

St. Attracta's Senior School
Meadowbrook
Dublin 16

Scoil Shínsíreach Naomh Athracht
Cluain Ghlaise
Áth Cliath 16

Nuachtlitir #3

Samhain 2015 November

Newsletter #3

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION (WSE)

A Whole School Evaluation of teaching and learning took place in the Senior School last February and we are very proud of our WSE report which was published on the Department of Education website in mid-October. See www.education.ie for the full WSE report.



On behalf of the school community of St. Attracta's Senior National School, the Board of Management welcomes the report, highlighting as it does the excellent standards of teaching, learning, leadership and management in St. Attracta's. The board notes with pride the inspectorate's findings in relation to excellent care and management of pupils, and the acknowledgement of their commendable standard of achievement and behaviour. The Board also appreciates the acknowledgement of the culture of teamwork and collaboration of staff and the very good relationships with the school community. The Board of Management wishes to thank all of the partners involved in making St. Attracta's a caring, happy and high quality learning environment. The Board recognises and appreciates the ongoing dedication of the staff and their commitment to the pupils and the valuable support of the parents in the work and development of the school. The full report can be accessed on the school website www.sasns.ie.

A SPORTING TRIUMPH & A HISTORICAL EVENT

Our senior boys' team created a bit of history on the Wednesday before the mid-term by becoming the first team in the history of the school to win a Senior Football Championship Final. The match was played in autumnal conditions in Croke Park before a crowd of enthusiastic Saint Attracta's supporters. It was a fantastic team effort from the players and they showed tremendous desire, courage and skill to get over the line. Well done to the St Attracta's Team of Charlie Boyle, Conor Dunne, Matthew Naughton, Luke Ryan, Rory Colgan, Adam Crowe, Matthew Gardiner, John Clair, Patrick Keyes, Patrick Bates, Dan Coughlan, Oisín McHugh, Rory Garvey, Matthew Keogh, Angelo Marcella, Eoin Hosey, Ryan D'Arcy, Aaron Corless and Taylor Williams. The lads showed super skills, crazy commitment and never-ending enthusiasm - many of them over the past four years! That along with the hard work of their coaches - Mr. Maguire and Mr. Coughlan - paid off when they brought home Corn Chumann na nGael - a beautiful cup and medals galore!! Huge thanks to the parents who supported us this year and gave lifts to matches. Our Girls' Team and the Junior Boys have had great campaigns and we have no doubt but that their day will also come. If you would like to join your local GAA Club, all information is available on www.ballinteerstjohns.com. Come on St. Attracta's - Ar aghaidh le chéile!



**Why not read Mr. Maguire's full match report on the school website
www.sasns.ie - it's well worth a read!**

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE - PARENTS – NOW IS YOUR TIME! ELECTION FOR PARENT NOMINEES TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



Parents are now invited to a meeting to elect a mother and father nominee to serve on the incoming Board of Management. The meeting should last no more than half an hour but a good turnout of parents would be greatly appreciated.

When? 7.30p.m. this Wednesday evening - 4th November 2015

Where? In the Senior School Hall

The term of office of the current Board of Management comes to an end on November 30th and new boards must be in place by December 1st 2015. Before the mid-term, an information letter about the formation of the new Boards was sent home to each family. We also outlined the procedures for electing the two parent nominees (one mother and one father) to the Board. **So what is involved?**

In terms of time commitment, we hold about 6 meetings a year (approximately two per term) and the term of office lasts for 4 years. The main requirement for each Board member is an interest in the school and a commitment to its progress and development. There are many parents out there who feel they would like to contribute in a meaningful way to their child's school and this is an ideal way to do this, so please consider putting yourself forward. No special qualifications are required.

Boards of Management are the backbone of our schools, consisting of teacher, parent, community and patron representatives. The Board's main function is to manage the school on behalf of the Patron and for the benefit of the children. The needs of a school can vary from community to community so it is important that schools are run by local people who carry out their duties with the best interests of the children as paramount. Serving on the Board of Management of your child's school is a very important role. You and your Board members will manage the overall running of the school. Being part of the Board of Management means that parents are fully involved in all decisions related to the school. Research shows and experience tells us that where parents are involved in their school children do better and are happier. What more reason could you want to get involved in the management of your school?

COINS ROUNDUP



As always we have our pre-Christmas roundup of Coppers and Coins in aid of the charity BÓTHAR, which is the international aid agency that provides poverty stricken families with the means to solve their problems - permanently. They do this by using livestock in development aid. Bóthar works with a wide variety of animals including cows, goats, chickens, camels and bees. Bóthar assists needy

families to overcome hunger, malnutrition and poverty in a simple sustainable manner. The living gift of a farm animal gives a struggling family the opportunity to improve their circumstances and by working with their animal over time, to raise themselves up to a position of relative comfort. Go to www.bothar.ie to find out more details on the work that Bóthar does. So bring in your loose coins, especially 1c and 2c and know that they are going to a really good cause!

OCTOBER CAKE SALE

Thanks to everybody who contributed to our recent Cake Sale. A special word of thanks to Calum Daly's Dad for the prizes of minions he has sent in for our recent raffles - they really are a great hit, along with the brilliant creative cakes. Between the Cake Sales, Crepes and Raffle we made over €2000 and so already we are well on the way to buying our first set of I-Pads. If they're as successful as we hope they will be, we will buy more as the year goes by.



BOOK WEEK 2015



We had a fabulous Book Week before the mid-term and the children are to be commended for their efforts at reading, drawing, sketching, writing, composing and creating. The Book Fair raised a whopping €1500 worth of books for the school ensuring that our children have the most modern books - as good as any other local library or bookshop! Ms. McDonnell is currently buying the latest releases and most popular books for our school library. Thanks again!

BCS TALENT SHOW



3rd and 4th class pupils will attend a Talent Show in the BCS on Wednesday 11th November and we're delighted to support our local community school.

We're really looking forward to that. It will cost the pupils €1 each. Please bring this in by Friday of this week.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS



Parent teacher meetings will take place during the third week in November and every effort will be made to facilitate parents who have more than one child in the school on Thursday afternoon, 19th November. You will be notified of times for your meeting this week, giving plenty notice for parents to attend. We pride ourselves on almost 100% attendance at Parent Teacher meetings, showing the commitment of parents in our school to their children's education. We look forward to meeting you. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ALTAR SERVER?

It is hoped to recruit some new Altar Servers for St. Attracta's Parish. Applicants need to have received their Holy Communion and should be in 3rd class or higher. They will receive full training, they will be rostered and will serve with a current server to start. They will receive a certificate on completion of their training. But first of all they need to return the Form of Commitment which will be distributed tomorrow to all interested children. It is recommended that they join with a friend. All that is required is commitment and a willingness to serve at one weekend Mass. Full details will be on the Commitments Forms, but first of all have a chat with your children about committing to this very important service to the parish and school community.



FR. JOHN FERRIS' RETIREMENT

As you have probably heard by now Fr. John Ferris has retired from Parish ministry and he will say his last Mass at 11.30p.m. next Sunday 8th November. We wish him good health and happiness in the future. All are welcome!



ST. ATTRACTA'S STUDENT COUNCIL ~ COMHAIRLE na NDALTAÍ 2015/2016



The elections are over and we have a result! Well done to all those who were nominated in each class and a particular word of congratulations to the following pupils who were elected to our Student Council along with their substitutes who came a very close second. We hope they will serve their school well and represent their class as we work together to make St. Attracta's the best it can be. We wish all our newly elected representatives well and we look forward to working with them in the year ahead. The first meeting of the Student Council will take place soon. **Maith sibh!**

Múinteoir	Rang	#1	#2
Ms. Neville	3	James Bates	Sofia Galstyan
Ms. Carey	3	Conall Coughlan	Leah Nealon
Ms. McEvoy	3	Hollie Kavanagh	Dylan Carley
Mr. Maguire	4	Jack Long	Ellie O'Connor
Ms. Rafter	4	Toby Burns	Thomas Sutton
Mr. Coughlan	4	John Fallon	Jack Byrne
Ms. Kinkead	5	Realta Lattimore	Hannah Turner Doyle
Ms. McDonagh	5	Laura O'Connor	Donal Kelly/ Abigale Dunwoody
Ms. O'Leary	5	Daniel Drimba	Jakub Novak
Mr. Fitzgerald	6	Dan Coughlan	Anna Waters
Mr. Kenny	6	Patrick Keys	Shauna Holland
Ms. Nelly	6	Athena Wu	Ryan D'Arcy

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

St. Attracta's Parents' Association held their AGM before mid-term and a new committee has been formed. We look forward to working with the Parents' Association in the year ahead. As principal, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the general parent body and the Parents Association in particular for their fundraising efforts over the past year and for the  cheque for €2000 we received last June and which was put to good use for the benefit of the children and the school. The Board of Management is so grateful for your response to the Voluntary Contribution appeal over the last two years. The Boards of both schools will write to you soon in relation to this but in the meantime we continue to use those funds to bridge the gap between the Departmental grants we receive and the constant bills we need to pay for electricity, oil, water and the general upkeep of the school. So thanks once again for all your support.

WHAT'S ELSE IS COMING UP SOON?

- ACCORD TALK - RANG 6 - Wednesday 4th November
- RAINBOWS COURSE STARTS - Wednesday 11th November
- PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS Monday 16th - Thursday 19th November
- RAINBOWS FUNDRAISER (€2 each) - Friday 20th November
- MATHS TABLE QUIZ - Tuesday 24th November
- VISIT to PRINT MUSEUM - RANG 5 - Thursday 26th November
- NATIONAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY in SENIOR SCHOOL - Friday 27th November
- GLASNEVIN CEMETRY VISIT - RANG 6 - Tuesday 1st December
- BINGO NIGHT - Thursday 3rd December
- BAG DROP CLOTHES COLLECTION - NEW DATE - Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th December

