

# Spring Links: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014



Dear Parents,

We are all so looking forward to Easter and thankfully Spring appears to have Sprung all around us here in St. Catherine's! The following news and advice may be of interest and prove useful at this time:

- **Only adults may press to button to open the outer Glass Door to the school. We notice parents allowing young children to do this and we ask that you do not do this as this provides the main security on who gains access to the building.**
- **We would love to hear from any parents interested in / willing to contribute towards sponsorship of new team jerseys☺. Contact the Office if interested please ☺**
- **Lent begins this Wednesday,5<sup>th</sup> of March and Fr. Bertie O' Mahony will be up at 11.30 to administer ashes to pupils.**
- **10.30 Mass next Sunday will be offered for Dean Denis O' Connor R.I.P. whose First Anniversary occurs at this time.**
- **Parents' Association Uniform Swap Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Room 6 8.30- 9.30 and 2- 2.40 – Do come along☺**
- **Next P.A. Meeting – March 13<sup>th</sup> – all welcome☺**
- **Following on from our recent Questionnaire on the School Uniform here there was a massive vote in favour of keeping the uniform and supplier as is.**
- **TALKING ANGELA – this App is causing a lot of anxiety among younger pupils who have been mentioning it to each other in school and we have consulted with Mr. Ray Mc Ardle of TREND MICRO who assures us this is a HOAX . However we would alert parents to the fact that a large number of the girls in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> seem to think they have free access to the Internet unsupervised. We would advise all parents to check their child's internet use/sites visited/ apps used etc as your vigilance is critical to your child's safety.**
- **Watch out for us in the Bishopstown News & Evening Echo!**
- **Last week we welcomed Ms. Quill , Diocesan Advisor, to St. Catherine's and she was thrilled with all we knew.**
- **We have held several Fire Drills this year and all went very smoothly. We are currently reviewing all aspects of our Health & Safety Statement and Policy with a committee made up of Staff, Parents & Board of Management. The Draft Policy will be made available by Easter hopefully.**
- **Our Revised Anti Bullying Policy (including section on Cyber Bullying) will be made available by the end of March for you to review. This will be available on our website but also from the Office in hard copy.**
- **To avoid upset caused by party invitations being given out in class when children find they are not invited, it is school policy for many years now that we ask you to use the Class Contact Lists to contact parents about parties after school.**

**Gaelic Games:** Training is in full swing and we have huge numbers this year all enjoying weekly training sessions with Ms. Walsh, Ms. Kellegher and Mr. Clune. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class girls did brilliantly in the recent Inter Schools Blitzes☺. Maith sibh!

## **Scor:**

Another fantastic night out was had by all involved in Scór na bPáistí last Friday night and huge congratulations to all who played, danced and sang so wonderfully. We wish our solo singer, our dancers in the Set Dancing, and our Grúpa Ceoil the very best of luck on March 14<sup>th</sup> in the Regional Final. A big thank you to Mick Hickey for his massive help and to Ms. Foley for her amazing work with the dancers. Thanks also to Mrs. Daly for her continued support with Scór

each year. I know that all of the many parents who attended last Friday night in Bishopstown GAA could not help but be impressed with the way our girls performed, behaved and looked after each other. I find this so inspirational each year. Thank-you girls.

**Calendar:** Our yearly calendar and any updates are always available at [www.stcathns.com](http://www.stcathns.com)

**Twitter feed:** This sits to the right of the Home Page and we regularly post photos from school events there so keep an eye out ☺

### **Feis Maitiú:**

The School Band – under the expert guidance of Mick Hickey will be competing in Feis Maitiú this Thursday around 11.15. We wish them the very best of luck and know they will do very well. A bus will transport the band to and from the Feis but we need 2 or 3 parent volunteers to come along so please contact Deirdre at 4546868 if you can oblige. We will be back in school for 1 p.m. approx.

Well done too to our many pupils performing so well in Feis Maitiú at the moment – the Echo is filled with reports on our girls and captures the excitement of this wonderful festival of all things dramatic & musical. We are compiling a News Board of all reports do if you have one please send it in and we can copy it for our display.

### **Cork City Hospitals Children's Club:**

We are so proud of the girls who represented us on March 4<sup>th</sup> and assisted Garda John Long with his **pancake making** for shoppers and senior members of our community at SMA Hall Wilton for this wonderfully deserving cause. As always a significant sum was raised thanks to all involved. We are so proud of you girls. Garda Long has once again told how impressed he was with the mannerly way the girls treated the customers and senior citizens on the day.

### **An Taisce Water Forum :**

An Taisce asked us to host this event recently due to how impressed they were with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag Application last year. As a result 8 other Green School Committees from schools around the county were our guests. It was a wonderful event and people attending were hugely complimentary of our school, staff and pupils. Maith sibh go léir. Special thanks to all involved in our Green School Committee led by Ms. Hurley. Watch out for further info at [www.stcathns.com](http://www.stcathns.com), in our Blogs there and also in notes home. As you know from Our Walking Bus - we are now applying for our 4<sup>th</sup> Green Flag currently and sustainable transport is key☺. This links in beautifully with our **Active Schools Flag** application so watch out for SOW Day (SCOOT ON WEDNESDAY) on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> when we will be asking as many of you as possible to let your children scoot to school (helmets on of course☺). We would ask that parents take scooters home then as we won't have room to safely store them.

### **It's SNAG ! (Seachtain na Gaeilge): Check out SNAG.ie at home or tune into TG4.....**

We are trying our best to use the **Cúpla Focail** over SNAG which runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Check out [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie) for dates, events and ideas and **why not use the Cúpla Focail** too when you get any opportunity☺ . As Commander Chris Hadfield says “Is linne í!” It belongs to us ☺

### **Food Dudes follow on :**

We are continuing to encourage the girls to eat their fruit and veg so we know you will be as keen as we are to see this continue – Pupils can choose their own fruit and veg to bring each day until Easter. **Reminder: Please note that Friday is Treat Day** but we have a few pupils who bring sweets, crisps and chocolate throughout the week which is both unfair and very unhealthy. We ask you to help us to ensure our girls develop healthy eating habits for life.

**Literacy Lift Off:** – Currently ongoing in Mrs. Ahern's Class – we thank you for the great work going on at home in support of this. The improvements in reading brought about by this 6 week block approach are quite amazing each year.

**REMINDERS:**

**Wash bags:** These needed by all pupils on Senior Corridor including 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.

**Traffic:** We are continuously looking into ways of alleviating traffic congestion around the school and a sub committee of the Parents' Association led by Ms. Louise Crowley worked on this last year and our Walking Buses grew from this. Hopefully the Friday Buses will start up again soon now that the sun has reappeared☺. In the meanwhile we ask people, as always, to respect our **VOLUNTARY ONE WAY SYSTEM** around the school at drop off and collection times. *That means you approach school from the direction of Highfield and this allows you to drop your child on the kerb side.* **Also we ask those parents who persist in doing U-turns in the Carpark entrance to stop this very dangerous practice.**

And.....

**Enrolments for 2014/2015:**

Thanks to all staff and pupils for making our recent OPEN MORNING a massive success. Our two Junior Infant Classes for the coming year are now full. Indeed, due to lack of places available, all applications for places in all classes in St. Catherine's for next year are now being placed on our waiting list.

**Blogs:**

Do check out individual Class Blogs on our website- its nearly as good as being with us in school and I know you will be thrilled to see what's going around St. Catherine's

**Swine Flu:** As this is rampant in the community we are again reminding pupils, parents and staff that coughing and sneezing should be done into the elbow to prevent spread of germs. Hand washing is also critically important. We thank you for your support with this.

**Coats:**

As the weather is still very cold please make sure your daughter has a coat every day.

**Hair:**

We remind you that hair below shoulders must be tied up daily and never treat your child for Headlice if there is no need.

**Shoes:**

Pupils are repeatedly reminded that Converse, DC's Uggs and fancy boots are not regarded as acceptable uniform and also cause peer pressure on pupils on occasion so we earnestly seek your support in implementing this.

**Nail Polish & Makeup:**

These were never allowed in St. Catherine's and we're sure you the parents will be happy to support this.

**Dates for the Diary:**

**Confirmation on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30 a.m.**

**First Holy Communion on Saturday May 10th at 11.30 a.m.**

Light refreshments in the Crypt after both events – all welcome.

Reminder also that we ask that Cards are not given out to girls in the grounds of the Church or in school the day before as this can cause undue financial pressure for families.

*Mrs. E L O' Sullivan, Principal*