Roselawn Glade, Castleknock, Dublin 15

  

  **SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have now safely completed our first month back in school. I cannot commend our pupils enough for how they have fully embraced the new way of life at our school and are engaging so well with their teachers. It never fails to amaze me how resilient children are and never has this been so evident as during these testing times. It is a joy to have the school come alive again with staff and pupils engaged in teaching and learning.

I also want to acknowledge our staff who have had to adjust to a very different working environment and who have supported and implemented everything that was required, ensuring that the return to the school building was a safe and positive experience for all of our pupils.

This afternoon we held an “Appreciation Afternoon” when all classes enjoyed *“An Afternoon at the Movies”* with the obligatory popcorn treat thanks to our Parents’ Association.

PA Support

In addition to funding the pupil treats for our “Appreciation Afternoon”, our Parents’ Association have also agreed to fund the purchase of additional Maths and PE resources so that all classrooms (Bubbles) will have their own class set of maths and PE equipment. Míle Buíochas!

Aladdin Connect 

This week you will have received communication regarding the introduction of AladdinConnect. Many families will be already familiar with this app from the Junior School. Aladdin Connect is a very efficient communication system and we invite all parents to download the app as all future correspondence will be communicated via this app.

Safety Reminder 

- Please adhere to safe parking when arriving at our school. It is most important that our Lollipop Ladies’ view is not blocked, so that our pupils can safely cross the road.

- All cyclists must dismount on arrival onto the school grounds. Pupils are asked to wear helmets when cycling.

-Parking on the school grounds is reserved for staff only. We ask that this is respected at all times.

Farewell to Colleagues

During the summer, our colleague Ms. Niamh Greene was appointed principal of Corpus Christi Girls’ National School. Ms. Greene spent 19 years in St. Francis Xavier Senior School teaching all senior class groups and most recently working with the Learning Support Team. Over the past two decades, Ms. Greene made wonderful contributions to our school including heading up the Code of Behaviour Committee, acting as Health & Safety Co-ordinator, conducting research on Cyber Safety, designing our current Internet Safety Policy and spearheading the promotion of Oral Irish throughout the school, including the very successful ‘Caife Gaeilge’ initiative. Ms. Greene was also a very valued member of our In-School Management Team. While Ms. Greene is a great loss to our school, we are delighted for her and wish her every success in her new school.

 *“I wish to sincerely thank the pupils of St. Francis Xavier Senior School for the kindness, respect and courtesy*

 *they have shown to me in my years at SFX. I will always treasure their enthusiasm for Irish and their shared*

 *commitment to our enduring Code of Behaviour. I would like to thank the parents and teachers for their*

 *unwavering support and assistance in making St. Francis Xavier Senior School a great place to learn, teach*

 *and grow.” - Ms. Niamh Greene*

Today we say farewell to another long serving staff member of St. Francis Xavier Senior School - Ms. Noreen Kelly. Ms. Kelly retires today after a long career in our school. Ms. Kelly joined SFX Senior School in 1981 and taught all senior class levels over her teaching career. A dedicated teacher, Ms. Kelly also made many significant contributions to our school over the past 4 decades. In the 1990s, Ms. Kelly spearheaded the introduction of ICT in the school when the DES commenced the “Technology in Schools” initiative. With a combination of funding from the DES and monies raised by the Parents’ Association, Ms. Kelly established a Computer Room which continues to be a valued and well used resource by pupils and teachers to this day. Ms. Kelly also introduced the successful Meditation Programme which has been running in our school for the past 8 years. Her passion for children’s meditation resulted in Ms. Kelly contributing to the book *“Meditation with Children”* by Dr. Noel Keating. Also a very valued member of our management team, Ms. Kelly assumed the role of Learning Support Co-ordinator for the past 5 years. We wish Ms. Kelly every happiness in the next wonderful chapter of her life. In her own words:

 “ Seneca: *Even while they teach, men learn.*

*Learning and teaching have shared equal space in my career at SFX. I have learned much from the students, staff and parents over the years which bears testament to the wise words of the philosopher!*

*It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to have been part of the lives of the staff and students both past and present for so many years. It is with sadness and joy that I depart after a rich and rewarding career and I look forward to many adventures in the years ahead! Thank you all for the support, encouragement and participation in the education of your children – it is greatly valued and appreciated by the wonderful teachers here today.” - Ms. Noreen Kelly*

**To Ms. Greene and Ms. Kelly...**

 