

**St. Laurence's
National School
Christmas Newsletter 2022**



*Happy Christmas
from all of us at
St. Laurence's National School*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach Christmas and the end of our First Term, I would like to thank everyone in the School Community for your ongoing support and I would like to wish you all a very *Happy Christmas*. Throughout the term the children have been busy. They have been involved in various sporting, academic and fun activities which we intend to continue in the New Year.

School Events

Power Hour: The children of 1st and some 2nd classes have completed their 6 weeks power hour schedule. This is a whole class intensive programme aimed at improving the children's reading and writing skills. The children of Senior Infants will commence their 6-week programme when we return in January.

Reading Buddies: The children in the Senior Building continue to pair up with the children in the Junior Building on a regular basis. The aim of this initiative is to nurture and develop a love of reading. This is enjoyed by all of the children.

Library: The children in all of the 2nd classes were invited to Baldoyle Library where they spent a wonderful time learning about all of the books that can be borrowed from the local library.

Congratulations to Tess Comiskey in 6th class who won the Baldoyle Library Winter Writing Competition for her story *The Lost Polar Bear*.

In November 4th class took part in a Space Kite Workshop where they designed and built their own kites.

Eason's Spelling Bee: The children of 5th and 6th class competed in the Eason's Spelling Bee competition. They all did really well and our overall winner was Rián McLaughlin from 6th Class. Rian will represent our school at the county final. We wish Rián the best of luck.

ICT: We have new Chromebooks and we look forward to using them in the New Year.

Green School Committee: The Committee have been very busy keeping our school 'Green and Clean'.



Art Competition: Dublin Fire brigade recently ran a Fire Safety competition for schools. Freya Hoey from Senior Infants was awarded runner up. Freya received her prize in the Mansion House on December 5th. We are all very proud of her.

Student Council: In November the school with the help of the 6th class students started the student council. This has been very successful to-date and the children have brought forward some very good ideas.

Carol Service: The children from the Junior and Senior Buildings took part in a Carol Service in St Laurence O'Toole Church on Thursday, 17th December 2022. *Well done to everyone!*

Sporting Events

- We have provided a wide range of sporting activities and other activities for the children, including Gaelic, Basketball, Tennis and Rugby this term.
- The Boys and Girls in the Senior Building played tag rugby with Leinster's community coach Jack Walters. Jack coached the children each week and the sessions were enjoyed by all.
- The Boys and Girls **Gaelic teams** participated in the Cumann na mBunscoil GAA competition and did our school proud yet again.
- Fifth & Sixth Class children took part in "**Marathon Kids**". They will run their final mile in the New Year and receive their medals and t-shirts.

To see more pictures from school activities and more information on school policies please visit our website at:

www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org



Fundraising

- **Dublin City Marathon:** Congratulations to Mr. Maher who ran on behalf of the school. A total of **€2,048.72** was raised with the Marathon Cards distributed throughout the school by the Parents Committee.
- **The Christmas Raffle:** took place on Friday, 16th December and raised **€1,753.00** to be shared between the local **St. Vincent de Paul** and **Peter McVerry Trust**. A fantastic response, thank you.
- **Carol Singing:** Some of the boys and girls from 3rd to 6th Class sang Christmas Carols at **SuperValu** Sutton on Friday 16th December. An amount of €675.70 was raised for **Oscar's Kids**. The Parents Association provided the children with hot chocolate to heat them up when they returned to school. A lovely morning was had by all.
- **Parent's Committee:** Once again we thank all the Committee members who have done tremendous work in organising **Christmas Cards**, the **Marathon Sponsorship Cards**, **Cake Sale**, **Halloween dress-up day**, and various fundraising events.
 - **Halloween Cake Sale:** A total of **€657.32** was raised.
 - **Christmas Cards:** A total of **€1,773.00** was raised.
 - **Non uniform Day:** A total of **€2,008.00** was raised
- **Voluntary Contributions:** Many thanks to all who contributed

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2022/2023 is ongoing and as places are filling up fast, please attend to it as soon as possible.

Application forms are available in both offices and on our website at www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org



Important Dates for 2022

- Closing date for **Junior Infants applications** is **12:00 mid-day 30th January 2023.**
- **Confirmation**- Friday, 10th March 2023
- **First Holy Communion** - Saturday, 23rd May 2023
- The ***Do This In Memory of Me Programme*** is ongoing for pupils preparing for **First Holy Communion.**

Once again I would like to thank everyone associated with the school and especially you the parents/guardians for your continued support and encouragement, as without it the school would not run as smoothly as it does. We greatly appreciate your constant good will.

School closes for Christmas Holidays on

Wednesday 21st December at 12:00 noon

Please note: The Children will return to school at

9.00am on Thursday, 5th January 2023

At this point could I pay tribute and say thanks to the local organisations who work closely with us and support us.

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.



Clare Finnerty



(Principal Teacher)