



Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire

The Good Shepherd National School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

16th October 2015.

MASS TO CELEBRATE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR

Pupils and staff joined the congregation (including some of our pupils' parents and grandparents) at 10am Mass in the Church of the Good Shepherd on October 1st to mark the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. Our pupils participated in a Procession of Symbols, read Prayers of the Faithful, brought up the Gifts of bread and wine and our choir, as always, sang beautifully. Fr. Brian gave a lovely sermon about the meaning of Mass. It was a very uplifting and spiritual occasion.

If any of your older children are interested in becoming Altar Servers please call Fr. Dermot at 2984642.

ACTIVE FLAG CEREMONY

A big thank you to Nora Stapleton who raised our Active Flag on Friday, October 9th. Nora, as we said in our last newsletter, works for the IRFU as Women & Girls Rugby Development Executive and was our GAA coach in a previous life! She plays at No. 10 for the Irish Women's Rugby Team and she brought along the Six Nations Trophy which they won recently. Every child in the school got a chance to hold it and they all really enjoyed that. Nora told us all about her training regime (5.30am starts!) and how she has to keep a record of everything she eats and give it to the team trainer. The pupils told her all about their sports and activities in the school and she was very impressed. We also welcomed Jess, a transition year student from BCS, who is doing work experience with Nora. Our Active Flag is now flying proudly outside the school.

A special mention for Ms. Hannigan's 1st class who sang Ireland's Call with great gusto. We will soon be singing Amhrán na bhFiann, when members of the Army call to give us the tricolour which is being presented to every school in Ireland to commemorate the centenary of 1916. On March 15th next all schools will have received their flag and will raise it together on that day.

SPONSORED WALK

We had three walks on Friday, October 9th, to suit all age groups. Once again, we were lucky with the weather and everybody enjoyed their outing. There are a small number of walk cards still to be returned. Please return (even if blank) by Friday next, Oct. 23rd. When we get these back we will have the usual raffle with the returned cards at a special assembly in November. Thanks to pupils, parents, teachers, classroom assistants and Denise, our secretary, who all played their part in making this venture such a great success.

ANOTHER WINNER AT GOOD SHEPHERD N.S.

Some of our senior pupils entered an Art Competition sponsored by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to mark Social Inclusion Week 2015. Jessica from 3rd class was one of the winners and she attended a prize giving ceremony in City Hall, Dún Laoghaire, with winners from other schools, hosted by An Cathaoirleach Barry Saul. She got a lovely trophy and certificate and everybody enjoyed some refreshments afterwards. This was our first initiative towards getting a Yellow Flag for Cultural Diversity this year. Well done Jessica!



HEALTH & SAFETY NOTICE – NUT ALLERGY

As a number of children in our school have a severe nut allergy, we ask you not to give your children nuts or nut products in their lunchboxes at any time and we need to be particularly vigilant at this time of year.

THE HAUNTED WALK, MARLEY PARK, SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th 3.30 – 8.30PM

Samhain - the spookiest event of the year returns to Marlay Park on Sunday, October 25th 2015. Festoon lighting, sound effects and smoke will all add to the scare factor and the haunted forest will stay open until 8.30pm. The walk is approx 1.7km long on a path suitable for buggies/wheelchairs. They want to see you in your Halloween costumes but remember it is an outdoor event so warm clothing is recommended. The Haunted Woods will be open between 3.30pm and 8.30pm. ENTRY IS FREE BUT BY WRISTBANDS ONLY. WRISTBANDS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT. Wristbands can be collected at the DLR CoCo Market in Marlay Park on Saturday October 17th & Saturday October 24th from 9am each day. Wristbands will be available while stocks last on a strictly first come, first served basis and limited to six per family. Entry times to queue for the Haunted Walk printed on your Wristband will be 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Parking for the event in the College Road Car Park is very limited so please walk or use public transport to get there. See dlrevents.ie for full details.

REMINDER - 'DRESSING UP' DAY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd

As is traditional, children may dress in Hallowe'en outfits/casual clothes next Friday, October 23rd, if they wish. There will be prizes for the most imaginative costumes put together from recycled materials/old clothes – judged by somebody from outside the school. Every year we ask for a small contribution from each child on this special 'no-uniform day'. Money collected will be given to help sick children in the following centres – Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Suzanne House, Hospice for Children, Tallaght.

'MAKE & BOO WORKSHOP' FRIDAY OCTOBER 23rd

This year DLRCC are running four special 'Make & Boo Workshops' on Friday, October 23rd, at dlrLexIcon in Dún Laoghaire between 3pm & 7pm (on the hour) for ages 3 to 10 so you can make some scary attire to wear at Samhain. Each workshop will take 40 people. No booking is required but first come, first served.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

These meetings will take place on Wednesday, November 25th from 2.30 pm – 5 pm. The school will close for senior pupils at 2.15 pm on that day to facilitate a prompt 2.30 pm start. You will get appointment times and more information nearer the date.

Sheila FitzGerald, Principal.

Fri, October 23rd	Hallowe'en Dressing-up Day	
Fri. October 23rd	Mid-term Break	school closes 2.30 pm
Mon, November 2nd	School re-opens	8.50 am
Tues, November 10 th	Parents' Morning	9am - 10am
Wed, November 25th	Parent/Teacher Meetings	2.30 pm - 5 pm

***HALLOWE'EN CAMP** Please note that there will not be a Hallowe'en camp in the school this year.