



Newsletter 27th June 2014

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As we come to the end of the school year 2013-2014, I wish to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on a number of matters in our school.

School Reports

The school reports have been posted and if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Standardised Drumcondra Test Scores in Reading and Mathematics for pupils from First to Sixth Class are included. It is important to note that these scores are a snap – shot of where your child is in reading and mathematics at this time.

Sten scores go from 1 to 10 and tell you about your child's development in the tests.

Sten score 7 – 10 above average.

 4 – 6 average.

 1 – 3 below average.

Staffing

This year marks the end of an era with the retirement of Mr Andy Moynihan as Deputy – Principal on September 1st 2014. Mr Moynihan joined the staff of St. Canice's in January 1975 teaching all standards, leading the special education team and he's been our deputy principal for the past four years. In his time here Mr. Moynihan had a wonderful rapport with all the pupils and parents, worked co-operatively with the Board of Management and Parents' Association and has been an astute and caring teacher and deputy principal. We wish Mr Moynihan all the best in the post – St. Canice's era of his life.

We also bid adieu to Ms Suín McMorrow who has taken up a post as lecturer in St. Patricks T.J.C Drumcondra. Ms McMorrow spent six years on the staff teaching varying classes as well as being the learning support teacher in maths. Her excellent insight into childrens' learning plus her quiet unobtrusive style will be greatly missed and we wish her a long and successful career in her new profession.

We welcome back Ms Elaine Connaughton and Ms Amanda McHugh after their maternity leaves. We sincerely thank Ms Clodagh Fahey and Ms Saoirse Ryan for working so well this year with both classes and for seamlessly being part of our teaching staff.

Joe Alwright – Caretaker

On Holy Thursday April 17th, we were told the sad news of the passing of a most endeared friend and colleague of St. Canice's Boys School – our caretaker Joe, after a heroic twenty – two months battle. Joe was a wonderful caretaker of our school for over 22 years but his love and pride of St. Canice's B.N.S. was his greatest trait. To remember Joe's positive influence on all of us, we planted a cherry blossom tree in our school garden with his own seat beside it, so come his birthday time on May 1st we will keep in mind his watching care over all of us. To Trish and all Joe's family we thank you for being with us for that very special day and we are with you in your heartfelt grief.

New Caretaker

In January 2014, we welcomed our new caretaker Joe O' Reilly. The school's physical environment, internally and externally is a testament to Joe's wonderful work since he joined us and on behalf of everyone in St. Canice's B.N.S, I thank him for what he has achieved so far and wish him a very happy career in our school.

Whole School Evaluation

St. Canice's B.N.S underwent a whole school evaluation for the week ending 14th February led by Department of Education & Skills inspectors Ms Teresa McSorley and Ms Elizabeth Sheridan. Their report of the inspection was issued on 26th March 2014. During the whole – school evaluation the inspectors observed teaching and learning in ten mainstream class settings and five support – teaching settings. The school received an excellent report – here are some extracts.



- The school is characterised by an affirming, well – ordered learning environment where a culture of respect and diligence has been carefully nurtured.
- The overall quality of teaching is very good with provision in Mathematics and Physical Education being of particularly high quality.
- Pupils demonstrated positive behaviour and praiseworthy learning outcomes in the curricular areas evaluated.

I wish to thank all the school community, who worked so diligently to earn such a glowing report – parents/guardians, secretary, caretaker, cleaners, kitchen staff, SNAs, teachers, Board of Management, Parents Association but especially our pupils. Boys – “as always you were at your best when your best was required.”

Parents' Association

I wish to record the appreciation of all the staff for the wonderful work carried out by parents over the past year. They have assisted with cookery, maths for fun, reading for fun, cake sales, raffles and many other activities in our school.

This year we sadly see the departure of the Chairperson Deirdre Kenny, as her son Conor moves to second level. Deirdre has been an excellent chairperson, and a tireless worker for the benefit of our school. We also wish Orla McGrath the very best after many years of service with the Parents Association. Any time there was an issue to be fought on behalf of the school, or funds to be raised to provide the best of resources and facilities for our pupils, Deirdre, Orla and all members of the Parents' Association were available and willing to support St. Canice's B.N.S. we thank all the parents on the committee for their continued support for pupils and staff. It is greatly appreciated!

School Grounds

Our school grounds are getting many compliments from visitors and passers – by and we wish to thank our caretaker for his excellent work, our Gardening Club led by Ms Mulkeen and Ms Cuthbert and Dublin City Council for providing plants and shrubs.

Sport

As always the school competed in Gaelic Football, hurling, boxing, and athletics this year. The boys performed admirably in all sports. We had many highlights during the year. Our junior footballers under the excellent guidance of Ms Connaughton and Ms O' Keeffe won the Cumann na mBunscol junior league and were presented with their medals by Ger Brennan, Dublin footballer. Our senior hurlers expertly coached by Ms O' Keeffe, Mr Ward and Mr Power had a great season, finally bowing out at the semi final stage after a courageous campaign. The senior footballers took part in the Fingal League and reached the quarter final before losing to a strong Ashbourne Gaelscoil team. Their dedicated mentors were Ms O' Keeffe and Mr Irvine.

We also had success in the Santry School Sports with Kris Antanaitis winning a bronze medal and Lee Donohoe winning a bronze medal. Special thanks to their mentors Ms O' Keeffe and Mr Quinn.

Finally thanks to all the boys who gave up their time to take part in a variety of sports and represented the school so honourably.

Schools Quiz Teams

In the Credit Union Quiz, we entered two teams.

The Junior Team of Cian O' Sullivan, Jared Penrose, Seán O' Malley and Luke Leonard won the local area quiz and qualified for the district final managing a wonderful 5th place. Our senior team of Shane Ahearne, Jack Murphy, Leon Molloy and Conor Kenny came third in the local area quiz. Sincere thanks to all the boys and their devoted coaches Mr Gaffney and Mr Quinn.

Green Schools Celebration

On Thursday 20th June we celebrated the winning of our second green flag for saving energy in our school. The flag is a reward for all the hard work of our Eco – Council and their mentors Ms Cuthbert and Mr Ward. Our special guests were Lorraine Proctor B.O.M. Deirdre Kenny, Parents Association, and Ryan Turbridy R.T.E. Ryan enthralled everyone with his speech and humour and visited every classroom afterwards.



Enrolments and Graduation

The school held its induction day for our new junior infants on Wednesday 11th June. Their parents/guardians met and spoke with their class teachers Ms Kenny and Ms Cuthbert. A special thanks to Ms Aoife O' Sullivan and Ms Orlaith Moran for addressing the parents/guardians on the requirements, expectations and concerns for the boys as they begin primary school on Thursday 28th August. We hope that all 58 junior infants have a happy and fruitful eight years in St. Canice's B.N.S.

Graduation for our two sixth classes will take place on Wednesday evening 25th June at 7.30 p.m.

This is our first occasion having our graduation ceremony at evening time and we are really looking forward to it. The boys have invited their parents/guardians and grandparents to the ceremony. A big thank you to the boys of Ms O' Keeffe's and Mr Power classes for being exceptional leaders of the school for their final year. The boys were blessed to have two excellent, caring and hard working teachers who gave them a final year in St. Canice's that they will cherish in their memories for the rest of their lives

Active Schools Week

Our active school's week was held in glorious weather on the week of June 16th. The boys enjoyed a varied programme of races, dodge ball, skipping, Chinese baseball, penalty taking, snatch the bacon and class sports. A special thanks to Ms Cuthbert, Ms Lynchehan, Mr Power, Mr Ward and all the staff for a splendidly organised week. Thursday was the big treat with the bouncy castles in both Junior and Senior yards!

Classes from 3rd to 6th all received the opportunity to learn or improve their swimming skills through the year. This continues to be a first opportunity for all children to learn a skill for life.

Classes for 2014/15 School Year

Class	Teacher	Room
Junior Infants	Ms. Cuthbert	8
	Ms. Kenny	7
Senior Infants	Ms. Lynchehan	6
	Ms. Byrne	5
First	Mr. Irvine	2
	Ms. McHugh	1
Second	Mr. Gaffney	4
	Ms. O' Keeffe	3
Third	Ms. Walsh	17
	Ms. Connaughton	10
Fourth	Ms. Ms. Egan/Ms. O'Hanlon	11
	New teacher	16
Fifth	Ms. Kearney	12
	Ms. Mulkeen	15
Sixth	Ms. O'Sullivan	13
	Mr. Power	14

Special Education Team for 2014 – 15

Ms Fallon R9, Ms Loughman R24, Mr Ward R23 Mr Quinn R 25, and Ms McCaughan R18.

On behalf of all the staff I wish you all a pleasant and safe summer holiday, and thank you for your support and friendliness throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday 28th August at 8.55 a.m.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Walsh



**School Calendar
September 2014 - June 2015**

August	The school will re-open on Thursday 28 th August 2014 at 8.55 a.m.
October	School will close on Friday, 24 th October at 2.40 p.m. for the Mid - Term break.
November	School will re-open on Monday, 3 rd November at 8.55 a.m. after the Mid-Term break.
December	School will close at 12.00, midday, on Friday, 19 th December 2014 for Christmas Holidays
January	School will re-open after the Christmas Holidays on Monday, 5 th January 2015 at 8.55 a.m.
February	School will close on Wednesday, 18 th February 2015 at 2.40 p.m. for the mid-term break, and reopen on Monday 23 rd February at 8.55 a.m.
March	The school will be close on Friday 13 th March at 2.40 p.m. and reopen on Wednesday 18 th March after St. Patrick's Day break.
March/April	The school will close on Friday 27 th March 2015 at 12.00 midday for the Easter Holidays and re-open Monday 13 th April at 8.55 a.m.
April/May	The school will close on Thursday 30 th April at 2.40 p.m. and reopen on Tuesday 5 th May 2015 at 8.55 a.m. after the May Public Holiday.
May/June	The school will be close on Friday 29 th May 2015 at 2.40 p.m. and reopen on Monday 8 th June at 8.55 a.m.
June	The school will close on Tuesday 30 th June 2015 at 12 noon for the summer holidays.

This calendar can also be viewed on our website and for any updates or changes check our website.

St. Canice's Boys' School

Principal: Tim Walsh

Under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin



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