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ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2015

STAFF NEWS

DEPARTURES

Joe the Lollipop man hung up his high-vis vest at the beginning of October, he will be missed by all children and staff at the College but we wish him well in his retirement.

CLASS NEWS

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten children were very excited when lots of very important visitors arrived at during the month of October. Parents were invited into the playroom to join their children in their daily routines. From reading stories to helping us on the Smartboard, to doing jigsaws. We all had great fun!



PRIMARY 1

BUILD A BEAR

On 11th September Primary 1's all visited the Build-a-Bear workshop in the Buchanan Galleries to get their class 'birthday bear'. Primary One Gonzaga now have Fluffy the bear and Primary One Ogilvie have Cuddles the bear. The Bears will be going home with a different pupil each night (starting October 26th) so it can go on lots of adventures.

READING BOOKS



On Friday 2nd October all Primary One pupils received their first reading book. This is a massive achievement and we are so proud of all of them!

ICT

In Information and Communication Technology, Primary 1 are familiarising themselves with the various parts of the computer and building up their ability to use the mouse to point, select and drag items. In the

coming months, they will be using MS Paint to construct, edit and save a picture they have made.

PRIMARY 2

STIRLING CASTLE

Primary 2 visited Stirling Castle on 8th November; it was the wildest, wettest, darkest day that we could have imagined. However, it did not deter the children from having a fabulous time as they explored the castle and enjoyed dressing up as various castle characters-we had princes, princesses, knights and archers. We spotted the Stuart Coat of Arms with the unicorn in various locations in the castle and many of us bought a pink, fluffy, cuddly unicorn to remind us of our trip! We enjoyed sitting at the banquet table in the Great Hall although our dining facilities were not so grand! All in all a fantastic time was had by everyone.

PRIMARY 3

CREATIVE MUSIC DAY



Primary 3 showed they definitely had rhythm during their recent Creative Music Day. They thoroughly enjoyed a day of Big

Groove Samba percussion workshops under the expert tuition of Helen. The busy day, which also involved samba mask and instrument making, ended with a sparkling performance of four songs to an audience from Primary 1 and Kindergarten.

PRIMARY 4

HALLOWEEN PARTY!



Primary 4 enjoyed dressing up, dancing, games and 'dooking' for apples at their Halloween party.

A fantastic time was had by all, some excellent dance moves from staff and pupils were evident.

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TRIP TO VIKINGAR

The children of Primary 4 are now looking forward to their class trip to Vikingar on the 18th November to expand their knowledge on the Vikings!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The meeting was held on Tuesday 27th of October regarding preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 15th May 2015 at 2.15pm.

PRIMARY 5 AMAZONIA

On Friday, 23rd October, the pupils of Primary 5 spent a wonderful day at Amazonia to launch their Rainforest topic this term. They engaged in a number of activities, the most memorable being holding a Royal Python, a tarantula and a fat-tailed gecko. Other activities included investigating bats, cockroaches, monkeys, leaf-cutter ants and interacting (quite literally) with a selection of macaws. Their final activity involved being in an interactive chamber where they played games involving Rainforest animals and plants. One in particular was catching butterflies.

PRIMARY 6 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Primary 6 pupils have been using their geography skills to assist in their new Humanities topic on Developing Countries, which will involve the children identifying specific difficulties experienced by those living in the developing world. Children are currently using their letter writing skills to write to various charities requesting information to further their understanding of the needs of those living in Developing Countries in a country of their choice.

PRIMARY 7 JOHN MUIR AWARD

Continuing with the successful John Muir Award Programme of the past seven years, the pupils of P7 will be heading in November to the Cambuslang Community Forest where we will take part in an exploration and discovery day led by conservationist and regular presenter of the BBC programme 'Landward', Patrick McGlinchey, and Mr Bagshaw, Head of Outdoor Education, as part of the John Muir Educational Initiative.

The John Muir Award is an Environmental Award scheme focused on wild places. This could be anywhere, from a mountain top to a city garden. It encourages the discovery and conservation of wild places, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. Further details can be found at www.jmt.org

The following week the pupils will be working on a conservation project near Culzean Castle on the Ayrshire coast. Further work will be done back at school, and the pupils will share their experiences of the days in a presentation at a Junior school assembly in January. This is an excellent introduction to outdoor education and a further opportunity to take part in team building activities.

ART, SCIENCE, MUSIC & LANGUAGES ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

On Wednesday 23rd September we held the annual Art Exhibition. The work on display was produced during our last school year and included drawings, paintings, prints, collages, designs and much more. Every spare space in the Junior School Reception was covered and it was lovely to see so many parents, family and friends at the opening of our exhibition.

ECO HALLOWEEN MASK COMPETITION

All pupils from P4 to P7 have been given the task of designing an Eco mask. The design can be in sketch books or produced in 3D. We look forward to seeing an array of imaginative and creative pieces. As many as possible will be displayed by Friday 30th October on the Eco board on the ground floor of the Junior School.

WHITELEE WINDFARM

The pupils of Primary 6 visited Whitelee Windfarm on 1st September for an educational trip which typified the Jesuit ideal of learning outside the classroom. The young Aloysians enjoyed lessons in a number of areas including science, art, geography and outdoor education. The boys and girls learned about the science behind wind turbines, and how they generate electricity, before getting the chance to design their own working mini turbines.

The boys and girls also began creating a "windfarm mural" using a 40 metre turbine blade as their canvas and learned about the many plants and animals in the area, including poisonous adders and a carnivorous plant known as a 'Round Leaved Sundew'.

SCIENCE AMBASSADORS

We welcomed S6 Science Ambassadors into our Science classes this term. They will be helping the children with discussion and scientific enquiry skills.



ORAL HEALTH - PRIMARY 4

The children in Primary 4 received Oral Health talks from Dr. Guzik (Glasgow University) on the 9th and 30th October.

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STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) after school club will be completing their applications for the Primary Science Leaders award which includes an interview with a STEM professional.

SCIENCE FAIR – PRIMARY 7

Preparations for the annual P7 Science Fair will begin in December with the main event being held on January 12th

MUSIC - OCARINA - P3 MUSIC

Primary 3 have been working hard this term on learning a new instrument introduced into the curriculum. They are now able to play 'Twinkle Twinkle' on the ocarina!

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

The training choir and Junior choir will begin working on their Christmas repertoire for up and coming events. Watch this space!

PRIMARY 5 ITALIAN

The P5 Italian class has been learning about Countries and Nationalities! The pupils have been practising their speaking skills interviewing each other in Italian, finding out about different nationalities in their school and they are now preparing their very own flags to be displayed in class. The pupils have also worked really hard to produce a piece of writing on this topic.

Bravissimi!



EDINBURGH SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL – PRIMARY 6 L&O

Well done to our P6 Spanish classes who took part in a trip to the Spanish Film Festival, at Edinburgh Filmhouse. This event was organised by Edinburgh University and the Consejería de Educación (Spanish Embassy Education Office).

As part of P6 Health and Wellbeing topic, children thoroughly enjoyed watching the fun-filled animation film "Foosball" which gave them a real opportunity to practise their listening skills in Spanish.



SPORTS

ST COLUMBA'S TRANSITUS RUGBY TOURNAMENT



Many congratulations to the Primary 7 Rugby squad, coached by Mr Douglas, who won the invitational St. Columba's School Transitus Tournament which was

held on the 7th October. It is the first time that a team from our school has been successful in the 20 year history of this event. The boys defeated St. Columba's, Hutchesons' Grammar and Lomond School in their pool matches before beating Glasgow Academy in the final. In the course of their 4 matches, St. Aloysius scored 18 tries and conceded only 1 score, a fabulous effort from all those concerned.

PRIMARY 4 AND 5 GAMES ARRANGEMENTS

Primary 4 and 5 will participate in swimming at Whitehill Swimming Pool during their timetabled Games period:

PRIMARY 4

November 12th, 19th, 26th, and Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th.

Primary 4O will swim at the Lagoon Swimming Pool, Paisley and Primary 4G will take ball skills at Firhill:

January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and February 4th and 11th

Primary 4G will swim at the Lagoon Swimming Pool, Paisley and Primary 4O will take ball skills at Firhill:

PRIMARY 5

November 25th and December 2nd, 9th and 16th Primary

5O will swim at the Lagoon Swimming Pool, Paisley; and Primary 5G will take ball skills at Firhill

January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th

Primary 5G will swim at the Lagoon Swimming Pool, Paisley; and Primary 5O will take ball skills at Firhill

CROSS COUNTRY WEEK

The Junior School classes participated in Cross Country week from 5-9th October this year. The results of this are:

P4 Boys

1. Hadyn McGuigan
2. Joel Grady
3. Liam Keenan

P5 Boys

1. Oliver Heaney
2. Andrew Campbell
3. Oliver McKenna

P4 Girls

1. Olivia McGuire
2. Leyre Doherty
3. Erin Sadler

P5 Girls

1. Elise Keenan
2. Emma Vella
3. Maeve Baxter

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P6 Boys

1. Daniel Boyle
2. Matthew Urwin
3. Michael Robinson

P7 Boys

1. Theo McKenna
2. Séan McNeill
3. Myles Gaffney

P6 Girls

1. Sarah Nicol
2. Mia McGuigan
3. Lucie Brown

P7 Girls

1. Nuala Moreland
2. Louise Sadler
3. Marina Doherty

Congratulations to all the children who participated in this fun week.

CHARITIES

MARY'S MEALS BACKPACK APPEAL

The Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal is well underway - a huge 'thank you' to all pupils who have contributed spare backpacks of school items so far! The Junior School have now sent more than 1000 backpacks to needy children in Africa over the past 5 years, an amazing achievement and practical way for our children to help children less fortunate than themselves. The final day for backpacks to be brought to school is **Friday 6th November**. If you do not have a spare backpack, items can be brought to school in a plastic bag and all children who donate a backpack will receive a certificate of thanks. (List of backpack items can be found attached to letter issued before October hols.) All pupils from Kindergarten to p7 have also received Mary's Meals 'Donate a Dinner' cards and all money donated by 28th December will be doubled by the UK Government. £12.20 will therefore feed 2 CHILDREN for a WHOLE YEAR and pupils are encouraged to do chores around the house or donate their pocket money to complete their card and feed 2 children this year through Mary's Meals. Many thanks for your continued support!

WEAR IT PINK

A big thank you to all the pupils and staff for their participation in the Junior School Wear it Pink day which took place on Thursday, 22nd



October – everyone got into the spirit of the day and raised £306.38 for a fantastic cause. Pictured are some of our pinkest pupils and staff.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION PARENTS' MEETINGS

We changed the format of our Parent Meetings last month due to our reduced parking whilst the new sports facility is being built. This also met some of the suggestions from your feedback last session. Many of you said that you would like less waiting time between appointments and less moving around on the evening between floors of the Junior School and between buildings. The new format also addressed these issues. It is our intention to run the spring meetings in the same format but would appreciate your thoughts on this. We will also meet with a focus group of parents to look at some of the other suggestions from the feedback.

5 YEAR PLAN CONSULTATIONS

Thank you to all of the Junior School parents who attended the various consultation meetings on the College 5 year plan. Your input and feedback was very helpful and very much appreciated.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CLUB

Please remember our Holiday club will run here in the school campus during the February half term – 15th-19th February 2016. Book early for your place afterschool@stalloysius.org

MORNING DROP OFF

Children should be dropped off from **8.30am** onwards each morning. Please note that there is no supervision in school or in playgrounds until this time.

Breakfast Club is available each morning from 7.45am if required. Please contact Mrs Docherty AfterSchool@stalloysius.org for further details of this arrangement.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that all clothing complies with school uniform regulations. This includes jackets, footwear, hats, scarves, gloves etc. All school bags should be official school bags (available from the School Shop) or dark in colour, preferably black, with no large motifs. Please also ensure that your child's hair complies with regulation haircut. Boys should have their hair cut above the collar and girls must have long hair tied back.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE/CLUBS

The Autumn/Winter timetable of clubs is now running. The school maintains registers for both After School Care and After School Clubs. In order to keep these up to date we would ask that if any child wishes to switch clubs, Junior School Reception be informed. We understand that arrangements also change for collections, therefore if children won't be attending a

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club, please contact Junior School Reception either by telephone or emailing afterschool@staloyusius.org.

After School Care arrangements allow for bookings to be made both long term, as well as offering flexibility. To ensure places are allocated a booking register is maintained. If there are any changes to arrangements please contact After Care on 0141 331 9265, this will allow spaces to be allocated to those on a waiting list. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SACRAMENTAL/MASS DATES

Annual Requiem Mass and Charities Tea – Sunday, 8th November in St Aloysius Church

Mass for Advent – Friday, 4th December at 9.15am (Parents welcome) St Aloysius Church

This year's Sacramental dates are as follows:

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 5th March 2016 at 10am in the School Hall

First Communion: Sunday 15th May 2016 at 2.15pm in St Aloysius Church.

Sacrament of Confirmation – Tuesday, 14th June 2016 at the Primary 7 Leavers Mass, 2.15pm in St Aloysius Church.

UPCOMING SCHOOL TRIPS/EVENTS

P7 John Muir Award – Day 1: Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November.

Open Evenings (No after school clubs) – Thursday, 12th November, 7pm

National Bullying and Road Safety Awareness Week – Week commencing 16th November

Primary 4 visit to Vikingar – Wednesday, 18th November

P6G St Andrews Day Educational Visit to Edinburgh Castle – Thursday, 26th November

P7 John Muir Award – Day 2: Thursday, 26th and Friday, 27th November

Italy Trip – Parent Meeting – Monday, 30th November at 5.30pm in the Clavius

Christmas Jumper Day – Tuesday, 8th December

Early Years Christmas Show – Thursday, 10th and Friday, 11th December at 2pm in the Hall

Concert with Glasgow Cathedral Choral Society (both Junior Scholae) - Saturday, 12th December

KG-P7 Carol Service, St Aloysius Church – Wednesday, 16th December at 2pm

KG-P5 Pantomime, School Hall – Thursday, 17th December

P7 Social, School Hall – Thursday, 17th December 1-2.45pm

End of Term – Friday, 18th December
EY: 11.40am

Juniors: 11.50pm

After Care ends at 3pm

EARLY YEARS' PARENT ASSEMBLIES

You are invited to attend the Early Years' Assemblies this year when your child is in the class leading the assembly. Space is limited and so we would request that only one representative attends for each child. We are certain this will be an experience which you will enjoy and any feedback would be very welcome.

Please note the following dates:

P1G – 9.15am Thursday, 12th November

P2O – 9.15am Thursday, 19th November

KG – 9.15am Thursday, 17th March 2016

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Staff Day – Friday, 13th November 2015

MEDICAL INFORMATION

HEAD LICE

We have had instances of head lice in recent weeks. The school policy is to treat the head lice at home and advise the School Nurse - this allows us to inform the class parents.

NUT ALLERGIES

We have some children in our school who have severe nut allergies. Please do not give your child any snacks or packed lunches that contain nuts. Your co-operation with this is greatly appreciated.

Please note that all information is kept confidential and it is a general statement which is circulated to parents.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

PRESCRIBED MEDICATION

Please note that any medication brought in from the home should be **prescribed medicines only**. These must be accompanied by a letter detailing the time medication is to be administered and the amount to be given and signed by a parent/carer. This should be handed directly to the medical room each morning.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Could we also remind you that if your child has diarrhoea and or vomiting they must not return to school until they have had no symptoms for 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting.

NOROVIRUS

Further information is available on the College website

<http://www.staloyusius.org/aloyasian-life/noticeboard/norovirus-prevention-153>