



*Assumption Junior School*

# *Newsletter*

*June 2015*

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This is the address of the school's brand new website. It is the result of many hours of work by a group of staff, working in their own time. This website will enable us to communicate effectively with parents, and indeed with the wider community, about the various activities and programmes that constitute 'school' in 2015.

The site will provide information on upcoming events and will record school news. It will include newsletters, class blogs and many photos of the activities taking place in our school.

There are pages dedicated to the 'Green Schools' and 'Discover Primary Science' programmes. These pages will provide updates of the activities and work involved in working to achieve awards in these programmes.

You will find the school calendar there, information from the Board of Management and the Parents' Council together with lots of other interesting information about the pupils' learning.

Please take some time to log on and contact us if you have any suggestions or feedback .

### ***200th Anniversary of the Religious Sisters of Charity***

2015 marks the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Religious Sisters of Charity by Mary Aikenhead whose compassion for people in need led her to dedicate her life to providing orphanages, schools and hospitals for those people. She was joined by others and they went on to establish the order we know today as the Sisters of Charity.

Earlier this year, Mary Aikenhead was made Venerable by Pope Francis. On May 19th, a special mass was held in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Walkinstown, to celebrate the work of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity. Children from the four local schools were invited to take part in the Mass and they hung portraits of Mary Aikenhead and Edmund Rice, who founded the Christian Brothers, in an alcove in the church for permanent display. These portraits should remind us of the contribution to education made by the two congregations and encourage us to continue their work.

### ***Green Schools***

Last Thursday saw us all assemble at the front gate to raise the school's fourth Green School Flag. This flag was awarded for work on improving the ways we travel to school, making it more sustainable, less wasteful of fuel and less damaging to the environment.

Previous Green Flags were achieved for Reducing Litter and Waste, Conserving Energy and Conserving Water.

The teachers who coordinated the programme and the boys and girls from the Green Schools committee worked very hard during the year to achieve this award. A 7-step programme, involving all classes, was completed. The main focus was "Walk on Wednesday", known as W.O.W. As a result of W.O.W. many children, accompanied by their parents, now walk, cycle, scoot or use Park 'n' Stride to travel to school.

Our Green Code motto is ....

**"Walk to school, save some fuel".**

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### **International Day**

We are having an International Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. We will be celebrating and learning about all the different cultures in our school. We would like the children to join in the spirit of the occasion by wearing traditional costumes to school on the day. Alternatively, they may wear clothes with their country colours, for example, sports jersey etc.

### **STEM Excellence**

*Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths*

Congratulations to all the girls and boys, their teachers and SNAs. Most especially, thank you to Mrs Doyle and Miss Walsh for the organisation of the whole series of events. All your hard work has paid off! The Assumption Junior School has achieved a Discover Primary Science and Maths **Plaque of STEM Excellence** for the 2014/15 academic year.



The new **Board of Management** took office on May 12th and will meet again on June 16th. The members are:

- Patron's nominees, Maura Sweeney (Chair) and Sr Anne Kennedy
- Parents Reps, Olivia Nugent and Dan Moffitt
- Teachers Reps Clíodhna Jennings and Seán Balfe (Secretary)
- Two people have been nominated and will be co-opted as Community Reps at the next meeting.

If anyone has a matter that they would like the board to address, all that is needed is a brief note, addressed to the chairperson, setting out the issue.

We are grateful to all who ran as candidates in the election, all who voted and those who have agreed to serve on this board. Our best wishes to all past members of boards in the Junior Girls and Junior Boys' schools.

### **Uniforms**

**The Schoolwear House**, suppliers of the uniform, will set up in the school Hall on Fri 19th and Sat 20th June to take orders or sell stock. They also have a permanent shop at the Walkinstown Roundabout, where the full uniform is available. Alternatively, the trousers, skirts, track suit bottoms, blouses and shirts can be bought in *Dunnes Stores* or *Penneys*.

For **Senior Infants** the uniform is a royal blue jumper or cardigan with the school crest, navy trousers, skirt or pinafore and a white shirt. A white airtex t-shirt and a crested track-suit is worn on PE day(s).

For **First & Second Classes**, the guidance about uniform remains the same as last year; girls who already had a red uniform may continue to wear it and anyone buying new items should get the blue/navy versions.

It would be very helpful if jumpers, track suit tops, jackets and lunch boxes were **labelled** clearly with your child's name as items often get left behind.

### **First Communion**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Class girls had a very exciting occasion as they made their First Communion on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. The girls and their teachers, Mrs Gleeson and Miss Jennings, have been busy this year preparing for the sacrament. A group of 1<sup>st</sup> Class children sang in the choir on the big day, with Miss Kaye as their accompanist on the keyboard, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> class girls played the recorder having prepared with Mr. Kennedy and Miss Kaye. Our thanks also to the other staff who helped out and to Sister Lorraine and Fr. Paul St John and Fr Jacob for all their support and guidance this year.

### **Dates to Note**

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> International Day - food, music, song, dance and stories from some of the 26 different nations represented in the school
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Booklists 2015/16 should be ready for distribution
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Sports' Day - weather permitting
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> class school tours - one class each day Monday to Monday
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> class school tour
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Senior Infants school tour (room 2, 3, 4)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Infants school tour (room 5, 6, 7)
- Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Senior School Show
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Junior Infant's school tour
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Graduation for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> School closes for summer at 12.00pm reopening on **Tuesday, Sept 1st**

### **Missing Trees**

The trees that were felled along the boundary recently were either rotten inside, or interfering with the boundary wall. While it is a pity to lose mature trees, there is now an opportunity to replant with a different generation of children and to do so in a way that kindles their interest in trees and in nature generally.

We plan to put in a double row of trees with a variety of colour, fruit, shape etc so the trees themselves are sources of learning.

### **Crossing the Wall**

It's very disappointing to see the number of people crossing the wall opposite Drimnagh Castle in the morning. Why put the children in your care at risk of slipping and being injured on the rails?

As well as that, it has been obvious for some months that we have been carrying out repair work all along the wall, fixing damage done by.... **Yes, people standing on the capping.**

### **Vandalism**

We have been fortunate in recent years to have escaped much of the vandalism that had been such a bother in years past. Unfortunately, we have had two incidences in the last month that have cost a lot of money to repair.

In all cases, it is our policy to supply copies of CCTV recordings to the Gardaí and, if necessary, to seek recovery of costs through civil action.

If you ever notice suspicious activity as you drive or walk past the school, please alert the Gardaí on **016666200**