



'Being the best that we can be'

'Friday Note'

Friday 10 February 2017

No.16

Looking back...

What a tremendous few weeks it has been for sport here in school....well done and thank you to Mrs Gartland who spends so many lunchtimes and after school time preparing and organising for these events.

A huge congratulations to the P7 girls indoor athletic team who claimed the **joint overall winner** title along with Moira Primary in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council indoor athletics competition held at Lisburn Leisureplex this week. Another first for St. Joseph's this term! The children competed against 23 other schools within the council area so this is a remarkable achievement. Special congratulations to the individual event winners, Enya Daye & Moya O'Kane (6 lap relay winners), Kamile Ramanauskaite (standing broadjump winner), Hannah Gartland (Chest push 2kg ball winner). These children will proceed to the Northern Ireland finals.

The boys tried very hard in what was an extremely competitive event, a special mention should be given to Conor Broderick for his running skills and determination. Unfortunately for Conor, he wasn't able to compete solely in the 6 lap relay as this was paired event, but watch out for his name in the forthcoming Cross Country events.

Two of our P7 girls also competed in the Ulster Schools 4xwall GAA Handball this week. Hannah Gartland and Enya Daye represented Antrim in the U11 category, defeating Donegal but losing out to Tyrone who were the eventual winners. Although these girls will leave St. Joseph's in June for pastures new, they will hopefully still compete together representing Antrim as they play for their local GAA club.

Our indoor hurling squad was also in action last week at the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Hurling Blitz. The boys played tremendously against St. Michael's, Ravenhill, Scoil Na Fuiseoge and St. Joseph's, Crumlin. A special mention to Enya Daye who was the only girl in an all boy squad and to Jack McMahon and Alex Pienkowski who played superbly in defence.

All our sporting photos are on Twitter, have a look at how happy and proud our children are to play sport and represent themselves, you their parents and our fantastic sporting school! We are so proud of you all....such brilliant ambassadors for our school!

Maths Week

Our inaugural 'Maths Week' was a great success this week with lots of problem solving, number crunching, maths trails taking place! Check out our twitter feed and website for some photos!

P7 Service of Light

P7 pupils and parents came together on Tuesday evening to celebrate their Service of Light in preparation for making their Confirmation on Monday 20 March. The pupils sang, prayed and showed reverence throughout the service. Thanks to Fr McCaughan for celebrating with us and to Mrs McCambridge and Mrs O'Hare for preparing the pupils and well done to all of our P7 pupils who behaved so well.

Professional Development for Classroom Assistants

This week we had our first professional development session for our classroom assistants. Mrs Gould, our ICT Coordinator delivered training on the use of iPads for Green Screen Training and Apple TV. It was a very enjoyable session for all...see some of the results on our Twitter feed!

School Development Plan for Parents

This year is the first year in our 3 year School Development Plan which will run from 2016 – 2019. This document sets out the school's priorities for development over the next 3 years. We have condensed this lengthy document into something



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that's easy to read and accessible to all. I have attached it to this week's Friday Note for your reference. The full School Development Plan is available on request from the office. We are currently working on a 'pupil friendly' version to be shared with pupils in the coming weeks.

Post-Inspection Update: ICT Observation Feedback

As you know I carried out classroom observations in January in all classes. The focus of the observations was the integration of ICT across the curriculum. The findings were very positive with the areas of strength being a wide range of ICT resources being used across the school: iPads, apps including Explain Everything, Puppet Pals, Book Creator, Green Screen, BeeBots, laptops, IWB, teacher use of apps to enhance lesson starters/openings. There is a clear development of thinking skills and personal capabilities through ICT: pupils working together, managing information, problem solving. Pupils are talking about algorithms, debugging, programming, coding and are clearly engaged in the lessons.

Looking ahead...

Monday 20 February 2017	Tuesday 21 February 2017	Wednesday 22 February 2017	Thursday 23 February 2017	Friday 24 February 2017
Founders' Day Celebrations!	Mrs Fleming at first Time Principal's Training	P5 at tennis in Wallace Park	P7 Soccer at Laurelhill Primary School at 2pm	Mrs Gartland at PQH SUB: Mrs Fleming
Senior Leadership and Middle Manager Training	P7 at pottery	P1 – P3 Healthy Planning session	EWO Meeting with Mrs Fleming at 10.45am	
	Mrs Gould and Mrs Toman at Iteach Training SUB: Ms gorman	Assessment Meeting Mrs O'Hare VP Release Day: Miss McNally		
	P4 – P7 Healthy planning session			
	PTA Annual General Meeting at 7pm in school			
	Classroom Assistant & Cool Kids Staff Professional Development session on the Autistic Spectrum with Margaret Clarke (EA)			

We wish you all a lovely mid-term break. Enjoy the brighter nights and some long 'lie-ins'! See you all on Monday 20th!

Pauline Fleming
Acting Principal



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