

ST. MARK'S S.N.S.

SUMMER 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.

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Mrs Ann Ryan



Ann Ryan, Principal of St. Mark's Junior school, our colleague and friend is retiring at the end of August. This occasion is mixed with great sadness and joy. Over the past seventeen years we have worked closely with Ann. She has left an indelible mark on the community of St. Mark's; on the lives of the children and parents of Springfield. She has been a champion for the children of St. Mark's. The school she passes to Ms. Deirdre Ní Bhroin is a testimony to her innate nurturing spirit, her love of learning, her positive energy and her determination in always striving to get the best for her school. We will really miss working with Ann. We will also miss the love and the laughter we have shared with her but we wish her a long happy, healthy retirement.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our school's Summer newsletter, the last of the current academic year. This has been an extremely successful and positive year for the school community. An action packed, fun filled and exciting educational year was had by all! Our students and staff have enjoyed considerable success and acclaim on many fronts. We have a lot of great news to share with you from sporting achievements to educational initiatives. Over the next few pages is a snapshot of recent activities, all of which had incredible input and support both from the Board of Management all of the Teachers, the PTA and of course you the parents, guardians and pupils.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the Board of Management, the Parent Teacher Association, teachers, special needs assistants, administration staff, cleaning staff, the children and everyone who gives their time to work behind the scenes, working together to make this school a most welcoming place for everyone to come to every day.

We wish all of our 6th classes the very best of luck as they say goodbye and head off to the next stage in their education.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable and safe summer holiday. For everyone else, we will see you all back here on Tuesday 1st September 2015.

Bain sár taitneamh as Laethanta Saoire an tSamhraidh agus tá súil agam go mbeidh sos deas, suaimhneach agus grianmharach agaibh.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Richie Walsh



A Community Committed To Restorative Practice

September 1st 2015

St. Mark's reopens on 1st September 2015.

New 4th and 6th Classes return at 8.50 a.m.

New 5th Classes meet in school hall at 9.30 a.m

New 3rd Classes meet in school hall at 10.00 a.m

Restorative Practices

R.P. is both a philosophy and a set of skills. **The Philosophy of Restorative Practice** is rooted in respect for human beings; recognition of the importance of good relationships between people for human well-being and development and the understanding that relationships can and should be restored when they have been harmed by conflict or wrongdoing.

Key R.P. Skills are the ability to listen and to develop empathy between people, fairness, problem-solving and conflict resolution.

St. Mark's Athletics

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who represented the school in Santry Stadium in this years Santry Sports. Thank you to coaches Deirdre Lunny, Michele Noble, Kate Ryan and Carina Campbell. We won a gold medal and two bronze medals.

School Tours 2014/15

This has been a busy term for school outings This past May and June, classes from our school have been going on school tours. Here are some of our wonderful trips:

3rd Class: Croke Park and The Phoenix Park

4th Class: Tayto Park

5th Class: Fort Lucan

6th Class: National Sports Campus Experience.

St. Mark's Soccer

This year was a hugely successful year for the school soccer team. As in previous years, the team entered two competitions: the FAI 5 a-side tournament and the Tallaght League. They reached the FAI Schools 5 a-side Final in Irishtown Stadium, losing to Ballyroan BNS by a single goal. The team managed to go one step further in the Tallaght League however. With four wins and one draw, they won the Tallaght Soccer League. Several coaches from other schools and referees commented on the teamwork of our players. They showed great determination in their play, were extremely solid in defence and attacked with great skill. There was great support for the team from parents at matches. The whole school is very proud of our soccer team this year. Congratulations and a Big Thank You to Paul O'Connor and Michael Daly.



Green Schools

We are delighted to announce that thanks to the committed hard work of Ms. Fowler and our Green Schools Committee, St. Mark's has been awarded our fourth Green Flag. Congratulations to Ms. Fowler, Ms. Ryan, Ms. MacManus and the children on the Green School's Committee on this great achievement.

On Thursday the 11th June we had a wonderful celebration and we had the pleasure of Mayor of South Dublin Fintan Warfield raising the Green Flag. We had the opportunity to see the incredible video produced by the 6th class children of the Green School's Committee.



6th Class BBQ

The 6th Class Teachers and Ms. Jean Gilmore, our School Completion Coordinator organised a Barbecue Tue 23rd June for their pupils to celebrate the great contribution they have made to the school community over the past four years. They also took part in various sports activities during the day. Weather was wonderful, a great day had by all!

Quiz Teams

Credit Union Quiz: A team from St. Mark's coached by Mr. John Shorten qualified to compete in the All Ireland final which took place in the RDS, Ballsbridge in April. In the All Ireland final, the team performed quite well even though it did not feature among the winning teams. This was the first time ever that either St. Mark's S.N.S. or Tallaght West Credit Union were represented in an All Ireland final.

Confirmation 2015/16

On Friday 8th of May, many of the pupils of 6th class made their Confirmation in St. Mark's Church. The class teachers were Ms. Wyer, Ms. Cashin, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Barker and Mr. Daly. Bishop Eamonn Walsh confirmed the children. Our school choir directed by Ms. McEvoy, Ms. Murray and Ms. Higgins sang beautifully throughout the ceremony. It was a very enjoyable ceremony and a tremendous day for the St. Mark's community.



Dr. Dáithí Ó Murchú, Mr. Barker, Kenneth Ras, Jophert Depakakibo discussing coding our IT Suite.

Hurling 2015

A great year for Hurling in St. Mark's culminated with a fantastic day in Croke Park on Monday the 8th of June. St. Mark's took on Scoil Lorcain in the Corn Uí Neill final. It was an extremely competitive match and it took a fantastic performance from the team to leave with a victory. The match was of a very high standard and St. Mark's produced a great performance on the day.

We won by a scoreline of 2-7 to 1-8. There was outstanding performances all over the field. Congratulations to all of the team and a Big Thank You to Mr. Frehill, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Barker. We really appreciated the great support from all of the children, teachers, parents and guardians who cheered us on in Croke Park.



Digital Schools of Distinction Award

It was tremendous to achieve the Digital schools Award on Friday 29th May. It confirms and endorses all the digital work that teachers and pupils are doing in St. Mark's S.N.S. Our validator was Dr. Dáithí Ó Murchú who engaged with the pupils and staff in a most creative way. He was introduced to a variety of digital activities in which the children were engaged. He was extremely impressed by the high standard digital work that we are achieving. Thanks to all members of our ICT Committee for this achievement and co-operation but a special thank you is due to Mr. Durkin. All of our school staff did everything possible to make this validation visit a success. This was a great confirmation of our ICT development for learning here in St. Mark's. We look forward to the new school year with many new ideas and projects. We will receive the Digital Schools of Distinction Award in late September.



Bí Gnóthach



This year Kevin Frehill's Fifth Class created a Mini Business around the concept of Funky Frames. The children designed and constructed photo frames. All of their work was recorded in a large Diary, which included written and photographic evidence of all activities involved in their business. Their project is on exhibition in Tallaght Library until the end of June. They were presented with a Special Merit Award and a cheque for €100. We congratulate Mr. Frehill and his fifth class.

Sports Awards 2015/16



Sports Awards took place on the 17th of June in the church. The sports medals were given to 56 pupils who represented the school during the year in competitions. Each coach or mentor gave a resume of the year's activities and chose their Male/Female player of the year. There were 10 trophies awarded. The medals were also given to the soccer team for their win in the Tallaght League. The following children received Sports Awards

- Athletics:** Chimdimma Uduchukwu, Abrar Nasreden
- Basketball:** Lisa Nwanochie, Dwayne Gongga
- Chess:** Emma Brennan, Patrick Worth
- Gaelic:** Caoimhe O'Connor, Ross Byrne
- Soccer:** Divin Isamala
- Hurling:** Jack Kielthy

Sponsored Walk for Sport

The Sports Walk took place on the 19th of May, we were lucky with the weather. We combined forces with the Green Schools Programme to encourage walking to school. The walk was started with an enthusiastic send off by the Green School Committee. We earned €4445.49 in Sponsorship.



Maths in St. Mark's

Over the past three months our Maths Committee led by Ms. Bernie Jones worked on the next stage of our School Self Evaluation. To enable the committee to compile an SSE Mathematics Report, information was gathered using questionnaires. Questionnaires were completed by nineteen Mainstream Teachers; 160 Parents and 490 Children. Strengths and areas for improvement have been highlighted. Improvement Targets have been developed.

After School Activities 2015/16

Activity	Teacher	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
German Classes	Ms. Alison O'Donnell	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	April - June
Drama Classes	Ms. Christine Wyr	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	
Study Club	Mr. Mark Murphy & Mr. Daly	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	April - June
Sports Club	Mr. O'Connor & Mr. Barker	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	April - June
Irish Dancing Classes	Ms. Karina O'Connor	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	April - June
Art and Craft Classes	Ms. Murphy & Ms. Cashin	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	
Hip Hop & Singing	Ms. Gargan & Ms. Murray	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	
French Classes	Ms. Ledwith	Sept - Dec	Jan - April	