



GRANDPARENT'S DAY

At the end of January, we celebrated **Catholic Schools Week**. It's a week when we celebrate the joy of being in a Catholic School, whether as pupils or teachers.

On Wednesday 24th January, we celebrated Grandparents' Day. This was a wonderful occasion for grandparents and children alike. Each class completed different activities such as projects on their grandparents, cards, art activities and poems to help mark this special day.

As part of our celebration, we had a lovely variety of songs from the Junior and Senior school choirs. These were thoroughly enjoyed by all the grandparents and a huge thanks to Ms. Grealis and to Ms. McCann for co-ordinating this. We also had some beautiful acrostic poems from our 3rd and 4th class children that went down a treat.

This year we also had a Q&A session with grandparents with questions written by the children themselves. This gave our grandparents a fantastic opportunity to share their childhood memories and experiences with the children. We also had music from two fantastic musicians with Evan Tong on the violin and Justin Xue on the piano.

A huge thanks to the Parents' Association who helped serve refreshments on the day. Finally, a sincere thanks to all the grandparents who came to share in our celebration and remind the children how lucky they are to have such wonderful people in their lives to love and support them.



During the first week of February, we celebrated **Internet Safety Week** in St. Attracta's SNS. This is an event organised to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. This year this theme was **"Tech in our World"**.

To mark Internet Safety Day, Mr. Kenny arranged Internet Safety Talks for all pupils in our school. A facilitator from CyberSafeKids visited each class to explore internet safety and this year's theme.

These were hugely beneficial and informative talks in which our children were informed of possible dangers online but also encouraged to keep safe online, be mindful of passwords and to be conscious of our digital footprint.

The aim of Cybersafe Ireland and of St. Attracta's SNS is that we want children to take advantage of all that the digital world has to offer in terms of education and enjoyment, but without putting themselves or others at risk.

Please see www.cybersafeireland.org and webwise.ie for tips on how to keep your children safe online.





Editing has begun on the latest edition of The Buzzy Bee. Many thanks to all entrants. Everyone who submitting an article went into a draw and congrats to the 14 winners!

The newspaper will be on sale Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March. It will be published on our school website before the Easter holidays.

Have a look at some of our editors working particularly hard in advance of our first publication.



CONFIRMATION DATES

This year we have a total of 79 children due to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in May.

The Confirmation ceremonies will take place in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Ballinteer on the following dates and times:

Ms. McEvoy/Ms. McDonagh & Ms McCann

- Wednesday 29th May, at 6pm

Ms. Leonard & Mr. Butler - Thursday 30th May at 6pm



????? CREDIT UNION QUIZ ?????

Congratulations to our Junior Credit Union Quiz team of Darragh Enright, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Lucy Morris and Conor Young on their amazing success. They have qualified for the All-Ireland Final, to be held in the RDS on April 7th.

We have had many talented quiz teams over the years but none has achieved this highly. The team won a tightly contested competition in our local Chapter at the end of January, thus qualifying for the Dublin Final which was held in Kilnamanagh on Sunday, 3rd March.

In another close contest St. Attracta's lost out in a tie-break to St. Killian's of Kingswood but that loss didn't matter because both teams went through to the Final in any case. ***We wish them every success in April!***



LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Starting on Wednesday March 6th and running up to the Easter holidays, why not join Mr. Kenny, Ms. Clifford and Mr. Maguire in the Oratory from 8:30am for a few moments of quiet reflection, prayer and music?

This Lent the students will lead some lovely prayers, reflections and music aimed at young people. We are also hoping to have our school choirs join us in the mornings. All are more than welcome and it would be great to see as many as possible there.

Make it part of your Lenten resolution for 2024.



TRÓCAIRE BOXES

All children have been given this year's Trócaire boxes. Many parents and teachers remember filling those Trócaire boxes when they were at school themselves. The purpose of these boxes is to give some of our loose coins to charity instead of to ourselves.



Remember that boxes must be returned to school before the Easter Holidays.

Check out Trócaire's website to learn more:

www.trocaire.com



CYCLING



Cycling for 6th Classes is currently ongoing and the children seem to be really enjoying the experience. It is fantastic to see so many children across all classes cycling to school. Remember boys and girls to wear a helmet and walk your bike through the school yard.



OLYMPIC HANDBALL



On Tuesday January 22nd, we had four teams represent our school in the Dublin Olympic Handball Finals. This was a great day for the children where they had the opportunity to showcase their talents against some of the top schools in Dublin.

After some fantastic games our U13 our boys agonisingly lost out on making the final through scoring difference. Meanwhile, our U13 girls came up against exceptionally strong opposition and unfortunately didn't make it past the group stages. This was very disappointing for both U13 teams who fought so valiantly on the day. Both teams should be very proud of their efforts.

Both our U11 boys and girls' teams had a slightly easier path to the final in their respective groups. Our U11 boys finished second in their group while the girls topped their group. This meant both our U11 teams successfully qualified for the Dublin finals.

Our U11 boys were first to play their Final, coming up against a very strong outfit from Rush NS. After a fiercely competitive first half, our boys were 2-1 up at half time thanks to goals from Killian Murray and Seán Byrne. The second half was again extremely close with both teams showing wonderful determination and a never say die attitude. Unfortunately, when the final whistle went, the scoreline read St. Attracta's 2 Rush NS 3. Well done to Rush NS on their victory.

Our U11 girls were last to play their final and they were once again pitted against a very strong Rush side. After a tight first half, the girls were 1-0 up at the break thanks to a fantastic goal from Íde Humar. The girls pushed on in the second half and were victorious at the final whistle, winning on a scoreline of St. Attracta's 2 Rush NS 1. Amy Clarke got our all-important winning goal. This was a wonderful achievement for the girls and they should be so proud of their efforts. **St. Attracta's Abú!!!**

On Monday 4th March, our U11 girls team represented Dublin in the Leinster Olympic Handball Finals. Our girls placed first in their group after playing Ballyconnell NS from Carlow and Fermoy NS from Longford, where Alanna McLoughlin made some excellent saves ensuring the girls proceeded to the final.

The girls encountered very strong opposition from Skryne, Meath in the final. The girls were 3-2 up displaying an excellent passage of play throughout the game with goals from Íde Humar, Katie Darcy and Sophie O'Toole. With seconds to go Skryne scored a goal to level the game! After three minutes of extra time Katie Darcy secured a Leinster title for St. Attracta's with a powerful goal! The girls proceed to the All-Ireland Finals in UL Arena on the 24th April. The school are very proud of their success and we wish them the very best of luck in the All-Ireland competition! **Go n-éirí libh!**

A huge thanks to our coaches Ms. O'Gorman, Mr. Butler, Ms. O'Leary and Mr. Kenny for all their help and hard work with the teams.



CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL HURLING & CAMOGIE

This time of year brings the return of the various Cumann na mBunscol hurling and camogie competitions. This year we will have four teams representing St. Attracta's SNS with a girls' senior and junior team and a boys' senior and junior team. The senior hurling and camogie competitions are scheduled to begin on April 17th/18th whilst the go games competitions are scheduled to start on April 16th.

We wish all players and coaches the very best of luck as they begin their respective competitions. achieve this.



SOCCER

Just like the Cumann na mBunscol, the various soccer leagues are also recommencing in the coming weeks. This year we will have a boys' and girls' team from St. Attracta's competing in both the league and cup competitions. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their talents in a competitive environment. We wish both teams and their coaches the very best of luck.

A huge thanks to Ms. McCann, Mr. Danza, Mr. Bradley and to Sean McLoughlin for all their work with the teams.



BASKETBALL

St. Attracta's have started participating in the Dublin Schools Mini-Basketball League this year. In Mini-Basketball an emphasis is placed on the importance of skills development, playing and enjoyment. The girls from all three 5th classes have been participating in league matches during the year and have done exceptionally well.

The finals are being played in the National Basketball Arena on Monday 11th March. **We wish them the best of luck!**



Happy Retirement

Happy
Iníon Uí Lorcáin

We wish to let you know that Iníon Uí Lorcáin has retired from her role as teacher in St. Attracta's Senior School in January 2024. She will be greatly missed by all the staff and students. We are delighted for her that she is about to begin a whole new adventure.

We thank Iníon Uí Lorcáin for her outstanding dedication and commitment to the children of St. Attracta's. We owe her a great debt of gratitude in so many ways and we wish her every happiness and fulfilment on her retirement.

Happy Retirement TONY

We also want to inform you all that our caretaker, Tony McCann has retired from his role in February 2024.

Tony was Caretaker for both schools over the last 12 years and he will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank him most sincerely for all his work here in the school. He was always most obliging and willing to give a hand with anything around the school. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

EASTER CHICKS FOR GAZA

We wish to send huge thanks to **Carol Hicks**, grandmother of Libby Hicks in Ms. Ryan's 3rd class for all her time and effort knitting 500 Easter chicks which all contain a hidden chocolate egg. Carol very kindly donated the chicks to the school and we are selling them in order to raise much needed funds for the **UNICEF Appeal for Gaza**.



ART gallery



SNOW IN THE GALLOPS

Friday 1st March 2024



OUR NEW SCHOOL PE UNIFORM



COMING SEPTEMBER 2024