

# Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht, Cluain Ghlaise, Áth Cliath 16

## St. Attracta's Senior School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16

### NUACHTLITIR#2 DEIREADH-FÓMHAIR 2014 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER#2

Welcome to our October Newsletter! And yes! Book Week is upon us! By now the preparation for Book Week has all been done and we look forward to enjoying a week of book-related activities. Here's a novel idea for Dads and Mums. Why not hold a TV Turn-Off Week at home to coincide with Book Week (Shock! Horror!) Or if that's too drastic, then turn off the TV for an hour a day and read a book instead! ... It might just be worth a try! Think of the peace and quiet. No rows. Just a good book and a bit of you time. Why not come into the school hall sometime when you're dropping or collecting the children and have a look at the book-related display in the Halla - there's something for everybody!



### LITERACY FOR THE FUTURE



St. Attracta's Senior School has always been proud of the importance we attach to literacy and over the years we have introduced many new and exciting innovations. We were the first school in Ireland to hold a Book Week with invited Irish authors, we run literacy hour in 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes, we do paired reading and buddy reading, we Drop Everything And Read for 20 minutes each day and we have a state of the art library which all our pupils use. These are only some of what we do and over the coming year our aim is to continue to improve literacy levels and indeed numeracy throughout the school. So watch out for more activities and initiatives this year. Just to keep parents up to date, we're delighted to inform you that great progress is being made on the Writing Genres – why not ask your child to show you the work they're doing. And boys and girls – be sure to use the new styles of writing you are using in all your work – and not just in the Genres Copy. So what's next? Your children may have told you we're working very hard on Comprehension this year and we have invested in the most beautiful children's books to help us to improve comprehension levels. What can you do at home? Just ask your children questions about what they've read – be it their Read at Home book, a book or the newspaper, the advertising that comes in your door or the magazine they have just been reading. Be sure they understand what they have read and can answer a few questions about it.

### WE ALL NEED A LITTLE BIT OF TLC!



Yes, **TLC** is our shorthand for **Tuismitheoirí Le Chéile** which has arisen as a result of the number of parents who help us in so many ways throughout the year. **Tuismitheoirí Le Chéile** means 'parents together' which is a little like our school motto **Ar Aghaidh le Chéile**. So many of you have offered to help us in various ways and many of you say you'd like to be doing something practical to help your children and others too. Arising out of this, a letter will go out today inviting parents who have a bit of free time to share their talents and time with us here in the school. This will also mean that we're not always asking the same parents and if we have too many to help with – for example – trips and excursions, we will draw up a rota. Without you – the parents – we wouldn't be where we are today so please accept our thanks for your constant support and co-operation.

### BOOK RENTAL:

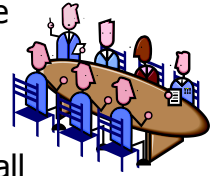
The feedback on the Book Rental Scheme has so far has been very positive. Our first inspections start this week. We remind you that damaged books or books which have been written into will have to be replaced by the pupils who cause the damage. Thanks to Mary for all her help over the summer and to Sharon, Niamh and Linda who recently helped cover books! If you have any comments on the scheme please let me know as soon as possible.

### ADULT EDUCATION

South Dublin Adult Education Service (formerly Dundrum College) is offering a range of **free** Adult Education classes and services to anyone over 18. Details in school foyer or on [www.learningsouthdublin.ie](http://www.learningsouthdublin.ie)

## ST. ATTRACTA'S STUDENT COUNCIL ~ COMHAIRLE na NDALTAÍ 2014/2015

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 on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 12 o'clock. **Ar Aghaidh le Chéile!**



Múinteoir	Rang	#1	#2
Ms. McKernan	3	Andrew O'Reilly	Callum O'Kelly
Ms. Carey	3	Eamonn Naughton	Lucy Walsh
Mr. Fitzgerald	3	Thomas Sutton	Naoise Proctor
Ms. McDonagh	4	Matthew Priestley	Shona Taylor
Ms. Dolan	4	Harry Wilcox	Ella Kiely
Mr. Coughlan	4	Joe Broderick	Luisagh Guerrine
Mr. Maguire	5	Anna Doyle	Matthew Keogh
Ms. Clifford	5	Rachel Skelly	Tom Pieussergues
Ms. O'Leary	5	Oisín McHugh	Alex Malone
Ms. McGuinness	6	Jack Fortune	Colin Dyer
Ms. Rafter	6	Troy Ajimokum	Natalie Gerrard
Ms. Nelly	6	Liam Walsh	Daniel Buggle

### HALLOWE'EN SAFETY



As the mid-term approaches, Halloween is just around the corner. As per our Code of Good Behaviour, bringing dangerous items to school is considered VERY SERIOUS UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR and will be dealt with accordingly. Therefore we warn all our children to keep away from bangers and fireworks. Stay away from bonfires unless supervised by a responsible adult. Enjoy Halloween but be safe and keep others safe too.

### STRANGER DANGER!

As the evenings grow darker once again we ask parents to tell your children when going home

- to leave promptly after school ends
- not to walk home alone, if possible
- to follow a route approved by you
- when crossing the Broadford Road to cross with the lollipop lady and

#### at all times to

- avoid talking to strangers
- avoid approaching cars or vans they don't recognize or speaking to people they don't know.

It's very important that in unforeseen circumstances, children should know exactly what to do. Make sure your child knows exactly where to go after school and where to meet you if being collected. In the event of extra-curricular activities being cancelled, children are encouraged to use the school phone to contact you. We ask all parents to equip their children with the necessary skills to deal with situations where they don't feel safe or where they feel uncomfortable. We also work on this in school on a regular basis as part of our Stay Safe programme.

### CAKE SALE

Our first Cake Sale of the school year took place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October and first of all I want to say a thousand thanks (mile buíochas) to all the parents who helped out on the day and all the bakers who provided the goodies. We succeeded in raising over €1500 from the cakes, the crepes and the raffle. Last year, we increased our internet speed so as to make maximum use of our interactive whiteboards. Funds raised this year will begin our upgrading of computers in the computer room and will also be used to buy literacy and numeracy materials.





## A SPORTING TRIUMPH & A HISTORICAL EVENT

For the first time in the history of St. Attracta's Senior School, our Girls' and Boys' teams have both succeeded in reaching the final and we're off to Croke Park. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Cahill's Centra, the buses to and from Croke Park will be paid for (Thank you!) and the children only have to pay €2 as part of the entry cost to Croke Park. The school will cover the rest! The children have shown super skills, crazy commitment and never-ending enthusiasm. That along with the hard work of their teachers – Mr. Maguire, Mr. Coughlan, Ms. McDonagh and Ms. McGuinness – has finally paid off and all that's left now is the final. Win lose or draw, we wish our footballers all the very best. Maith sibh a bhuachaillí agus a chailíní. A big thank you to the parents who supported us this year and gave lifts to matches. Credit is also due to St. John's, whose coach – Carol Nolan - has given great GAA skills training to all our pupils. If you would like to join your local GAA Club all information is available on [www.ballinteerstjohns.com](http://www.ballinteerstjohns.com)

### Girls' GAA

Congratulations to our girls who have reached the final in Croke Park. The attitude, enthusiasm and conduct of all the girls has been exemplary and as always we are very proud of their efforts. But this year their teamwork and skilful play has made all the difference! It was wonderful to see so many girls trying out for GAA this year. We would really encourage them to join a club to develop their skills and to make new friends. The girls performed admirably this year and will now play in the final which will take place at 2.40p.m. on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Maith sibh a chailíní! *Sue McDonagh and Niamh McGuinness*

### Senior Boys

Our Senior Boys showed great promise when they were in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class and now that they're a bit older, they have been performing excellently recently and recording impressive victories over many teams along the way. It is very encouraging to see so many talented Gaelic footballers coming through the school and we encourage them all to get involved with their local G.A.A. clubs. They have shown great character and sportsmanship in all their games and we wish them all the best in their Croke Park Final at 11.00a.m. on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Comhghairdeas, a bhuachaillí!

*~ Shane Maguire & Fergus Coughlan*

Our Junior Boys have had a great campaign as well finishing joint top of their group. They were unbeaten in their league, winning four matches and drawing one. This has led them to a play-off final today – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – with fellow top finishers, St. Michael's in Ballsbridge. Best of luck to the Junior team today. The future is yours, boys!!!

### KINDNESS COUNTS!



We'll continue this year with **Kindness Counts**, our school's effort to encourage all our pupils to show a little kindness whenever they can. In this way they can spread happiness wherever they go by doing simple acts of kindness. In school, this can be to their classmates – not just friends – and to everybody who works with them. As part of this movement we will continue with our Charity Chain whereby we look out for one another. No matter how badly off we are, there are always others who need our help! So throughout the year, teachers and pupils support different charities. We started already with our Jersey Day which raised almost €600 for Medicines Sans Frontieres and the Irish Sisters of Charity. As the year goes by, we will support the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Christmastime and the Trócaire Lenten Appeal at Eastertime. We also support the Irish Heart Foundation through the Skipathon, the Cancer Society's Daffodil Day, Barnardo's the Children's Hospital, Bóthar and the Laura Lynn Hospice. But we never forget that charity begins at home, so why not show a random act of kindness today and remember... kindness, like a boomerang, always returns.

### WHAT'S UP NEXT?

BOOK WEEK Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Hallowe'en Dress Up Day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

MID-TERM BREAK Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

CROKE PARK BOYS' AND GIRLS' GAA FINALS – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE in SCOIL NAITHÍ – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

MATHS TABLE QUIZ – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November

## WOW!



Walk or cycle to school on Wednesdays: don't forget to make the effort when the weather is fine. Walk/cycle from your house to school or walk/cycle part of the way but make sure to be on time. And if it's wet on a Wednesday then choose another day. Let's Go Green and save energy.



It's great to see so many people cycling to school... but please don't forget...

- In the interests of safety, please do not cycle in or around the school grounds.
- All bicycles must be locked to the racks.
- Please label or identify your bike.
- Please do not leave bicycles at the school over the weekend or during holiday periods.
- Remember your safety equipment (helmets, lights, etc.!).

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

St. Attracta's Parents' Association held their AGM last Wednesday 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 fabulous fundraising efforts over the past year and for the cheque for €9000 we received last week and which will be put to good use for the benefit of the children and the school. This time last year, you may recall the Board of Management also met you to discuss the crisis in school funding. Your response to the Voluntary Contribution appeal was tremendous. The Boards of both schools will write to you in due course in relation to this but in the meantime we will 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.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



The list of extra-curricular activities has gone out and we're happy to report that we were able to facilitate most pupils. However, where classes were in high demand, we have kept a waiting list and anybody who misses out on a place will get first option when the next set of lessons start. Most activities last for a 10 week term and a second run of the activity will take place in January. We organised the activities in a different way this year. How did you find it? Please let us know.

## HEAD LICE

Unfortunately, head lice can be a part of life; 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 via a note. Please take the time to read the following advice:



### Check for head lice regularly:

- Check your child(ren)'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 Nitty Gritty NitFreeComb - every home should have one.
- Do not assume that because your child is not itchy they do not have head lice.

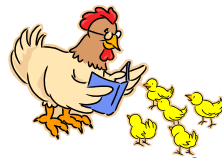
### If you find head lice:

- 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.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/health/parents-warned-not-to-treat-children-for-head-lice-preventively-30525894.html>

The Facts of Lice: <http://nittygritty.co.uk/site/headliceandnits.asp>





## BOOK WEEK 2014: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014

**Welcome to Book Week 2014. Fáilte chuig Seachtain na Leabhar!**

The overall aim of Book Week is to encourage the children to read and to develop in them a love of books and reading. You, the parents, can help in this regard, by reading with your child and by helping them in their choice of reading material. Book Week is also a wonderful opportunity for pupils to showcase their creativity and even start writing themselves.

We look forward to a great week ahead and we hope the children – particularly those who are experiencing their first Senior School Book Week - really enjoy the many and varied activities we have planned. We've been preparing book reviews and book marks, poetry and stories, artwork and 'Book in a Box', soapbox and newspapers. We congratulate the children on their hard work for Book Week.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils will attend a performance of Beauty and the Beast in the BCS on Wednesday and we're really looking forward to that. Then children's author – Jackie Bourke – will visit 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils and graphic artist and novelist Alan Nolan will visit 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils.

Our Book Fair takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday. Also on Wednesday morning after 10 o'clock Mass the 10.30 Club of parishioners will visit the school halla for a cuppa and a browse of the Book Fair. All grannies and granddads are invited to join us for a chat and a look at the display of pupil's work. Bring your favourite book with you! Parents are also welcome to join us at 10.30a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Why not visit your local library over the mid-term break and visit [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie) to see what events are taking place in your local area? And while you're at it, check out [www.childrensbooksireland.ie/childrens-book-festival](http://www.childrensbooksireland.ie/childrens-book-festival) where you'll find a programme of book-related events?

We'll have our prize-giving ceremony on Friday and on Friday also the children will dress up in their Hallowe'en outfits as a special treat. And don't forget... Read! Read! Read!

**Book Week Committee:** Mr Kirwan, Ms Carey, Ms Doyle, Ms O'Leary, Ms Dolan, Ms Nelly, Ms McDonnell

### BOOK FAIR 2014 TIMETABLE

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday
10.00 – 10.30	R6 Ms. Nelly	R3 Mr. Fitzgerald
10.30 – 10.40	SOS	SOS
10.40 -11.00	D.E.A.R	D.E.A.R
11.00 – 11.20	R6 Ms. Rafter	10.30 Club
11.30 - 11.50	R6 Ms. McGuinness	R3 Ms. Carey
12.00 – 12.20	R4 Ms. Dolan	R3 Ms. McKernan
12.30 – 1.00	LÓN	LÓN
1.10 – 1.30	R4 Ms. McDonagh	R5 Mr. Maguire
1.40 - 2.00	R4 Mr. Coughlan	R5 Mrs. Clifford
2.00 – 2.20		R5 Ms. O'Leary

### A FEW LITTLE ITEMS

- ✚ First Aid: It is vital that the school has up-to-date health and allergy information for your child. Remember to inform the school of any changes regarding your child's health in writing.
- ✚ The Lost Property Box will be emptied each month. Unclaimed items will be sent to the recycling centre or the local St. Vincent de Paul shop. Please label your child's belongings!
- ✚ It is a policy of the school that children are not allowed to re-enter the school building after closing time. It is a life-skill that children remember what books and items are needed for homework on a particular day.

