



# PARENT NEWSLETTER

## March 2015



### Important Dates

Confirmation – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00 am in Holy Trinity Church

First Penance Enrolment Service - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am in Holy Trinity Church.

First Penance - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am in Holy Trinity Church.

Communion – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11:00 am in Holy Trinity Church

St. Patrick's Day – School will be closed on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

St. Patrick's Day Dress Up and Concert - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Freddy Fitness – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

### Reminder - Complete Smoking Ban

As of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February in line with the most recent legislation Holy Trinity PS is a **NO SMOKING SCHOOL**. This means that no smoking is allowed anywhere at all in the grounds of the school. This includes e cigarettes.

### Right of the Month

#### Article 27:

We have the right to an adequate standard of living.

#### Rights Respecting Behaviour:

We can respect each other's rights by taking care of our school environment to allow everyone to enjoy it.

### Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February the school came together to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the pupils received their ashes. Father Brendan talked about the importance of Lent. During the Mass each class displayed their Lenten banners which the children had designed where they make certain commitments during the period of Lent. These are displayed in a prominent position in each class and we hope the pupils will work hard to achieve their promises. The readers were: Joseph Doran, Ryan Glenholmes, Caoimhe Mc Laughlin, James Lundy, Lucy Mc Ilwee, Callum Walsh, Leon Carlisle, Conor Matthews and Eva Akinsehinde. The offertory procession was carried up by: Aisling Healy, Cliodhna Mc Quitty, Shanice Mc Mahon and Anthony Cahill.

### Lenten Campaign

This year's Trocaire campaign is supporting people in the developing world to improve their lives, meet their basic needs and ensure their human dignity. This Lent Trocaire will support communities to adapt to the challenges of climate change by installing water conservation and irrigation systems. This will help families living in drought to increase their crop harvest and grow more nutritious food to eat.

Each year the pupils and families of Holy Trinity Primary School support our Lenten campaign with incredible generosity and we are extremely grateful for that help which will go to benefit Trocaire and some local charities which help those in great need.



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### **Buns and Cakes**

During the period of Lent we have relaxed our healthy eating policy as the children, and no doubt some parents, like to show off their culinary talents in baking buns and cakes for sale to raise funds for our Lenten collection.

### **Confirmation**

This year Bishop Farquhar will be coming to parish to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. This is a very important day in the life of the parish and the school and the pupils have been working hard to prepare for this occasion.

### **Seating Arrangements**

This year we have almost 100 pupils making their Confirmation and of course this means it will be a very busy morning indeed. In order to make the ceremony go smoothly we would ask everyone attending to co-operate with the arrangements in place. This is particularly important with regard to the seating arrangements. The pupils sit together with their classes at the front of the church and the sponsors are placed immediately behind. These seats are clearly marked with 'reserved' signs and are only for pupils and sponsors. Other family members must find other areas of the church to sit. As the church will be a very busy and there are less seats at present with the ongoing work to the organ we suggest those in need of a seat arrive in good time.

### **Peaceful Schools Initiative**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February Holy Trinity hosted students from St Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia in

Canada. This the 11<sup>th</sup> year that students from St Mary's have visited Belfast teaching conflict resolution strategies through classroom games and activities, passing on skills our pupils can use. The students were very impressed with how our children spoke out and how they offered solutions to a variety of problems.

### **Key Stage Two Assembly**

The February Assembly was led by Mr Kelly and Mrs McKinney's classes. The classes performed extremely well and it was appreciated by parents and pupils alike. The assembly celebrated St Brigid's Day on the first of February and also mentioned the many other Irish saints who are especially remembered. After the assembly Mrs Boyd presented the Key Stage Two awards for Star of the Month. The award winners were: Harry Costelloe, Marc McDonnell, Matthew Kerr, Corey Fox, Aidan Ferris, Patrice McAllister, Shauna Milligan, James Lundy, Aimee Kelly, Aaron Burrill, Ryan Teggart, Cora McHugh Stilges, Olivia Rea and Aimee O'Brien. Once again, congratulations to all these pupils.

### **St Patrick's Dress Up Day**

As last year was such a fantastic occasion we have decided to have another 'Dress Up' day for St Patrick's where the children, and staff, are encouraged to come to school wearing something green. We will do this on the day after St Patrick's Day, the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Children will also be treated to a day of cultural events where some of our pupils will be putting on a display of Irish dancing, song and music.



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### **Sportability**

The 'Sportability' programme run by students from University of Ulster at Jordanstown is currently working with P7LMC for the next ten weeks on a healthy eating and exercise course. This will further explore the link between diet and exercise and pursuing a healthy lifestyle for the future.

### **Hurling and Camogie News**

It is great to see so many pupils getting involved in the Hurling and Camogie coaching. This takes place on Thursday afternoons from 2:45 to 3:45. We are indebted to Gort na Mona who have been supplying four coaches to provide expert coaching advice to the pupils.

### **Science Trip**

Some of our P7 pupils visited the University of Ulster Jordanstown as part of Holy Trinity Primary School's on-going participation in the Step-Up Programme.

The children experienced a highly interactive show that demonstrated the science behind some of the circus acts that they have witnessed before such as juggling and unicycle tricks.

The children were educated and enthralled in equal measure as James Soper, an ex-circus performer turned Science teacher combined his talent for entertainment with his inspiring science skills to teach the children about forces such as gravity and how they work.

### **Bird Feeding in Falls Park**

Miss Mc Laughlin's Primary 5 class were out at Falls Park on the 11<sup>th</sup> February working on a nature project about birds with Ulster Wildlife. During this visit the pupils had the opportunity to prepare food for the birds; the pupils mixed bird seed, meal worms, raisins and sultanas with lard – a messy but thoroughly enjoyable process. This was then put around pine cones and placed on trees in the park. Pupils also learnt about the different variety of birds through their colour and sounds.

Lucille Ewing from Belfast City Council's Park Life Programme will be coming back to the class on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March to have a post activity evaluation quiz from the trips to Falls Park!

### **Pizza Making**

The Nurture Group and the Learning Support Hearing Impaired Class went to Pizza Express on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. The children had the opportunity of making their own pizzas with the help of the chef. They rolled out the dough and chose their favourite toppings. The children were decked out with their own chef hats and aprons. They even had a tour around the kitchen and saw how the dough was prepared. The pizzas were put into the ovens and the children were able to carry out puzzles and drawings while they waited. The pizzas were brought back to school and break that day was delicious!



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### **Freddy Fitness Returns**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March Freddy Fitness will be returning to the school to encourage the pupils, and hopefully the teachers to participate in a day of exercise and fun. This is always a great day that the children look forward to.

### **Seagate 'Code Breaker Challenge'**

P7 pupils decided to enter a competition being run by Seagate. For this challenge each class was asked to investigate how codes are made and broken and how they can create their own code. They also got the opportunity to research how codes are used in technology industries and companies like Seagate. Based on their research, they had to create their own secret code and then script, film and edit a short video of less than 5 minutes in length that puts their codes and research to the test. These videos have now been uploaded to the Seagate website.

### **Space Display**

All of the boys and girls in P2 spent a great deal of time and effort making space rockets at home as part of their topic work 'Space'. All of the teachers were delighted at how much time and effort went into each rocket; they're absolutely amazing!!!! Everyone will get an opportunity to see the wonderful display as we will be showing them in the foyer after the boats.

### **Parents' News**

- The exercise class continues every Friday morning 9:30 – 10:00. Everyone welcome.
- Fractions course on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 9:30 – 11:00.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Services**

St. Vincent de Paul, situated at the Mountain View Centre, Norglen Gardens, offer some services which may be of interest to our parents.

### **Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club runs from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and their staff walk the children to Holy Trinity PS at 8:50.

### **Out of School Hours Child Care**

This runs from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for primary school age children. The centre also runs a school collection service.

### **Homework Club**

The Homework Club runs from 2:45 to 5:00.

For further information regarding the services and prices you can contact Kay Shortt at the centre on 02890601903.

### **School website**

**<http://www.holytrinitybelfast.co.uk>**