

St. Attracta's Senior School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16  
Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht, Cluain Ghlaise Áth Cliath 16  
Nuachtlitir na Nollag 2016 December Newsletter 2016

**MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Tomorrow, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, we gather together at 10.00o'clock Mass to celebrate a very special feast day, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parents are very welcome to join with us and the parish community. We will be in the Oratory from 9.50a.m. onwards, so children who may be arriving a little late with Junior School brothers and sisters should come in by the front door of the school, as all classrooms will be locked from 9.50a.m. onwards. Fáilte romhaibh go léir!



**CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

**SPIORAD NA NOLLAG**



Our Advent wreath is lit in school every morning. The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God's everlasting love which is without beginning and without end. The four candles - one for each week of Advent - symbolise our waiting to welcome Jesus Christ. The three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The rose coloured candle stands for the joy of living in God's way of love. The white candle stands for Jesus' birthday on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The red ribbon stands for Jesus' blood shed on the cross for love of us. In order to fully celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will send home the Christmas schedule of Masses and Services in St. Attracta's Oratory. We also look forward to this year's Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy at 6.30p.m. in the Oratory on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December. The Sunday Choir will help make our Christmas Eve Mass a memorable one and we look forward to seeing you there. At this time of year, we thank all the boys and girls who read, sing or serve Mass for their commitment to the Sunday Masses.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

This year is a tough year for many families and we should all be grateful that whatever we have, it is more than others have. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has once again appealed to us to help families less well off than ourselves. They look after the needs of people at Christmas time. We'd like to help make Christmas special by showing a little kindness to others. Each class is invited to make a hamper that would make Christmas really feel special for somebody. Long-lasting food items such as pasta, rice, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, soup, sugar, selection boxes, minerals, packets of nice biscuits, mince pies, cheese & crackers, bars of chocolate, hair shampoo, etc. would be most welcome. Some of these items could be added to your shopping trolley over the next week or so and the hampers will be collected on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. On this day, we'll also have a fundraiser, which will be a Christmas-themed No Uniform day for St. Vincent de Paul! Children will pay €2 to go red, green and sparkle for Christmas! Just have a bit of fun, but don't forget, as much red and green and tinsel as you can manage!



**THANK YOU! GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH!**

This year, we are **not** going to have a Christmas Raffle as we feel we have had a lot of fundraisers and other events in aid of charity and in aid of the school already this year. We simply want to thank all of you for your constant support of St. Attracta's Senior School and we want to take this opportunity to wish you the most blessed Christmas ever! Nollaig shona daoibh go léir!



**'Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice'. ~Nelson Mandela**

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

### MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 1.00pm & 7.30pm

Capture the true meaning of Christmas at this year's Christmas Carol Service, which will take place in the Oratory on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December. As the whole school will be involved, places will be limited on the night. As usual, we'll have an afternoon performance at 1.00p.m. to facilitate younger members of the family, children in the junior school and the extended family of grannies, granddads, relations and friends. For health & safety reasons, we can only accommodate 300 or so adults at each performance, so it is advisable to be in the Oratory in good time, but **doors will not open before 7.00p.m. for the evening service.** As the Carol Service will take place in the Oratory, there will be no food or drink. We look forward to a full attendance of pupils in school uniform as we all share the true meaning of Christmas at the Carol Service. It really is a very special night in our school year, so please be in the oratory early to be sure of a seat.



Over the past few years we have had problems when children didn't turn up on the night, leaving a depleted choir to sing their class carol. If your child can't come on the evening, you must let the class teacher know in writing in advance. However, our Carol Service is a whole school preparation for Christmas and we would love to see all the children gathering together on this one night of the year. We'll have two performances as follows:

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> at 1.00p.m. in Oratory

mainly for younger family members, children in the junior school and the extended family of grandparents, relations and friends

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. in Oratory

limited number of places – please keep the aisles of the oratory free to allow the pupils to go up and down to their places

#### A FEW REMINDERS!

**What can you do to prepare for the real Christmas?** Why not pay a visit to the Oratory and take a moment during the day to visit Jesus in his house. Somebody somewhere needs your prayers, so invite Jesus into your hearts and remember what Christmas is all about!

**Keep reading!** Boys and girls, don't forget to ask for a good book as a Christmas present. Keep reading and think of the peace it will give you amid all the excitement!

**We collect used stamps.** As Christmas approaches, don't forget to collect stamps on Christmas cards. They're always welcome and are passed on to a worthy charity. When removing stamps from envelopes be sure to leave a good edge around each stamp. Thanks!

**Don't forget the Bóthar project** which supports families abroad. Let's send a cow to a family in Africa. The income generated helps families to provide money for necessities like school, clothes and housing. All we ask for are any loose 1c, 2c and 5c coins you may have.



**School will close for the Christmas holidays at 12 noon on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will re-open on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 8.50a.m.**



**Beannachtaí na Nollag agus gach dea-ghuí don Athbhliain daoibh go léir!**

**Muireann Máirtín, Príomhoide**