

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School

March / April
2017

Volume 13 Issue 7

School Newsletter



Dates for your Diary

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Diary Dates



Pupils of the Month



Happy Easter!



Bull Island Trip



Contact Us!

Drumfinn Road,
Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

Phone: 01-6234153

Blog:
www.stlouisesprimaryschool.ie

Email: admin@stlouises.scoilnet.ie

Máirt 1ú —17ú Márta:	<i>Seachtain na Gaeilge.</i>
Thursday March 16th:	Dress up for St. Patrick's Day.
Wednesday March 22nd:	Ceremony of Light for 6th class girls.
Thursday March 23rd:	4th class trip to Bull Island.
Wednesday March 29th:	Spelling Bee Final in the Red Cow Inn.
Thursday March 30th:	National Children's Choir perform in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght.
Friday April 7th:	Easter holidays at 12 noon.
Monday April 24th:	School reopens after Easter break.
Tuesday April 25th:	Confirmation in St. Matthew's Church.



Places for Junior Infants / Early Start 2017

Junior Infant places are filling up quickly. If you know anyone with a child who will be four before September, tell them to apply as soon as possible in order to ensure a place. All application forms are available from the secretaries' office.

The places for the morning and afternoon sessions for Early Start have now been fully allocated. A waiting list is in operation. Thanks to everybody, who recently attended our open afternoon. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to visit the school and partake in a variety of activities. A special thanks to the pupils from fourth, fifth and sixth class, who acted as tour guides and helped demonstrate science experiments.



Attendance & Punctuality

It is essential that your child attends school each day if he / she is to reach their full potential. Our school is in the fortunate position of having a School Completion Project (SCP) in operation. Each morning a member of the SCP team checks attendance in each class and rings the homes of all children, who are absent on that day. This is standard practice. If for some reason your child is sick, please send in a written note to explain the absence on his / her return to school. If your child misses 20 days of school, the school is obliged to report him / her to the Education Welfare Service. Please ensure your child comes to school on time every day. Thanks for your cooperation with this matter.



Easter Raffle

Tickets are now on sale each morning outside the hall for our Easter raffle, which boasts lovely hampers and tasty treats!! **A strip costs €1.** The raffle will take place on *Friday 7th April*. We appreciate your continued support in our fundraising endeavours. Thanks to everyone who supported our recent fundraiser held on 16th March in aid of the purchase of Buddy Benches. **€340** was raised.

Good News



Congratulations to Ms. Maeve McAdam and her husband Leo on the recent birth of their daughter Aodhla. We welcome back Ms. Joelle Hendrick following her recent maternity leave. We wish Ms. Denise Stynes farewell and hope to see her again soon.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the pupils who participated in the school's final of the Spelling Bee on 10th March. Pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th class participated. Thanks to Mr. Cormac O' Connor, who compered the



Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Sophie Keeley, who was the overall winner. She represented the school with style in the Leinster Final in the Red Cow Inn on 29th March.

Parents' Corner



Parents Plus

A FREE course which provides parents with practical ideas for helping your child with issues such as behaviour, social media, anxiety etc. will take place after Easter for 8 weeks on Tuesday mornings, beginning 2nd May. If you are interested in partaking please contact Alma Quinn, HSCL coordinator, in the school office or text her on 086-0288928.

Upcoming Workshops

Three workshops will take place after Easter on the theme of healthy eating, exercise and living a balanced life. The workshops are **FREE** and will take place on Wednesday mornings @ 9:30am on the following dates: 26th April, 3rd May and 10th May. To reserve your place, please contact Alma Quinn, HSCL coordinator.

School Garden

Do you enjoy gardening? Have you an hour or two to spare each week? If so we are looking for some parents to volunteer to help out in the school garden. Please contact Alma Quinn if interested.

Literacy

Showcase

Some of our first class pupils are taking part in a new reading programme called SHaRE Reading. Trained volunteers come weekly to read, play games and help encourage a love of reading with the lucky pupils. Well done to Cillian, Skye and Abbie, who took part in the literacy showcase held in the library on 28th March. They explained about their work to other schools and pupils in Ballyfermot.



February Pupils of the Month

Congratulations to the pupils of the month for February, who received their prizes recently. Well done to these children, who give a great example to their classmates. We are very proud of them!



Busy Bloggers!



A special award was given to one child from each class who tries hard to look at our school blog on a regular basis and leave comments. Check out the blog on www.stlouisesprimaryschool.ie.



Best Attendees

Congratulations to the pupils from **Room 13, First Class**, who had an outstanding **96.9% attendance rate**—the highest amongst the Junior classes. Well done to the pupils from **Room 16, 2nd Class** with a **97% attendance rate** during February. Both classes won a pizza party as a special prize for their excellent attendance. Overall the attendance rate in the school during February was **93.7%**. Keep it up!

TRIP TO BULL ISLAND



Meet the new ambassadors for the Pale Bellied Brent Geese, St. Louise's fourth class girls! We have been chosen to undertake the very important job of raising awareness of these geese in order to protect them. In the hope of seeing the geese, we travelled to Bull Island on 23rd March, as this is where the geese fly to from Iceland in order to feed on eel grass for the winter. This grass is very nutritious and can be found just below the high tide level. When the tide is in (or when they have eaten all of the eel grass) many of the geese fly to Ballyfermot and eat the grass in our local park. They have been seen feeding on grass in the Gaels! Please keep your dog on a lead as we want to protect the geese, or as we like to call them, the VIBs - very important birds! We had a great time and learned a lot during our day birdwatching on Bull Island. Thanks to some of our parents and people from the community, who accompanied us.

Apple Tree

Applegreen Garage located on Ballyfermot Road kindly donated an apple tree to the school recently during National Tree Week. Pictured at the planting ceremony are Katie Hartigan, Junior Infants and her brother who works in Applegreen and Taylor O' Toole Eagers, whose mother Sandra organised the donation of the tree. We hope it will blossom for many a year to come.



St. Louise's Football Team

Well done to the girls who took part in the Dublin football league in Irishtown on 28th March. St. Louise's had two teams participating — Ballyfermot A & Ballyfermot B. The girls played really well and Team A made it to the final.

The Sunshine Fund

The Sunshine Fund works with SVP and offers week long holidays to children aged between 7 and 11, who meet the criteria. It is open to children born between April 2006 and September 2010. If you are interested in applying for this holiday, please get in touch with Alma Quinn (Home School Coordinator) on 086-0288928 or call into the office to fill in an application form before 7th April.