

# St. Laurence's National School



## Summer Newsletter 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is upon us again. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, staff, committees, pupils and especially you the parents/guardians for all your continued support and encouragement throughout the year. We greatly appreciate your constant good will as without it the school would not run as smoothly as it does.

### School Events Update

**First Communion:** The boys and girls in Second Class made their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024. It was a great day and so nice to have all the boys and girls together to celebrate their day.

Thanks to Ms. Crosse and Ms. Hanley who prepared the classes. Ms. Dowling and Ms. Motyer for conducting an excellent choir, Mr. Maher who accompanied the choir and to all the staff who played a part.

Thank you to Ms. Fahey and her class for their participation in the choir for the confirmation ceremony at St. Michael's House in May.

**Science/Maths:** St. Laurence's NS achieved the Curious Minds Gold Award 2024 from Science Foundation Ireland. This award was granted in honour of all the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths work carried out in our school. Well done to all our teachers and students involved.

The STEAM Academy visited our school at the end of April and gave a robotics workshop to our 2nd to 6th classes. The children got the opportunity to work with robotic kits, interact with Robo the Dog, all the while developing their STEAM skills.

The boys and girls in the senior building (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes) were able to avail of the Lego WeDo Coding Kits giving them the opportunity to work as a team and learn some coding skills.

**English/Reading:** The children of St. Laurence's were invited to bring a teddy to school to accompany them during Buddy Reading in April. Lots of great stories were shared on the day!

Well done to Ms Johnson's Senior Infants, Ms O'Dowd/Ms Foley's 1st class and Ms Hanley's 2nd class who all read and discussed the Junior Juries shortlisted book 'April's Garden' by Isla McGuckin. The 3 classes created a beautiful art display inspired by the book and it can be viewed in the halls of Baldoyle library.


Ms. Foley/ Ms. O Dowd's class are published authors! They worked very hard on a project about sea animals and it was turned into a real book. You can borrow it from the school library.

**Summer Stars** reading adventure takes place again this summer throughout every public library in the country. It's completely free and a great way to keep the children reading over the summer holidays.

***"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."***

Aidan Dockery from the **Heritage Council** visited 6th class and provided a history workshop. His exhibition of books, memorabilia and story-telling was a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed it.

**Gaeilge:** SOS Beag has been ongoing throughout the school year. The children have great fun using as much Gaeilge as possible during the small break each Tuesday. This includes singing songs, playing games, performing dances and chatting - all done through Irish! A special thanks to the children in 6th class and 2nd class for helping out throughout the year. Maith sibh!

 **Green School:** The children in both buildings continue to work hard to keep the school green. We have received our Green Schools flag and certificate for 'Outstanding achievement in improving the environmental quality of the school and community' on the theme of the Marine Environment. Ms. Crosse's 2nd class also received our Junior Seakeepers certificate with this.

Next year we will begin working towards our next theme of Travel! *Ní neart go cur le chéile!*

We were delighted to get **solar panels** installed in the senior school building during the Easter holidays.

**School Tours:** The boys and girls in both the senior and junior school enjoyed school tours with their classes. 6th class enjoyed a trip to Emerald Park, 5<sup>th</sup> class went to Causey Farm, 4<sup>th</sup> class went to Dublinia and 3<sup>rd</sup> class had a fun day at Dublin Zoo. In the junior school 2<sup>nd</sup> Class enjoyed a day of Art in Rathfarnham, 1<sup>st</sup> class and Senior Infants enjoyed a trip to Explorium. A rainy day didn't dampen the spirits of our Junior Infants who enjoyed a lovely trip to Newbridge farm.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class Activities:** 6th class have had an eventful month with trips to the National History Museum , Sky Studios tour and a beach day. We also celebrated **6<sup>th</sup> class graduation** on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The children had a lovely ceremony and were presented with their graduation certificates. They also received their graduation T-shirts on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Well done to all the boys and girls and we hope they all have a great summer and wish them all the very best in secondary school.

Thank you to the parents committee for organising the teas and coffees and covering the costs of the t-shirts.

**Ms Foley/Ms O Dowd's 1st Class** hatched butterflies, frogs and chicks this year! A busy and very nature filled classroom. Thank you to all the teachers, children and parents who came to visit our 8 cute chicks- Fly-guy, Scooter, Cookie, Banana, Lily, Harold Pudding and Nugget! And thanks to all the children who came up with great names and made beautiful cards for Farmer Joe. You can visit the chicks in Newbridge Farm over the summer!

**Linking in with Aistear Junior Infants** had a visit from the Dublin Fire Brigade and had great fun in the yard with the fire truck and water hose!

**Drumming workshop:** Thanks to Phil from The Music Academy for coming to the school and running a drumming workshop for both the senior and junior school. It was a huge success and all the students enjoyed the workshop and perhaps we have some budding drummers in our school.

**Wellbeing week:** We celebrated Wellbeing week in June. It kicked off with a lovely Culture Day (**organised by the student council**). It was great to see so many different cultures and nationalities represented. The children really enjoyed the around the world quiz. Well done to the student council on all their hard work. It was a lovely day.

We had our first ever Crazy Hair Day (**organised by the student council**) which was a lot of fun. We were blown away by the effort everyone went to.

Lots of other activities took place throughout the week including a "Disco Bubble" yard for Junior Infants, Gratitude Scavenger Hunts, yoga and dancing. We had a fantastic week!

**The Student Council** have been very busy all year with creative initiatives for fundraising (pyjama day last term), and making our school more welcoming and fun. We look forward to working with them again next year.

**Competition winner:** Well done to Amelia Rudden (6<sup>th</sup> Class) for getting 1<sup>st</sup> place in an art competition run by Hunt Office and winning a set of jerseys for the school sports teams.

**Gaelic Coaching:** What a year we had this year in GAA. The boys football team participated in the Cuman na mBunscol competition, putting in great displays throughout the tournament. The girls also had a brilliant year getting to Croke Park and winning the final putting in a great display of skill and determination. More recently our mixed hurling team were very unlucky in their quarter final, losing out to a last minute goal. Many thanks to Ms. Walsh, Ms. Dowling, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Maher. for coaching the team.

The girls and boys from both schools also enjoyed a GAA skills tournament in the local park in June organised by Mark, Ciarán and Na Dubh Ghall.

A big thank you to Mark Gibney, Ciarán and Na Dubh Ghall for all their help and support throughout the year.

**Santry races:** This year we returned to Santry to take part in the Cuman na mBunscol athletics day. We were very competitive throughout culminating in a medal for our U14's boys relay team. Also congratulations to Hassan in 5th class for his silver medal in the sprints. Well done all!

**Sports day:** The annual sports day took place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, and was another huge success with a huge buzz in both buildings. The children had a great day participating in many different sports including sack races, egg and spoon races, obstacle courses and plenty more fun and games. Thanks to all the teachers for their efforts throughout the day.

*Photos from all our school activities this term can be seen on our school website [www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org](http://www.stlaurencesbaldoyle.org)*

### **Fundraising**

**Ice-cream van:** The school enjoyed a visit from Mark in the ice-cream van on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Everyone got a lovely ice-cream and all donations were toward the Irish Cancer Society. Amount raised was **€1,208.70**. We would like to thank the Ranson family and Parent's Committee for sponsoring the visit.

**The Football Marathon** was another great success, the whole school participated on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May in a football marathon. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser, we managed to raise **€3,090.86 an amazing achievement.**

Thank you to the parents committee for providing the children with some goodies .

We would just like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to our **non-uniform day collections** on Aladdin all year. The collections from April and May have raised **€712** in total. This money goes toward all the activities the Parents Committee organise throughout the school year for the children including the 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation.

### **Student Teachers**

- We say '***Slán agus Beannacht***' to our student teachers and wish them well in their careers.
- We also thank all our past pupils who returned on work experience as part of their transition year.

### **Please Note**

School Closes for the Summer holidays at  
**12:00 noon on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

School will reopen at **09:00am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

We wish you all have a restful and enjoyable summer  
break.

Yours sincerely,  
**Clare Finnerty**  
(Principal Teacher)