



Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire The Good Shepherd National School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

21.10.15



SAFETY AT HALLOWE'EN

Niall Russell, our Community Gárda, spoke to our senior classes last week about general safety at Hallowe'en and outlined the dangers associated with bonfires and fireworks. Some of these children are visiting the junior classes to pass on the safety message to them. For a Hallowe'en safety message from Dublin Fire Brigade see www.firstsafety4kids.ie

OTHER FEAST DAYS/FESTIVALS IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

We have children of many different nationalities and religions in our school. Please let us know about any special days or festivals and we will include the information in one of our newsletters.

- **Eid-al-Adha**, the second most important festival in the Muslim calendar, began on the evening of Tuesday, September 22nd and ended in the evening of Wednesday, September 23rd 2015.
- **Muharram/Al-Hijra** – started on Wednesday, 14th October and continues for 29 days until Wednesday, November 11th.
- **All Saints and All Souls**, November 1st and 2nd, are two solemn feast days in the Roman Catholic Church. During November we remember especially our loved ones who have died. May they Rest in Peace.
- **Diwali, Festival of Lights**, which celebrates the Hindu New Year, will start on Wednesday, November 11th and continue for 5 days. The word Diwali means “rows of lighted lamps” – people light hundreds of small oil lamps around their home, gardens, roof tops and outer walls to welcome the light instead of the gloom and the darkness. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus all over the world.

HISTORY OF HALLOWE'EN

Our pupils want to share with you their knowledge of the history of Hallowe'en...

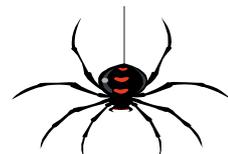
The first people to celebrate Hallowe'en were the Celts who lived in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. They called Hallowe'en 'Samhain', which means 'summer's end' in Old Irish. Today, the Irish word for Hallowe'en, 'Oíche Shamhna', is almost the same. Hallowe'en was a very important festival for the Celts, because they believed that New Year's Eve was the same night as Hallowe'en, on October 31st. At that time, people believed that ghosts and goblins were real, so Hallowe'en was a really scary time! Many ancient cultures believed that the souls of the dead and supernatural beings such as witches visited the earth at this time. People lit bonfires and dressed up in spooky costumes to drive away the evil spirits. The 'trick or treat' tradition comes from the belief that the spirits would use their powers against people who failed to honour them.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!

As well as their knowledge of history our pupils also have a great sense of humour! Well done Abdullah, Aryam, Ciara, Hussain, Jessica, Taj-Bibi.

What do you call a witch who lives at the beach?
 What did one ghost say to the other?
 Why is Dracula so unpopular?
 What do witches get in hotels?
 What is a ghost's favourite dance?
 How do spiders meet new friends?
 What subject do they teach in witching school?
 Where does Dracula visit when he goes to New York?

A sandwich!
 Do you believe in people!
 Because he's a pain in the neck!
 Broom service!
 A boogie!
 On the web!
 Spelling!
 The Vampire State Building!



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Roll No. 19939V

TRIP TO AIRFIELD FOR EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL 2014/2015

The children who had excellent attendance during the last school year were invited on a trip to Airfield on Monday last, 19th October. Here they collected the eggs from the hens, brought them to the kitchen, cooked them and ate them with fresh bread from Airfield's bakery! The children were hands-on during all the activities, collecting, cooking, laying the table and cleaning up while all the time learning about their food, where it comes from and how important a healthy diet is. They also saw turkeys, sheep and really enjoyed patting the goats! Well done Aden, Alex, Andreas, Beatrice, Betselot, Calvin, Cass, Chloe, Conor, Corben, Damaris, Emily, Farishta, Gerard, Hamida, James, John, Korrina, Lee, Nadia, Saifrahman, Taj Bibi, and Yasser – they will also get a special medal at Assembly after Hallowe'en.

***REMINDER - PARENTS' MORNING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 9 – 10AM, PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

- The four year term of the current Board of Management (BOM) ends on November 30th next and the new BOM begins its term of office on 1st December 2015 and runs until 30th November 2019.
- There will be a meeting at 9am on November 10th to elect the fathers' and mothers' nominees on the new BOM. This should take about 15 mins.
- After the election Ms. Anne Prendergast, Psychotherapist, will give a short talk (approx. 20 mins) on Wellness and Wellbeing. Anne will provide a small 'goodie bag' for all who attend. She will be happy to take questions afterwards and there will be a cuppa for those who are free to stay on.

Ms. Veale will send you a letter with some more details of this event nearer the time.

SCHOOL EVENTS, MEETINGS & CLOSURES 2015/2016

Please refer to December on the above sheet – we will be closing for the Christmas Holidays on **Tuesday, 22nd December** and not Friday 22nd as stated. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

SLÁN AGUS GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH GO LÉIR

At this time I want to particularly remember the founder of Good Shepherd N.S. Canon Paddy FitzSimons, R.I.P. who made it all possible and the two Chairpersons, Fr. John Killeen and James Boland, who succeeded him. They unfailingly supported our school and worked so hard behind the scenes. Also, thanking the De La Salle Brothers who gave us their great building and magnificent grounds for the new amalgamated school in 1989. The contributions of our first principal John Curran, followed by Maureen O'Broin and Owen McLoughlin also helped to make the school the busy, thriving centre of learning that it is today.

A special mention to the staff, pupils and Parents' Association of 1989-'90 who made the journey up Nutgrove Avenue to our new home on Whitehall Road. We have been blessed down the years by the support of many past staff, particularly Irene, Kitty, Marie and Maureen from the group of '89. Many Churchtown parishioners also helped with our fundraising, none more so than Ray and many special friends including Mary K, Muriel and Patricia. A particular mention to Jim, Irene, Maureen & Ray without whose help we would not have been able to purchase our beautiful new Choir Robes.

As I come to the end of my teaching career I want to pay tribute to all the pupils, parents, staff, Boards of Management, SCP colleagues and many others whom I worked with, in both Loreto N.S. Loreto Avenue & Good Shepherd N.S. Thank you for all your support to me as a class teacher, resource teacher and principal and for your great loyalty to our schools throughout the years. I wish you all the very best in the future – go dté sibh slán.

I wish Ms. Veale well in her new post and I know that, with the help of a dedicated staff, she will bring Good Shepherd N.S. to new heights of excellence in the future.

Finally, remember our Hallowe'en message - **Be Safe, Stay Safe, Don't have any regrets**. Halloween is, of course, a wonderful time of pumpkins and treats, games and dressing up – the staff of Good Shepherd N.S. wish you all a happy and safe Oíche Shamhna.....ach BÍGÍ CÚRAMACH!!

Sheila FitzGerald - Principal

