

St. Francis Xavier Senior School

March Newsletter

❖ Confirmation

Our Confirmation Ceremony on 13th February last was a very special ceremony for our pupils and their families. Each and every pupil conducted themselves wonderfully and were a credit to their parents and teachers. An enormous amount of work goes into the preparation of pupils for this ceremony and we were delighted with how very special this celebration was. Thanks also to our 5th class choir led by Ms. Byrne and our instrumentalists, Mr. Kilkenny on accordion and Emma Hudson (5th Class) on violin!

Sincere thanks also to our Parents' Association who funded the Confirmation Booklet and to members of the PA who assisted the pupils with their Confirmation robes on the day.

Each year, following Confirmation, our 6th class pupils raise funds for a charity of their choice and make a donation from the generous gifts they received. The pupils will agree this charity in the coming weeks.

❖ Primary Debating Competition – SFX Team in the Finals!

Congratulations to our school debating team who have reached the finals of the Concern Dublin Schools' Debate Competition. This is a tremendous achievement for our panel of debaters who have consistently worked hard to prepare for every debate. The finals will be held in the beautiful surroundings of Dublin City Council Civic Offices in Wood Quay on Friday, 15th March.

❖ SPHE (Social, Personal, Health Education)

As part of our SPHE curriculum, our 3rd and 5th Class pupils will engage in the **STAY SAFE Programme** this term. A letter requesting parental consent for this programme will follow shortly. Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learned in the **STAY SAFE Programme**.

The **RSE Programme** for 6th class pupils will take place later this month. There will be a separate communication for 6th class parents on this programme.

❖ Coicís na Gaeilge - Márta 4ú - 15ú

Tá a lán eachtraí ar siúl le haghaidh Coicís na Gaeilge (we have a number of activities ongoing for Coicís na Gaeilge):

- ✚ **Raidió SFX** - our radio station where senior pupils read the news *as Gaeilge* each morning.
- ✚ **Comórtas Ealaíne** - art competition based on the curricular themes for Irish.
- ✚ **Rí agus Banríon na Gaeilge** - an award for the pupil in each class who makes the best effort in speaking Irish each day.
- ✚ **Tráth na gCeist** (Table Quiz) for all classes
- ✚ **An Caipe Gaeilge**
- ✚ **Ag Léamh le chéile** - shared reading in Irish between 3rd/5th and 4th/6th classes.
- ✚ **Ceolchoirm sa Halla** - school concert
- ✚ **Lá Glas, An Damhsa Mór agus Mórshiúil sa chlos** (15ú Márta) - On Friday, 15th March, pupils are invited to wear something green and will participate in a Céilí and parade on the day!

Bain taitneamh as bheith ag labhairt as Gaeilge le do pháiste sa bhaile! (Enjoy speaking some Irish at home with your child these two weeks!

❖ Action Team Partnership

The first initiative identified by our Action Team was to expand and develop on the school's "Caipe Gaeilge" which has been running for the past year. Developing this concept further, the Action Team together with Ms. Greene launched the Caipe Gaeilge morning for parents and pupils last Friday. The school hall was transformed into an attractive coffee shop!! Our first pupil and parent grouping was with Mr. Stokes' 3rd Class. It was wonderful to see so many parents from different nationalities being taught Irish by their children! This Friday parents/grandparents are invited to join Mr. O'Séaghdha's 5th Class pupils for a fun morning speaking Irish!

❖ **GAA & Soccer News**

SFX first ever hurling team has been formed and has already had a winning streak in local hurling blitz competitions! Many thanks to Mr. Gurhy and Mr. O'Meara for heading up this new sports opportunity for our pupils. Thanks also to Castleknock GAA who are providing a coach to train a new Girls' GAA team this term. Another first!

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to St. Brigid's GAA who are currently training our 3rd classes in Gaelic Football and the FAI who are also providing soccer coaching! It is wonderful for the pupils to have this level of coaching expertise available to them.

❖ **Lunches**

It has come to the attention of many teachers that a number of pupils are throwing uneaten sandwiches/fruit etc. in the waste bin. To avoid this unnecessary waste of food and to alert parents to any uneaten lunches, from this week, pupils will be asked to bring home any uneaten food and packaging.

❖ **Student Council New Initiative**

Our Student Council are introducing a Pupil Newsletter from this month as a way to engage with our pupils and keep them informed of all the events in the school. Well done to our Council members on this new initiative!

❖ **School Closures Reminder - Term 2**

- St. Patrick's Bank Holiday - Monday, 18th March
- New Languages Curriculum In-service Training - Tuesday, March 19th

Le gach dea-ghui,

Adrienne Darby

Príomhoide

Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste!

