

St. Attracta's Senior School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16 Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht, Cluain Ghlaise Áth Cliath 16



Nuachtlitr na Nollag 2015 December Newsletter 2015

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE ~ MONDAY 21st DECEMBER 2015

Capture the true meaning of Christmas at our Christmas Carol Service, on **Monday 21st December** in the Oratory. As the whole school will be involved, places will be limited on the night. As usual, we'll have an afternoon performance at **1.15p.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 come along to one of our performances on



Monday 21st at 1.15p.m. in the Oratory
(mainly for younger family members, junior school children and other family members, grandparents, relations and friends)
or on Monday 21st at 7.30 p.m. in the Oratory

(limited number of places - please keep the aisles of the oratory free to allow pupils to go up and down to their places)
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, please 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.

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 25th. 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 Thursday 24th. 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 people, but we are still better off than many others. 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 like Christmas for everybody. Examples of these would be long-lasting food items (pasta, rice, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, soup, sugar, etc.) selection boxes, minerals, packets of nice biscuits, mince pies, cheese & crackers, bars of chocolate, hair shampoo, etc. Some of these items could be added to your shopping trolley over the next week or so and the hampers will be collected on Friday 18th. We'll also have a **fundraiser** on Wednesday 16th. We'll have 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!



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Would you like to participate in our Christmas Raffle? Tickets are 50c each or 3 for €1.00. This year it's in aid of the school - in the hope to be able to buy **our fourth I-Pad**. We have lots of fabulous prizes including 10 selection boxes! Prizes would be most welcome in the office anytime. Closing date is Friday 18th December and the draw will take place that day.



WRAP UP WARM!

Please make sure your children are wrapped up well coming to school. Summer is over and some pupils are still going out to the yard in shirts and shorts! Coats, hats and scarves please!



ÉIRE - PREPARING FOR 2016

To commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Government has tasked Óglaigh na hÉireann with delivering a National Flag to every Primary School in the country.



Last Friday, 27th November, in St. Attracta's Senior National School, Dan Coughlan and Cian Hill welcomed members of the Army and the Air Corps to our school. We were particularly pleased to welcome two of our past pupils - Captain Mark Conway and Captain Michael Barcoe - who along with Flight Sergeant Ollie McKeown and Lt. Paul McDermott presented the National Flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation of Independence to our pupils. Passing through a guard of Honour formed by our Student Council, the officers entered the Halla to a rousing Senior School welcome. They then proudly read the Proclamation to the children, while two of our pupils - Donal Kelly and Hannah Turner Doyle - read the 4th paragraph of the Proclamation, which refers to *cherishing all the children of the nation equally*.

The National Flag - Bratach na hÉireann - was then formally presented to the school and Ronan McKenna and Anna Girika accepted the flag on behalf of all the pupils. The proclamation was then presented to Céile Ashe and Aidan Colbert, direct descendants of Thomas Ashe and Con Colbert who fought in 1916. In the next few months the children will write a new proclamation for our country. As we look forward to celebrating the centenary of the 1916 Rising, we also celebrate all that makes us Irish and all that binds us together as a nation. This was a proud moment in the history of our school and in the history of our nation. At the end of the ceremony, all pupils, teachers and school staff joined together in singing Amhrán na bhFiann - united in voice and hearts.

Later in the school year, the celebrations will culminate in Proclamation Day on 15th March 2016, where every school throughout the country will raise the National Flag in a special ceremony - following the example of Óglaigh na hÉireann - and the 1916 Proclamation will be read. In tandem with this work, children in all classes are gradually learning all about the events of Easter 1916 and finding out many interesting facts about their ancestors' connections with these historic events. A selection of the children's work - symbols of Ireland, projects on 1916 and the children's thoughts on *What Being Irish Means to Me* - was displayed in the Halla on Friday. Bhí an lá go hiontach agus bhí na páistí ar fheabhas! Ar aghaidh le chéile!



CHARITY CHAIN

A little birdie told me that St. Attracta's pupils are the kindest pupils on the planet! As part of our Kindness Counts programme, we will support many charities this year. There are so many worthy charities but we try to concentrate on charities which help children. The response to the **Bóthar Coppers and Coins Appeal** has been absolutely amazing!!! Last year our **Knitters and Natterers Club** knitted and crocheted a beautiful quilt for the Laura Lynn Foundation. We hope to deliver the quilt and a donation to Laura Lynn Hospice in Leopardstown before Christmas. Sarah Wall will lead this initiative and we'll post both news and pictures on our website in due course.



BINGO

A great night of Bingo was organised by the Parents' Association last Thursday, followed by a well-supported Bag Drop. Thanks to all those who were involved in its organisation and all those who attended. I heard a few high demand HOMEWORK PASSES were won by some lucky pupils! Well done again to our wonderful Parents' Association for all their hard work n behalf of both schools,



PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

We had a great response to our Parent-Teacher meetings last month with almost 100% attendance. If you haven't already met your child's teacher, please contact the school immediately to make an appointment ... 01-2951627. Your feedback on the meetings would also be most welcome.



MATHS TABLE QUIZ

We had a wonderful maths-filled night on Tuesday 24th November when once again St. Attracta's Senior School hosted a Maths Quiz for 6th class pupils. It was attended by 18 local national schools and was eventually won by Divine Word National School, with our own pupils - Sara Donohue, Athena Wu, Julia Lederleitnerova and Matthew Naughton - doing us proud!. Once again we were in the top 5 teams, answering tough tough questions. Maith sibh go léir!



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, SCHOOL CLOSURES

School will close for the Christmas holidays at **12 noon on Tuesday 22nd December** and will re-open on **Wednesday 6th January at 8.50a.m.** The 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany (Little Christmas or Lá Nollaig na mBan) and therefore the whole school will go to Mass at 10.00a.m. with the parish.



NOLLAIG SHONA AGUS ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE DAOIBH GO LÉIR!