

# ST. MARK'S S.N.S.

## EASTER NEWSLETTER



“Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine”

### Enrolment for 2015/16

Enrolment of new pupils for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes for September 2015.

Enrolment Packs are available from the school.

*Enrolment is always subject to availability of places.*

Contact: Richie Walsh Principal  
Phone: 01 4513138

### Saint Mark's Day

Our school is named after St. Mark.

**St. Mark's Day** will be celebrated this year on **April 25th**.



### Study Club

Mr Daly and Mr Murphy run The Study Club which takes place on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 2.30pm to 3.45pm. Two study clubs will be taking place after Easter until Summer, each lasting five weeks.

### German Lessons

German lessons will start on Tuesday 14th April. They will run for 7 weeks. Contact Ms. O'Donnell Room 13.

## Happy Easter



**Dear Parents,**

The end of another term is upon us. The Easter holidays, for both children and teachers, come as a welcome time to renew and regenerate after a particularly energetic and bustling term. I'm sure you are all looking forward to a lovely relaxing break too. Thank you to all staff for their commitment and dedication to the children.

Sincere thanks to our terrific PTA for their support and help during the term with various school projects.

We hope you have a good Easter break and look forward to seeing the children again on Monday 13th April 2015.

**Beannachtaí na cásca oraibh go léir**



**"NO ONE LEFT BEHIND"**

### International Friendship Week

Immediately after Easter, from **13th - 17th April**, we are holding an International Friendship Week in the school. During the week all classes will engage in activities which will help them to build and nurture relationships with their friends; discuss strategies to help repair links which may be damaged and consider actions they may need to adopt when confronted with conflict.

Each mainstream class will also present a project on one of the 41 countries from which our children come. An exhibition will be held in the school hall. Details of plans to follow.

## Basketball Team

The School Basketball team will compete this week in the Garda Schools Basketball League in the National Basketball Arena. The team, consisting of five boys and five girls from 6th class, have been training hard over the past few months with Ms. Ryan and Ms. Fowler. They have built up their skills and are hoping to have a successful and enjoyable tournament. St. Mark's has achieved great success in this competition in the past and hope to continue to represent the school with teamwork, pride and enthusiasm.



## St. Mark's Athletics

At the moment there are between 40 and 50 children coming out on a regular basis at lunch times and in the morning to train. Training can include anything from long distance running, sprinting, fitness work, hurdles or relays. The South Dublin County Council Cross Country Series started last month and 50 children from St. Marks competed. There are 7 races in total and the girls and boys run in separate races: 3rd class run 300m, 4th boys run 400m, 5th run 500 and 6th run 600m. On the 25th February we raced and St. Marks did really well with Warren Davis, Sandra Sanusi, Daniel Kelch and Abrar Nasreden winning their races. Athletics is not only great fun but a super way to get fit and if you think it might be something you want to do Ms. Lunny & Ms. Campbell organise trials regularly.

## Arts Week 2015

This year's Arts Week was held from 2nd -6th February. The 3rd and 4th Classes visited **The National Gallery** while our 5th and 6th Classes had a guided tour of **The Hugh Lane Gallery** in Parnell Square. All classes travelled on the Luas taking in all the sights of Dublin along the route. A number of visitors came to St. Mark's during Arts Week. Four authors came to the school, John Quinn, Gillian Perdue, Alan Early and Roisín Meaney. The authors were highly impressed by the enthusiasm and love the children had for reading. Three artists held art classes with the children, Carmen Touhy, Katherine Lally and Rachel White. Everyone had lots of fun. The artists spoke of their pleasure and enjoyment of working with the children.



Art, photography and poetry competitions were held. An exhibition, was held in the school hall on Friday 6th attended by parents. All art was displayed and poetry books were available for their perusal. The top photographs were also exhibited. What a week we all had!

## Student Council

Our student council consists of **19 boys and girls** representing all nineteen classes in the school.

### Role of Our Student Council:

- ★ **Meetings:** Meet regularly to discuss school-related issues.
- ★ **R.P. School Flag:** Welcomed guests and directed them to their seats.
- ★ **Science Week:** Welcomed Parents and using iPads explained various experiments to parent visitors
- ★ **Arts Week:** Welcomed guests facilitated parents in purchasing their children's art and poetry
- ★ **School Newsletter for website:** The boys and girls co-ordinate and collect articles from their respective classes. The senior students from 5th & 6th Classes edit and produce the final newsletter with guidance from Ms. Cora MacManus.
- ★ **Yard Buddies:** support the 3rd & 4th Class children with play on the yard.
- ★ **Bring & Buy Sale in June:** funds raised go to our twin school in Mozambique run by Mr. Fitzsimons.



## Chess in St. Mark's

St. Mark's 6th Class pupils are taking part again this year in The Tallaght Schools Chess League. They got off to a good start with wins against: St. Anne's, St. Maelruain's and St. Kevin's. Their most recent league match was against St. Aidan's. This proved to be their most challenging meeting yet. Going into the last stages of the games. It came down to the final game between St. Aidan's and our very own Jophert Depakakbo. His efforts in winning his game have left St. Mark's on top of their league for this year. Well done to all players on the chess panel in 6th class.



## Drama Club

The Drama Club will run for six Mondays starting Monday 27th April. Contact Ms. Wyrer's classroom, Room 23.

## St Mark's P.T.A.

St. Mark's S.N.S. Parent Teacher would like thank all parents and staff who contributed to their recent Spring Draw. In all €1600 was raised, which will be spent on classroom resources.

Our next Movie Club will be after Easter Holidays on **Friday 24th April** from 6.50 to 8.50 p.m. We respectfully request that children are collected immediately after the show.

**Reminder:** On **Thursday 16th April at 7.30 p.m.** Parents are invited to an evening with Guest Speaker John Wills from Barnardos on **"Cyberbullying"** a subject that will be of interest to all parents.

## Hurling 2015

St. Mark's hurling team has started back training since the beginning of February and there has been great enthusiasm shown from all involved. We are very optimistic for the year ahead as most of the panel who were beaten in last years final in Croke Park are playing again this year. In the Senior competition we have three matches in the group stage before the knockout phase of the competition. Our first match was against Scoil Santain on Wednesday the 25th of March. We then play Holy Family RC in our home pitch on the 16th of April. This is followed by our final group match against Scoil Martin which is again on our home pitch. All matches will be played after school and all support is greatly appreciated. We also have a big interest in the Junior League this year with a lot of new children from third class joining our panel. Matches for the Junior League will begin on the 21st of April against Scoil Maelruáin and again any support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful year at both Senior and Junior level.



## Green Schools

This year the Green Schools Committee are working towards their fourth flag for **Travel**. So far, the school has been awarded Green Flags for Litter and Waste, for Energy and for Water.

For the past year and a half, the Green Schools Committee have worked to inform the school community about links between climate change and transport. They have encouraged walking to school, or using a **"Park and Stride"** (parking at a distance from the school and walking from there) if a journey to school by car is necessary.

Students are encouraged to **WOW (WALK ON WEDNESDAYS)**, and each day students who walk, or "park and stride", tick a "Score on the Door" sheet, with the class receiving the highest scores in each year group winning a "Golden Boot" Award. Our Green Code, **"The Beat on the Street is Use Your Feet"**, was designed by a 6th class pupil last year and is displayed in each room and on the corridors. The 6th class committee are also currently creating a video to encourage "Green" forms of travel to be shown to all classes.

Last week we had a visit from An Taisce Green Schools Co-ordinator Jane Hackett and she was very impressed with the students' enthusiasm, creativity and hardwork. We hope to be awarded our fourth flag in the next few months and to celebrate this great achievement as a school community.



## European Week Against Racism

On Friday 20th March, a group of ten children from 6th class in St. Mark's S.N.S. took part in South Dublin County Council's Sports Blitz as part of the European Week against Racism. The team consisted of Sponsor Adam, Shella Nzale, Stephen Alabi, Klara Poleszuk, Divin Isamala, Chimdimma Udchukwu, Kenneth John Ras, Leisha Kennedy, Daniel Kelch and Caoimhe O'Connor. About 8 schools in total spent the day in Clondalkin Sports and Leisure Centre. St. Mark's competed a Round Robin style against all the others in three activities - Soccer, Tag Rugby and Cricket. Points were awarded for winning and for good conduct. The aim of the day was to enjoy taking part in a fun activity!

The children were on the go all the time, the only rest was a short stop for lunch at 12:00. St. Mark's team performed brilliantly, winning all but three of their matches. They all had a great day and were a credit to the school. Some very tired but happy children arrived back in Springfield afterwards.

### Mathletics Certificate Winners:



### Other important Diary Dates:

#### Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2015 inclusive

#### Bank Holiday & School Holidays

Monday 4th May and Tuesday 5th May 2015

**Confirmation** Friday 8th May at 11.00a.m.

#### Bank Holiday & School Holidays

Monday June 1st-Wednesday 3rd inclusive 2015

#### Summer Holidays

Tuesday 30th June, school closes at 12.00 noon

## Credit Union Quiz Team

On Sunday March 1st, the under-11 quiz team from St. Mark's S.N.S. took part in the Second Round of the **Credit Union Schools' Quiz**. Our team had already won the first Local Round in January thus they qualified to represent Tallaght West Credit Union in the second Regional Round.

During the Quiz, which took place at Kilnamanagh Community Centre, the team competed against fourteen other teams from Tallaght, Firhouse, Clondalkin, Inchicore, Chapelizod, Maynooth and Leixlip. After a very closely fought contest, the team from St. Mark's S.N.S. emerged as winners! As prize the children received certificates and money. They have now qualified to participate in the All-Ireland final of the quiz which will take place in the R.D.S. Ballsbridge, Dublin on Sunday April 12th. We are very proud of them all. The four team members are Huxley Braden Samuel, Heather Kelly, Louise Foran and Séan Martin Byrne. We have our fingers crossed and wish them every success in the **All -Ireland Final**.



## Mathematics in St. Mark's S.N.S.

Mathematics is a very important part of any school curriculum and in St. Mark's we like to bring it to life for the children. Each child gets a chance to work with Maths at their own level of ability. So how do we manage that?

- We encourage constant involvement in **Mathletics** both in school and at home. The children can achieve various levels in Mathletics thus earning points for certificates.
- The Children who earn the certificates are photographed with their certificates and displayed on the **Maths Board** on the corridor. This gives them a sense of pride and confidence.
- Each standard has a **Mathematician of the Month** who are photographed and displayed on the Maths Board.
- Each week a **maths problem** is put on the Maths Board. The children have a week to do the problem and leave their answers in a box. This problem is done independently of the class maths and three winners are picked every Friday. Each winner gets a homework pass.
- This was our first year of the **Mathathon** and it was very successful. It was held in November and the children enjoyed it.

We will continue to foster the teaching of Mathematics in the school and most importantly, offer them the opportunity to achieve success and feel comfortable with the subject.