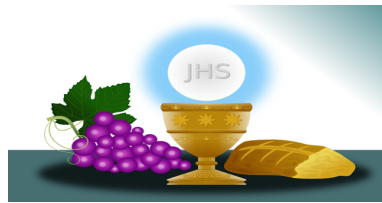


# St Patrick's Boys' School

## APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your Diary

|                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| First Holy Communion             | Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May  |
| Finn Valley Athletics            | Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May |
| Sports Day (weather permitting)  | Week of 27 <sup>th</sup> May   |
| School closed (Bank holiday)     | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June    |
| Fan the Flame Mass (Sixth Class) | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June  |
| Summer Holidays                  | Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June   |



### First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 1:00 pm in Sacred Heart Church. This ceremony is for children from the Boys' and Girls' Schools. We wish God's blessing on all of the children and their families on this very special occasion.

### First Confessions

Fr. Con McLaughlin heard First Confessions in the school recently. Thank you to Ms. McDaid and all parents for preparing the boys for this sacrament.

### School Diary

The school diary is the main means of communication between teachers and parents/guardians. It tells you what homework your child has every night. Teachers may also write notes about your child's achievements or concerns the teacher may have. You are requested to countersign notes. You are asked also to sign the diary every day.

### School Attendance

Well done to Junior and Senior Infants who had the best school attendance from January to Easter. The boys received ice-cream as a reward.

## **Board of Management**

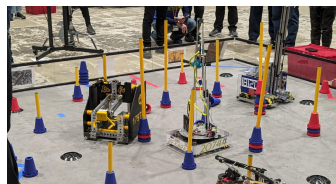
The Board of Management met recently. The board thanked all the teachers and pupils for their hard work. Policies in EAL, HSCL and Job-sharing have been updated.

## **Feis Domhnaigh**

Feis Domhnaigh will be held on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We look forward to participating in Gaeilge, Speech & Drama and choir. There is a great tradition in the school of participation in the feis and we look forward to enjoying this activity again this year.

## **Debate**

We had a friendly debate against St. Patrick's Girls' School last Thursday. We opposed the motion that Homework Should be a Thing of the Past. The standard of debating was very high. Our adjudicator was Mrs. Nora Allen and she gave wonderful feedback to both teams. The result was a draw and all the speakers received certificates and chocolate.



## **Vex Robotics**

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes are currently completing heats for our in-school VEX robotics competition. The boys are also looking forward to the 2024/2025 competition VEX IQ Rapid Relay.

Fifth and Sixth classes will visit University of Ulster on May 21<sup>st</sup> to experience their School of Computing, Engineering and Intelligent Systems. Thank you to Jim Harkin for organising this for our pupils.

## **Mobile Phones**

In the interest of the safety of all pupils, children are not permitted to have mobile phones at school. Parents/guardians are kindly requested to make sure that devices are not brought into the school. Any mobile phones found will have to be collected from the principal by parent/guardian.

## Summer Camp

We will organise a summer camp again this year. It will run for two weeks in July (8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>). The camp was a great success in recent years receiving excellent praise from parents and children. We hope to accommodate all children and families that are interested.

The camp will be run in conjunction with the Primary School Scheme, also in the school which will replace the Home-based Programme that was available in recent years.

## Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) and Stay Safe

RSE and stay Safe will be taught in the school in the coming weeks. Both these programmes are integral parts of Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE). The sensitive elements of RSE are covered under “Growing and Changing” and “Taking Care of My Body”. The content may be viewed at [www.curriculumonline.ie/sphe](http://www.curriculumonline.ie/sphe)

Stay Safe is a primary school-based approach to the prevention of child abuse. The aim of stay Safe is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme. Stay Safe seeks to enhance self-protective skills by participating in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger. Further information is available at [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)

Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

## Sport



Soccer: The boys qualified for the 11-a-side cup semi-final which will be against either Newtown or Muff. The boys also competed in the Inishowen 5-a-side finals in Rashenny recently but were unable to defend their title as Bridgend School won out on the day. The boys in fourth, fifth and sixth classes have played ten in-school matches at lunch time and will play the semi-finals this month.

Gaelic Football: We look forward to taking part in the Tom McBrearty Cup which has been organised for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Hurling: The boys had a very successful day at the JP Bradley competition this week. Two teams took part and enjoyed the matches.

Cathal Doherty continues to teach hurling skills in the school.

Athletics: A team will travel to Finn Valley for this competition on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May and we wish the boys every success.

## **HSCL News**

‘Internet Safety’ advice was delivered by Eve from the Donegal Youth Service in March. She talked to the parents and to boys in classes 3rd -6th . This was a real eye opener for everyone with some honest conversations, statistics and tips on how to stay safe online.

In conjunction with the Donegal ETB and HSCL a group of parents took part in ‘Helping with Maths Homework’ which ran for 6 weeks. Fun and friendships were made as well as learning. The parents have decided to pursue this further and have now started Fetac Level 3 Maths which runs every Tuesday. Well done to these ambitious mums!

‘Healthy Cooking’ course runs on a Friday for 6 weeks also. There are another 2 weeks left. Parents were provided with a cookery pack, ingredients and recipes printed. Lots of delicious, simple recipes have been created and eaten every week! Thanks to Caroline McLaughlin from the ETB for facilitating this.

Pre-school visits are ongoing at the moment. It’s nice to meet some of the boys before our Junior Infant Open Day which is coming soon. I will be making up ‘welcome packs’ for the children and hope to give these to them on home visits before the end of June.

Home visits take up roughly 30% of my weekly time. Thank you to the families who welcomed me into their homes recently.

Feel free to contact me on my number or email below if you have any questions or suggestions on any courses that you’d be interested in.

Sinéad McLaughlin (0862383847)

@Carnhscl on Instagram

carnhscl@gmail.com