

## Showing Racism the Red Card!



On November 23<sup>rd</sup> students and staff from across the school participated in activities to 'show racism the red card'. Here in Huntstown we celebrate and rejoice in the things that make us unique.

## Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

This year our school took part in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Our teacher, Ms. Murray, showed us videos of children around the world opening their shoeboxes. It warmed all our hearts to see how happy they were and we then realised how fortunate we all are compared to other children in the world.

Our class made posters and visited different classes around the school explaining how the appeal worked. The whole school worked hard to put together boxes to go to children in developing countries. The boxes contained the 4 W's - Wash, Write, Wear and Wow! We had to include things like soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, facecloths, hairbrushes, pencils, paper, colours, hats, socks, underwear, toys and some sweets. We couldn't include liquids or chocolate.

We would like to thank all of the parents, staff and of course the children who put in a huge effort in making the boxes. We collected over 110 boxes!

For more information go to [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie).

By Laoise O' Reilly & Anna Roman, 5<sup>th</sup> class.



## Active Breaks

Our school is participating in the 'Active School Flag' programme, a DES initiative which aims to get more schools, more active, more often.



As part of our Active Flag endeavours, every day at break-time all of our boys and girls engage in a fun physical activity with their friends. Thank you Mr Shelly for coordinating and to the Active Flag committee members for guiding us through the activities.

## Entrepreneurs in the Making!



Well done to students from Rang 6, who participated in the Junior Achievement Ireland awards this term. They were rewarded for their hard work with an invitation to the HSBC global head office in Grand Canal. Working around the board room table, they shared ideas and imagined how they might contribute to the future of their country and the globe. Thank you to Mr. Burke for coordinating this event.

## Fís Triumph – Once Again!

Congratulations to Mr Herity's 6<sup>th</sup> class of 2017/18 who won a prize at the FÍS awards at the Helix in November. This continues a long tradition of success at the awards by Mr. Herity and his students.

The film, 'Once Upon a Rhyme', used animation, lego, and green screening and won 'Best Mixed Media Production Award'. We are very proud of all involved!



## A Message from Mr. Lyons

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a very busy and very successful first term here in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa. Our staff has been unified in pursuing the school's aim of nurturing the children in all dimensions of their lives - spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical. Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa is incredibly vibrant and I thank all members of our school community (pupils, parents, staff, Parents' Association and Board of Management) for the role they play in maintaining the school's cohesive, co-operative and supportive environment. It is particularly pleasing to see how this positive environment has helped all of our new pupils (100 in Junior Infants and 30 more across Coiscéim and all other class levels) settle in to their new school in the first term.

The vibrant nature of our school was very much illustrated this week in the many class Christmas performances and also at the wonderful *Carols for the Community* concert in the church on Monday. The look of joy and pride on family members' faces when the children performed was truly magical. Well done to all participants (including our staff choir!) in the Christmas performances and thank you to teachers, SNAs and Michael our caretaker for all of your efforts in organising the performances and preparing the pupils.

The school's Parents' Association has also been very active in the school this term. To name but a few of their activities they provided refreshments on the first day of term for parents of new pupils, finalised the book rental scheme, ran the uniform pop-up shop, funded internet safety workshops for parents, teachers and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and organised the Bumper Christmas Raffle. The raffle took place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and there were over 80 prizes in the draw, including a 6<sup>th</sup> generation iPad donated by our Apple partners *Wriggle Junior*! Thank you to all of the businesses (listed on the *Christmas Raffle* section of our website) who donated prizes for the raffle, we very much appreciate your generosity and ask parents to support these businesses in any way you can. Thank you to all of the parents who donated prizes and items for the hampers and for selling and purchasing tickets for the raffle. On a separate note, I would also like to say thank you to *Your Local Pharmacy Huntstown* who generously donate First Aid supplies to the school throughout the year, we very much appreciate this community support.

Thank you also to parent Ciara Jones who organised the hugely successful *Sparkle for Autism Ball* in Dunboyne Castle Hotel on 17<sup>th</sup> November in aid of *AsIAm* (Ireland's national charity and advocacy organisation for the autism community) and our school. It was a fantastic evening and the effort that Ciara put in to organising the event was truly phenomenal and is very much appreciated. The school struggles to operate within the constraints of Department of Education funding and your continued support of fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas Raffle and the Sparkle Ball is very much appreciated and is crucial to the continued success of our school.

As you will have noted in the November newsletter one of our uniform suppliers (*Savvy Schools*) has closed down. I am happy now to inform you that, in addition to *Mr. Price* in the Blanchardstown Centre, *Leddy Uniforms* in Unit 3 of the Shopping Centre in Blanchardstown Village will also now supply our school uniform. Information on the uniform and contact details for both suppliers are contained in our Uniform Policy which is published on our school website. Don't forget to also check out our Twitter feed *@sacredheartns* for the most up-to-date news about our school.

As 2019 approaches we can look forward to continuing to develop the new ICT Schools Excellence Project in the junior classes (led by Mr. Hanley) and the school-wide Active Schools programme (led by Mr. Shelly). These two projects are indicative of the creativity of our staff and their willingness to use their talents and initiative to benefit the pupils of our school. We also look forward to the National Children's Choir performances by our 5th classes and the re-launch of our extensive after school sports programme facilitated on a voluntary basis by a dedicated team of staff members.

As we near the end of the year I would like to thank the Board of Management, Deputy Principal Mr. Harty, our teachers, our SNAs, Marie and Tina in the kitchen, our cleaning staff, our lollipop ladies Vera and Terri, our secretary Carmel, our caretaker Michael and our Parents' Association for all of their efforts throughout the year. I would also like to thank parents and guardians for your support in 2018. I wish all members of our school community a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

*Kieran Lyons, Principal.*



## Marie Lynch Retirement

Christmas 2018 marks the end of an era here in Scoil an Chroí Ró Íosa as our dear and valued colleague Marie Lynch retires from the staff. Marie has worked in our school since the first day that it opened in 1983 – an incredible 35 years! Marie first joined our cleaning staff and then became the *Bean an Tí* - looking after the staff room. Marie's children attended our school and her grandchildren are both past and present students of Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa. Marie's endearing personality has brought so much to our school over the years and her smile would light up any room! Your friendly face, your wonderful sense of humour and your caring personality will be greatly missed. Thank you most sincerely for your incredible service to our school Marie and we wish you a long and happy retirement. *Beir bua agus beannacht.*

## Enrolment 2019

In light of recent legislative changes as part of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018, our school's General and Coiscéim Enrolment Policies have been revised. Both policies have been published on the policies section of our website ([www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com](http://www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com)) and are available from the office also.

**Enrolment for Junior Infants 2019 will take place in the school atrium from:**

- ◆ 10a.m. - 12noon on Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th January 2019.
- ◆ 7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m. on Thursday 24th January 2019.

**When enrolling your son / daughter please bring:**

- ◆ One original long form copy and one photocopy of your child's birth certificate.
- ◆ Proof of address in the form of two original utility bills dated within the previous two months.
- ◆ Your child's PPS number.
- ◆ Any relevant reports (e.g. Medical, Speech & Language, Clinical or Educational Psychologist, Assessment of Need etc.).
- ◆ One original copy and one photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (if your child has been baptised Roman Catholic and if you would like your child to receive Sacraments in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class).

## Assembly and Dismissal Procedures

The school grounds open for pupils at 8.30a.m. No responsibility is accepted by the Board of Management for children arriving before this time. Coiscéim classes commence at 8.40a.m. and all other classes commence at 8.50a.m. Children arriving for school in the mornings should **line up outside their classroom**. Children are welcome to communicate with their classmates in their line in the morning, however **they must remain in their line until their classroom door is opened to receive them**.

Parents/guardians/minders collecting **infant children** should be at the school no later than 1.30p.m. Parents of children in all other classes, who wish to have their children escorted home, should make arrangements to have them met at the school. The person to escort them home should be at the school **no later than 2.30p.m.** as the Board of Management cannot accept responsibility for children after this time.

## Child Safeguarding Policy

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Policy are available to view in the school reception and on the Policies section of our school website. They detail our child safeguarding procedures that are in line with the Children First Act. It is important to note that where a member of school personnel receives an allegation or has a suspicion that a child may have been abused, harmed or neglected, is being abused, harmed or neglected, or is at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, he or she **must** report the matter to the school's principal (Child Protection Designated Liaison Person) and / or deputy principal (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) and also to Tusla, The Child and Family Agency.

# School Calendar 2019 – Terms 2 and 3

School will reopen after the Christmas break on **Mon 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.

**February Mid-term Break:** Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> and Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 inclusive

**St. Patrick's Day Holiday:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Tues 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 inclusive

**Easter Break:** Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to Fri 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 inclusive

If changes are required to be made to the Easter break as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures the school may remain open up to and including Wed 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**May Public Holiday:** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**June Mid-term Break:** Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May to Tues 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 inclusive

School will close for the summer holidays at 12 noon on **Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



**Please Note:** There will be a one day closure to facilitate Language in-service training for teachers during the 2018/2019 academic year. The date for in-service training will be communicated to parents when it has been finalised.



## Science Week 2018

Examining how sugar dissolves in Rang 1!

## National Children's Choir

All children from 5<sup>th</sup> class are taking part in the National Children's Choir and will be performing in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght in March 2019. We will perform 15 songs in total.



This year there are over 8000 children taking part in the National Children's Choir from all over Ireland. There will be regional concerts in every county and then a small number of children from every school will perform in The National Concert Hall in May.

Our two favourite songs are 'O Fortuna' and 'Kusimama'. They are difficult but a lot of fun. Usually, after big break we rehearse either in our parts or altogether in the atrium. We are divided into soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1 and alto 2. We sing in many different languages such as Latin, English, Irish and even a song from the Congo. We have learned so many new types of songs.

We sang for our parents last week. They all said we were brilliant and that the standard was very high! Overall, we think choir is amazing and we can't wait for our concert in March!

By Stephanie Persson & Dami Federin, 5<sup>th</sup> class

## Gaelic Football

Congratulations to the Junior Boys', Senior Boys' and Girls' Gaelic Football teams on their recent participation in the Cumann na mBunscoil competition. We are very proud of the effort and dedication the children have shown so far this year. Their hard work and true sportsmanship were evident in every training session and match.

A special word of thanks to the team mentors Mr. Burke, Ms. Concannon, Ms. O. Higgins, Mr. Kestell, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Thynne and Mr. Costello.



## Christmas Carol Service

My name is Aaron Sheridan and I have been a member of our school choir since 4<sup>th</sup> class. The choir of over 100 students is led by Ms Murray and Ms. Donohoe plays the piano.

During my time in choir I have sang at many different places such as the National Basketball Arena, the National Concert Hall, the Draíocht theatre, Blanchardstown Hospital and our local church to name a few.

At Christmas our choir performs a Christmas Carol Service in our local church along with the staff choir. For the past two years I have performed solo at the service. The hymns I performed were 'O Holy Night' and 'Stille Nacht'. Although I was nervous to sing on my own it went really well and I was proud of myself and happy to see my family there. I wish I was in 5<sup>th</sup> class so I could do it all again next year!

I have loved every minute of being a part of the school choir and I hope to study music in secondary school.



Log on to [www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com](http://www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com)

Follow us on <https://twitter.com/sacredheartns>