

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



Nuachtlitr Eanáir/Feabhra January/February Newsletter
2016

FÁILTE AR AIS!

We welcome you back to a new year, new hope and new experiences. We're delighted to report lots of hard work in all classes and excellent behaviour throughout the school. We continue to promote kindness throughout the school, but we do have to work at it! Please tell us if your child is experiencing difficulties in school and remember there's a Worry Box in all classrooms - don't be afraid to use it boys and girls. We can only help you if you talk to us!

Le gach dea ghuí,

Muireann Máirtín

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week takes place this week, starting with Mass on St. Brigid's Day and it will be marked in the school by many events both inside and outside the classroom. On Thursday 4th, we will celebrate Grandparents' Day in recognition of all they do to pass on the faith to their children and grandchildren. St. Attracta's Senior School would like to invite grannies and granddads to join us at 10.30a.m. on Thursday for a cup of tea and a chat in the curriculum room. They will be joined for a few minutes by their grandchildren.



ENROLMENT 2015/2016

The closing date for receipt of applications for enrolment from the Junior to the Senior School for the academic year 2015/16 is Wednesday 3rd February. Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management, in accordance with school's enrolment policy, which can be accessed on the school website at www.sasns.ie. If you know somebody who would like to join our school, please tell them to contact the school immediately and we will send out a registration form. The school will hold an 'Open Day' for all prospective families in May but in the meantime, we welcome all new applicants to come and view the facilities on offer at our school.



OUR CHARITY CHAIN

The Meadowbrook branch of the **St. Vincent de Paul** would like to thank all families who donated so generously to their Christmas toy & food appeal which was held in school throughout December. We also managed to raise €700 for this local charity. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Before Christmas, we raised a further €750 for **Bóthar** with our Coppers Campaign and in so doing we managed to send two and a half goats to Africa!!! (Don't ask☺!). The response to both collections surpassed all our expectations as they increased by about 25% on last year's total. Well done to all the boys & girls who rummaged in pockets and down the back of the sofa for lost coins for this very worthy cause!

Our Knitters and Natterers Club will start back this week on Tuesdays at lunchtime. Once again, we hope to craft a patchwork quilt which will be donated to the **Laura Lynn Foundation**. If your child doesn't want to give up lunchtime they can still donate knitted squares to the Club. Well done to all involved, particularly our 6th class organisers!



CREDIT UNION TABLE QUIZ



The first round of the Dundrum Credit Union Table Quiz took place on Saturday 31st January, where we were represented by our wonderful pupils whose general knowledge is astounding! Thanks to Mr. Coughlan for organising and preparing the children and to the children and parents who gave up their Saturday morning. Both teams put in a great performance with the Senior Team coming in 4th. Maith sibh go léir!

Junior

Seán McGrattan
Isabelle Keating
Elizabeth Ndudi
Mark McKevitt

Senior

Ryan D'Arcy
Luke Ryan
Alyssa Burns
Donal Kelly

SUNDAY CHOIR

Well done and thank you to all the boys and girls who turned up at our Christmas Eve Children's Mass and sang their hearts out. It was great to see the new members from all classes as well as those children on whom we can always rely when it comes to Sunday Choir. We hope this will be a new beginning for the choir and for Ms. Neville and Ms. Roycroft too. Hallelujah!



PAIRED READING



Our Paired Reading project throughout the school will recommence from next week onwards. If any parent can spare half an hour on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, please let us know and we'll partner each parent with a specific class. This scheme worked brilliantly last year and the children really benefitted from it.

PUNCTUALITY



We have noticed a number of children arriving late for school on a regular basis, coming into the classroom well after the beeps go. The traffic may be bad some days but not every day, so we're asking all children to make a huge effort to get up earlier, eat breakfast sooner, stop watching television in the morning, have their uniform/bag/lunch ready but at the end of the day, it comes back to parents so we ask for your help with this - let's start the new year well!

HEALTHY EATING

Teachers have noticed that many of the Friday treats are extremely unhealthy and while most children bring healthy lunches throughout the week, in a small number of cases the lunches are anything but healthy. For our children's sake, we ask all parents and pupils to be sure that the Healthy Eating guidelines that are part of school policy are being followed. Sometimes a reminder is all we need!



CAKE SALE COMING UP - HELP! HELP! HELP!



We'll hold our second cake sale of the school year this coming Friday 5th February and we look forward once again to the wonderful creations of our young bakers! In order for the Cake Sale to be a success we'll be looking for 3 or 4 parents from each class to give a few hours on the morning to help out. Please give your name to the class teacher before Friday. This time the proceeds will go towards buying educational materials for all classes and replenishing old stock.

MID-TERM BREAK

St. Attracta's Senior and Junior Schools will be closed on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February for our mid-term break.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL



Tomorrow, Tuesday, 2nd February has been designated WET DAY GAMES DONATION DAY. If you're doing a Spring Clean or a post-Christmas clearout, we would be delighted to accept any board games, puzzles, decks of cards, jigsaws etc. which are in very good condition but no longer being used by your children. These will be used when the children are confined to the classroom on a wet day. Also welcome would be books which your children have read - preferably reasonably new and interesting. This would help us build up a stock of good books in class libraries. These libraries need updating every year, so please don't throw these things out. Recycle them to us and we'll put them to good use. Drop them in to the class teacher any day! Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

OWLS

We are totally loving the 'OWLS Schools' nature studies initiative which teaches children about nature in a fun way through a hands-on approach. Andrew, also known as Mouse is a font of knowledge and it's a great way to use the natural environment around the school. If your child is enjoying the programme, why not find out more or become a member by visiting www.owls.ie



MUSIC TO OUR EARS!

And as for song-singing - pupils from 3rd class will sing in the Córfhéile festival for school choirs, which takes place in the National Basketball



Arena in March. The songs they have chosen are *The Foggy Dew*, *Buachaill Ón Éirne* and *You Can Count on Me*. We wish them all the best! Go n-éirí libh!!!

LENT

Lent is just around the corner and we will join with the parish community for our Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 10th February. All parents are very welcome too! During Lent we ask for your support for the Trócaire Lenten Appeal. Check out www.trocaire.org for more information.



HEAD LICE

Unfortunately, head lice is a common occurrence in school. However, it is something that we would all like to avoid. When the school is made aware of head lice in a child's class, parents are informed by note. After that, it is notified to parents by the homework journal. We ask you to take the time to read the following advice:



Check for head lice regularly:

- Check your child's hair every time you wash it
- Put conditioner in to help with fine combing
- Brush and fine comb in the brightest spot in your house, daylight is best.
- Buy a Nit-Free Comb - every home should have one.
- Do not assume that because your child is not itchy they do not have head lice.

If you find head lice:

- Check all the family (including adults) thoroughly if you find head lice in one child's hair
- Let your teacher know so that all class parents can check and treat as necessary and nip a possible infestation in the bud.
- The following articles might be helpful in understanding how to deal with head lice but remember it's part and parcel of childhood and of school life and it's not the end of the world so treat it sensitively and sensibly when it happens to your child.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION WELCOME ANYTIME!

The Boards of Management of the Junior & Senior Schools wish to thank all those who have contributed to the Voluntary Contribution so far. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, although the uptake this year has been very low. However, many parents have asked us to remind them about it now as you recover from the expensive Christmas period. In the near future, the Board of management will be writing to all parents in the school about this and other matters.



LÁ 'LE BRÍDE

When St. Attracta's Junior and Senior Schools were founded the Brigidine nuns were very much a part of the teaching staff. Thanks Sr. Mary. Sr. Carmel, Sr. Savio, Sr. Maeve who taught in our schools in the 80's and the many other Brigidine nuns who supported our schools over the years. And who could ever forget Sr. Columba - or St. Columba as we used to call her?

Here are a few facts you may not know about St. Brigid's Day and the saint herself:

- St. Brigid's Day, on February 1st, officially marks the start the pagan festival of spring.
- It is also known as 'Imbolc', or the Feast of Brigid, It celebrates the arrival of longer, warmer days and the early signs of spring.
- It is one of the four major "fire" festivals, referred to in Irish mythology. The other three festivals are Bealtaine, Lúnasa and Samhain.
- Brigid is one of Ireland's patron saints - the other two are Naomh Colmcille and Naomh Pádraig.
- She is often referred to as 'Bridget of Kildare', and was said to be the founder of several monasteries of nuns, including that of Kildare. There is also a shrine dedicated to her in Kildare.
- According to tradition, Saint Brigid was born at Fochart (or Fothairt), near Dundalk in Co Louth
- One of the most common traditions of the day is to make a Saint Brigid's Cross. These crosses are relatively simple to make, and traditionally, Brigid's crosses are made on Brigid's Eve, January 31st. They're usually made from fresh rushes and are made in a cross shape with a square shape in the middle and four arms coming along each side.
- Some believe that the crosses have the power to protect the owner's home from harm.

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER?

We have noticed that a number of children who need to ring home don't know their parents' mobile number. While we have numbers on file, we ask you to ensure that your child has up to date mobile numbers for parents written in their homework journal - just in case!



APPEAL FOR CAR PARK SAFETY & A DOG FREE SCHOOL!



Once again, we appeal to parents to be careful when dropping children to school and collecting them again. Also please drive safely through the car park at all times... if a child is hurt by careless driving it will already be too late. And the yellow box outside the school gates means KEEP CLEAR - NO PARKING!

As a school actively involved in the green schools programme, we're delighted that so many of our students and parents walk to and from school every day. We recognise that walking also provides an opportunity to exercise those most important members of your families - your pet dogs. However, we ask you to be conscious of the fact that some parents and children are genuinely nervous of dogs. Therefore we would ask that you please keep dogs away from school while children are present. Please do not leave your dog to roam freely or allow your dog to enter the school building under any circumstances. Lastly we remind all dog owners that they are obliged to clean up after their dogs. With thanks for your continued support.

