

Taney Parish Primary School

Newsletter: Christmas 2015

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Welcome to new pupils

A big welcome to everyone new to Taney Parish Primary School! Our school roll shows that we now have 438 pupils. The P.T.A. held a New Parents' coffee morning for the parents of Junior Infants on Friday 11th September and it was great to see so many there. Class representatives are in place for both Junior Infant classes. Our Junior Infants have settled in well and are enjoying school life. We welcome all the new families to our school, those who have started in Infants and those new to the school in more senior classes.

Staff News

Welcome back to Paul Staunton, our Caretaker, who has been out sick, and who we are delighted has returned.

We said goodbye to two teachers at the end of the last school year – Ms. McQueston and Mrs. Burnell have both moved to schools in the countryside. Mrs. A. McConnell came back from an extended career break in the U.S. and has joined our Special Education team. New to the school are Ms. Boyd in 3rd Class and Mr. Thompson in 1st Class, whilst Ms. Dolan has returned to teach 6th Class and Ms. Hanbidge to 5th Class. Mrs. Fitzroy and Mrs. Quill are both on maternity leave at the moment – Mrs. Fitzroy's little son, Jack, was born in May and we await news any day now from Mrs. Quill!

Carol Services

The Junior Carol Service will be held in Christ Church Taney on Friday 18th December at 11.00 a.m. and the Senior Carol Service on Tuesday 22nd December at 11.00 a.m.

School Self-Evaluation Report to Community

Reviews of Literacy, Numeracy and P.E. are in progress.

Credit Union Savings Scheme

The P.T.A. is delighted to report that we have over 120 active savers from 1st to 6th Classes. This initiative is proving to be a great success and is now well established in the weekly calendar.

Viv Cox and Lynn Hanley would like to thank both the parents and the pupils in Sixth Class who volunteer their time on Wednesday mornings. Thank you also to all our super savers who are learning the art of saving! Should any parent or pupil in Sixth Class be interested in joining the New Year's roster, please send your details to Lynn Hanley, who has taken over the running of the Credit Union, at lynnchanley@gmail.com and she will be in touch.



School Fair

We raised a whopping €5,969.50 at our School Fair this year. Each class teacher and Learning Support teacher has been given €150 towards classroom expenses, such as art materials, games etc., amounting to €3,150. The remaining funds will be used to fund other projects for the year, such as our Sponsored Walk and Sports Day. A big thanks to everyone involved, including pupils, parents, volunteers, teachers, big spenders, little spenders, bakers, stallholders and local businesses. We couldn't have done it without you!



Cake Competition Winners

We had 18 winners in our Cake Decorating Competition this year. Our esteemed judges (Adrienne and Yuhali) had the unenviable job of picking the winners, which was a daunting task, considering the extremely high standard of decorating! Once again, the pupils from our 4th, 5th and 6th Classes showed their creative and imaginative streaks, with their attention to detail and the sheer effort involved.

Our winners were treated to a behind-the-scenes restaurant experience, very kindly facilitated by China Sichuan (Sandyford), Jamie's Italian and Dantes Pizza Dundrum. They prepared their own food, inputted orders through the system and served customers. All-in-all, a wonderful experience! We would like to thank the restaurants for being so obliging and for giving our winners such an exclusive prize. We also had an extra prize this year for 12 lucky 6th Class pupils who attended Wagamamas for a behind-the-scenes restaurant experience for their hard work helping and running stalls at the School Fair.



Pupils from 6th Class at Wagamama

School Orchestra and Choir

Many thanks to our wonderful School Orchestra. They serenaded our entry to the School Fair and raised the tone of our Parish Bazaar. The School Orchestra, Recorder Group and School Choir will accompany the congregation at our upcoming Senior Carol Service. It really is marvellous to have such an asset in our school.

Board of Management

We look forward to welcoming the incoming Board to their four-year term of office. The new Board consists of Dudley Dolan (Chairperson), Roger Brooks, Timothy Keatinge, Esther Walsh, Andrew Bowers, Stephanie Trahan, June Greene and Elizabeth Carpenter (Principal).

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party was held upstairs in The Leopardstown Inn on Friday 27th November. The venue looked beautifully festive, the food was delicious and with the help of our DJ, Stephen, shapes were most definitely thrown! A great night had by all!

Charities

The Board of Management is continuing to review our charitable giving, aiming to strike a careful balance between helping charities and not overloading parents. This year, we held a Dress up in Taney Colours Day (red and black) on Friday 20th November which was a great success. We collected €968.47 which has been sent to help the Syrian Refugees along with 327 Shoeboxes which were brought in by the children.

Our collections at the School Carol Services will go towards Cancer Research.

School Christmas Cards

This project is now complete and there are more than 7,000 Christmas Cards out there specially designed by our children! The majority of parents now purchase these cards. Thanks to Lesley Ellis and Nicola Darley for managing this project so well.

1916 Commemoration

On Thursday 3rd December, 2015, Flight Sergeant Noel Daly and Airman Eddie Byrne from the Air Corps came to our school to formally present us with the National Flag in a special ceremony. They read out the 1916 Proclamation to the assembled 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes, assisted by Paddy Cameron and Lauren Parkes from 6th Class. The flag was presented to Ryan Leung from 2nd Class and Finn Archer from 6th Class, who received it on behalf of the school. This ceremony was followed by an Assembly of Infants and 1st Classes, who enjoyed their presentation also.



Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who donated toys to our Toy Stall at the Taney Parish Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 5th December. The Parish raised €9,800, which is a great result, particularly considering the weather. Many thanks to our parent and P.T.A. volunteers for helping us set up on Friday and on the stall on Saturday.

P.T.A. Fundraising in 2016

After tremendous fundraising success in the last academic year, Taney Parish Primary School is now the proud owner of 17 new computers and a sizeable laser printer in the Computer Room. This year we hope to raise funds for new sports equipment and to contribute towards School Tours and the purchase of iPads.

With this in mind, we have organised two fundraisers for 2016 and I have no doubt that, as usual, they will be heartily supported by pupils, parents and teachers alike.

1. Table Quiz

The ever-popular Table Quiz returns to The Goat again this year on Friday 5th February at 7.30 p.m. Eoin Pearson is hard at work once again putting together a killer quiz.

Tickets will go on sale in the New Year so please watch out for an email regarding sales. Tickets will be €10 per person, €40 per table (four people max. per table). Our local businesses have once again been extremely generous with us and we have some cracking prizes for the raffle.



2. Sponsored Walk 2016

We are delighted to bring back the Sponsored Walk again this year. We think it's important to have one fundraiser a year where the pupils are directly involved and as our walks



are always a huge hit, we hope to run it every year. This will be taking place on Thursday 28th April in Marlay Park. However, as with last year, and going forward, we hope to involve all classes. The junior pupils (Junior Infants to 2nd Class) will be walking between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m. and the senior pupils (3rd to 6th Class) will be walking between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. More details to follow nearer the time.

Other Plans for Spring and Summer Terms

1. Parent Information Evening

In early March we are delighted to welcome John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison and Author of "The Governor" who will be speaking to us about 'Parenting – the challenges and the rewards' and is based on a book he had published last year entitled "Parenting - raising your child in Ireland today".

The talk will take place in the Robert Smyth Hall on Thursday 3rd March at 8.00 p.m. The charge will be €5 per parent or €7 per couple. We will be sending out a note in February with the booking details.

2. Sports Day

Sports Day is planned for Friday 3rd June, 2016. The fall back date (in case of poor weather) is Thursday 9th June, 2016. Please mark these dates in your calendar. The event takes place at 11.00 a.m. and pupils do not have school that morning.

3. PTA AGM

This will take place on Wednesday 15th June. There will be three vacancies available, that of Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Member on the Committee for any interested parents.

Active School Update

We are currently working towards obtaining an Active School Flag. The purpose of the initiative is to recognise schools that strive to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community. The junior committee, consisting of pupils from First to Sixth Classes, will be working within the school to relay information to their classes about the Active Flag and encourage others to keep fit and active.

We had an extremely successful Active Flag stall at the School Fair which ignited a lot of interest from pupils across the school. They participated in an Active Flag quiz and then completed two challenges ('bucket ball' and 'ladder runs'). Prizes were presented to the winners in both Junior and Senior assemblies. Check out our Active School notice board in the corridor outside 5th Class to see some photos of the winners and of our stall. Congratulations to all who were involved.

A mascot and slogan competition will take place before Christmas. The winning entries will be selected as the representatives for the Active Flag.

Visit the website www.activeschoolflag.ie for more information.



Green School Update

At present the school community is continuing to maintain the good practices adopted as we worked toward our 1st and 2nd Green flags for Litter, Waste and Energy. The recycling hub in the office/reception area is the place to dispose of used printer ink cartridges (except Epson ones); used postage stamps and old mobile phones.

Last June, as a transition link to the school application for a Blue flag (Active School) all pupils were issued with Green Passports and encouraged to get out and about over the Summer. A total of 15 passports were returned in September. The Green Committee considered that this was not a sufficient number to warrant entry to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown competition but they will be kept and used as evidence of the initial activity en-route to our Blue/Active flag application.

A number of these passports received were of a highly commendable standard. Congratulations to these diligent families.



Update from the Sports Committee

After a particularly balmy start to the term the weather hasn't been so kind to us lately, however, sport has managed to continue with very few cancellations.

We have 102 girls and 72 boys playing Taney hockey this season, all of whom have been taking part in a new Hockey Ireland initiative leading to a Skills Challenge Day. By taking part in this we were very lucky to have been chosen to receive a 'Champion Visit' from Irish international Alan Sothorn. Alan was one of the key players on the men's team that has achieved huge success in the past year in particular and has qualified for next years Olympic games.



4th class happy girls after hockey skills challenge

The three girls league teams have started their matches with mixed results. Also, our very eager 4th class have had some friendly games against some local schools.

The boys have four teams playing in leagues again this year; three in primary school leagues and one in the 1st year league which gives the boys the opportunity to play full pitch matches. Again, they have had mixed results across the teams. We hope to organise some friendly matches for the non-league players next term.

Well done to all of you for playing through whatever the weather has thrown at you! I think the girls C team (and their parents!!) deserve a special mention here!

New co-ordinators are needed for boys and girls hockey next year so if this is something you are interested in, please contact Johanna Flynn on taneysportscommittee@gmail.com

We have a record breaking 100 junior soccer players this year! 50 of them from 1st class! Great to see such enthusiasm!

The 62 senior soccer players have been split into four teams and are currently playing friendly matches to determine which leagues they will be put into after Christmas.

Girls soccer enrolment has taken place and training will start after Christmas in preparation for a summer league.

Anyone for cricket??

It may seem like early days to be thinking about cricket, but if there is to be a Taney 6th class cricket team competing in a league in the Summer term, we will need an enthusiastic parent to volunteer to run this. Otherwise, cricket will continue as last year, as part of our summer sports programme.

Christmas Holidays

School closes at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 22nd December and will reopen on Wednesday 6th January, 2016 at 8.30 a.m.

