

# St Gerard's Primary School Parent Newsletter November 2013



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

Our thanks to the whole school community for helping to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Feast Day Mass with Bishop Devine. It was a great occasion joined by many of our school and parish community. Our thanks to Bishop Devine for celebrating the Mass and many of his reflections brought back pleasant memories. A special thanks to former colleagues who made the effort to attend the mass and the reception afterwards.



## Class Mass

During our anniversary year Fr. McGoldrick has agreed to celebrate services within the school for each year group. We began our celebrations with P1, P2 & P3. We thanked God for the harvest and all those who care for us in our lives. We will continue through the year and our next Mass will be for our P4 pupils in January.



## Halloween Parade

We had a fabulous Halloween at St. Gerard's with every child dressed for the day. A special thanks goes to Angie, Michelle and Marie in the kitchen for helping to make the children's day a very special one. Many thanks to all the parents who helped dress the children for the day.



## Halloween Family Night

Our Family night was a great success and we raised £350 for our school fund. Many thanks to all those who came along and made the evening a great success. A special thanks to Miss Manley and the PTA for all their hard work, it is greatly appreciated.



## Diaries

Our new diaries will be available to go out to pupils in coming days. Please take the time to read over and support your child's learning throughout the rest of the year.

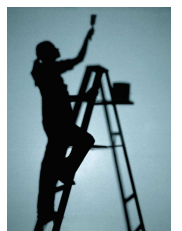
## New Motto

This year we have decided to embark on "The Rights Respecting Schools" agenda. Miss Gizzie has been leading the initiative and we decided it was time to look at our vision and values as a caring school. Rights Respecting schools invites children to look at their Rights but also their Responsibilities. As part of this agenda we asked our children to work in groups to come up with a new motto to replace "Living and learning Together". The group who chose the selected motto were Lois Marley P1/2, Adian Watts P1, Luke Tobin P6/7, Ellie Burt P7 and Hannah Gordon P4. Our new motto - "Responsibility to be Excellent"



## School Painting

Our school is now painted and decorated and while a few snagging issues remain, we are happy to get back to having a fully functioning school.



## Road Crossing

The patrol located at North Road near to its junction with Keith Street Bellshill will become vacant with effect from Monday 4 November 2013. Temporary cover at the crossing point may be available however due to the demands on the service at present this cover cannot be guaranteed.

The Council is aware that a number of parents & pupils attending St Gerard's PS use the Puffin crossing approximately 60 metres south of the patrol site and this should be the alternative crossing point if a mobile patroller to the patrol crossing is not present.

In the coming weeks cover may be intermittent and parents and pupils should be aware of this.

## Christmas Fayre

We are now preparing for the Christmas Fayre and the PTA is meeting this week on Thursday 7th November to help organise the event. Please come along and help out as we are always looking for additional help with our PTA. The Fayre will be on 1<sup>st</sup> December after Sunday morning Mass. Please put this date in your diary and come along. We are now collecting for the fayre and would be grateful for item donations for the fayre



## Parent Council

Our Parent Council held their AGM last week and we are keen that parents come along and be part of the council. To this effect I will be sending out a letter in the coming days looking for parents to join the parent council. Please think over whether you could give a few hours of your time about 5 or 6 times a year.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photograph

John Wilson will be coming in to take a very special Anniversary photograph. It is vitally important that all children are in full school uniform; shirt and tie, black shoes and looking smart. The photograph will include the whole school community and we want it to be a memento of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please make every effort to make this as special a day as possible. John Wilson will also be taking family and individual photographs on this day.



## Art Exhibition Thursday 21 November

To help mark our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we are presently drawing, painting and generally being artistic. All our children will be producing a framed work of art for our open day exhibition to be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. The exhibition will be set up first thing in the morning and we will have an open day for parents and family to come and view the work. Individual framed art by your child can be purchased for £8.00. Additional copies are available for a cost of £5.50. Tea & coffee will be available and the school will be open from 11am to 12noon and 1.15pm – 6.30pm. Please put the date in your diary and invite all your friends to come along and support our young artists.



## Shoes

Please make sure your child has appropriate indoor shoes and that their school shoes are black. We have new carpets in our school and we would like to keep them clean and as free from dirt as possible. Some of our children have toes sticking out or the Velcro no longer works, so please check your child's indoor shoes regularly.



## School Uniform

While I am delighted with the support you have given the school in making sure your child is in full school uniform. We still have a few issues with shoes, inappropriate jewellery/nail varnish. If possible, the school blazer or school jacket should be worn. The jacket is very durable and warm especially at this time of year. Our uniform is the envy of many schools and many comment on how attractive and smart it is. I have written to you many times about the uniform and the Parent Council are very supportive of raising the profile of the uniform and presently are looking at continuing the school shirt and tie as a permanent feature after our anniversary year.



