Senior and one Junior team progressed to the second round held in Kilnamanagh. Our Junior Team then went on to represent our school in the National Finals of the Credit Union Quiz in the RDS on 2nd April. We are so proud of their achievement and thank Greenhills and District Credit Union who have supported us all the way.

Two teams from 5th and 6th class also competed in the first round of the South Dublin County Council Libraries Quiz. Our winning team then progressed to the final held in Tallaght Library on 27th March. We are very proud of our quizmasters and sincere thanks to Mrs. Keating.

Cáisc shona daoibh go léir