



DECEMBER 2017

St Olaf's Newsletter



Message from Mr. Murphy

The Christmas Season is well and truly upon us and the excitement is slowly building as we approach the last few weeks of the term.

This was really obvious over the last 2 weeks as hundreds of families scoured their homes and shops in an effort to find suitable gifts for poor children in Africa & Eastern Europe to put in their Team Hope Christmas Shoeboxes.



This year we collected 399 boxes – a record for St Olaf's & we thank all those who went to the trouble to help those more in need than ourselves.

Voluntary Contributions

Sincere thanks to all families who have returned their voluntary contributions. After just 4 weeks, more than 30% of families have made a contribution and we encourage those who may have forgotten to send theirs in as soon as possible.

Major re-decorations are currently underway in the school and the place is looking extremely well. The hall has been completely refurbished and the school grounds are truly a sight to behold!

Trees and shrubs in the school grounds have been lopped and cut back and the wall fronting on Balally Drive has been painted. There are still many other improvements necessary and, with your support, we will try to ensure that our school environment is well maintained and pleasant for our pupils, parents, staff and our visitors.

Enrolment of New Pupils

Applications for the enrolment of new pupils in St Olaf's for September 2019 and onwards are currently being taken at the Office. All places for Junior Infants 2018 have now been allocated and a waiting list is in place.

Christmas Holidays

School closes on Friday December 22nd at 12.15pm and will reopen on Monday January 8th

St Olafs NS
1968-2018
Celebrating
50 years of
excellence
in
education.

We are developing an archive to reflect our (nearly) 50 years of history. Please send on photos etc to: webarchive@stolafs.ie.

Congratulations & thank you to:

It's been a busy term on the sporting front also as our girls' footballers reached the final of Sciath an Chladaigh in Croke Park, only to lose out narrowly to our neighbours in Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille in a fantastic skilful game.

Well done to all the girls, and to Mr Maher & Mr Kearns for their expert guidance throughout the campaign. A match report by Hannah Morgan is available on our website.

Diary Dates

First Holy
Communion
May 26th
Confirmation
April 20th



Tag Rugby in St Olaf's got a welcome boost with the arrival of Leinster coach Adam Griggs who will be coaching in the school here after Christmas.



Our 6th class maths team finished in 3rd place (18 teams) in the South Dublin Maths Quiz in St Attracta's last week losing out by just 2 points.

Well done to Gagik, Harry, Stevie & Carl.

Chess Club:
Mondays in Mr
Connellan's
Room



Christmas Calendar

Our Parents' Association has redesigned & totally updated the school calendar. Special thanks to Suzanne O'Grady, Rachel Crean & Gillian Doherty, who made this all happen. The class photos have been taken, (the pure joy on the faces of all the children is something to behold) and the calendars will soon be on sale at the Office – cost €10. A great present for relatives and friends!

Christmas cards orders are being taken and will arrive shortly.

It only remains to wish each and every one of you a happy and a holy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

Merry Christmas



St Olaf's Parents' Association AGM – Tuesday 10th October 2017

We want to thank those who came to our AGM and hope that you found some nuggets of information from the contributions of our principal, Ger Murphy, guest speaker Roisin Gowan, pediatric dietician, and Paula Tunney from CAD (Community Awareness of Drugs).

Roisin is a registered senior pediatric dietitian in Ireland's biggest children's hospital, in Dublin. She highlighted in particular portion size, nutrition for active children and teenagers and the amount of sugar that is in products, which really opened our eyes, especially as she had examples to show.

She also showed us just how easy it was to have far too much sugar in our children's daily diets and how some simple changes can be made to rectify this.

Paula Tunney from CAD explained that they are a registered non-profit organization & charity with over thirty years' experience in providing comprehensive drug education services for parents and carers.

As senior tutor, Paula designs evidence-based drug prevention programmes which CAD delivers at a local community level. CAD provide 6 week information courses throughout the year. They give parents the knowledge as to what type of drugs are around; the effects they have on the teenage brain; what to look out for; ways to teach your child about drugs and how to teach them to cope with peer pressure. For more information contact:- www.cadaboutdrugs.ie / info@cadaboutdrugs.ie

As Sharon Brennan and Tanya Oliver are stepping down in their respective roles as chairperson and secretary, Sharon proposed a change to the committee structure to provide for a chairperson, vice chairperson and a joint secretary role.

We want to welcome:

Michelle Monson to the position of Chairperson; **Sylvia Jay Carey** to the position of Vice Chairperson, and **Annie Gatling** and **Sinead Lawlor** to the positions of joint secretary.

Nikki Murphy will remain in her role as Treasurer.

So thank you Sharon and Tanya for all your hard work and we are delighted that you are both staying on the committee, but in a more relaxed role.

Roisin and Breffini from the HSE gave a talk and demonstration about Head Lice on Friday 17 November. There is information on the school website under the Parents' Association section.

A few key points:-

1. They are spread by direct contact.
2. All long hair should be tied up & if possible, plaited or in a bun.
3. Check your child's hair every week.
4. If there are nits (eggs) - these look a bit like sesame seeds - wet hair & put plenty of conditioner into it. Then...
5. Section off parts of the hair and comb (make sure you use a lice comb available from any pharmacy) from roots right to end of hair, checking the comb each time and wiping the eggs into a tissue. By doing this over the next week you can get rid of the nits before the eggs hatch.
6. **If eggs hatch, you now have to use lice treatment products recommended by your pharmacy.**
7. **Treatment by products is only required when living, moving lice are found in the hair.**





From the Parents' Association

Hopefully, over the next few weeks parents will see our revamped hall, which has been newly painted thanks to the following people:- Niall Carey, Ruben Fonseca, Sadhbh Dolan Farrell, Mary Pentony, Colm McEntee, Colm O' Leary, Bernard Keavney, Suzanne O Grady, Derek Monson and Brian Murphy. We also want to thank those who came up to help clean up the hall on the Monday night.

Along with the new paint, we also invested in new stage curtains (as shown in the photo on the right).



In particular we have to thank the four men who spent over 13 hours painting the hall. From left to right: Brian Murphy, Derek Monson, Niall Carey & Ruben Fonseca.

Particular thanks to Niall who led the project and spent the whole weekend painting.



The old curtains are in above photo

Halloween Disco

On Friday 27th October we had our Halloween annual disco. It was another successful disco with very excited kids and fun had by all. Sadbh Lawlor from Motion2Motion, who teaches Hip Hop on a Friday in St Olaf's, supported the disco and demonstrated some dance moves to the kids. Both boys and girls danced away for 20 minutes and were exhausted at the end of it. Thank you Sadbh for your support.

Our very own resident DJ Dave Kinsella was on hand yet again to offer his support with the music and lighting. The disco was rocking with the latest tunes and dance moves. Thank you Dave!

The winners of the fancy dress competition were Calum Drury Lane, Ella Richardson, Allie Hughes and Gagik Avetisyan.

Nikki and Tanya would like to thank all the volunteers which made everything run so smoothly on the night.



This is the first fundraiser of this school year for the school & we made €1,221 - a great start!