St. Louis Senior Primary School
Williams Park, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Growing and Learning Together

Newsletter; March 2023

Nuachtlitir; Mí Marta 2023

EASTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Guardians and friends of St. Louis,

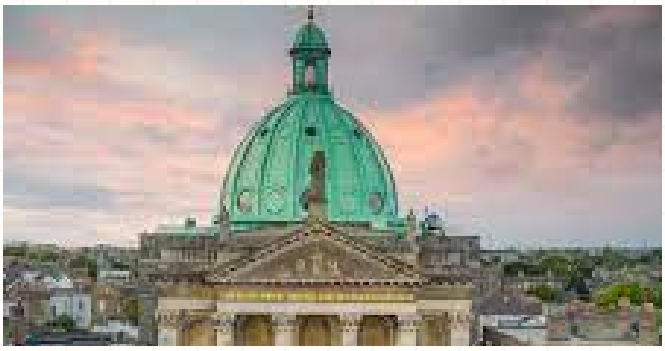
Welcome to our Newsletter for Easter. It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of our second term and the Easter Holidays. We have had a very busy term where there has been lots of learning and fun activities for everyone to enjoy. You will see from the newsletter, much of which is written by our budding writers and journalists points of view, that there's been a lot of enjoyable experiences.

We here in St. Louis, would like to wish you and your families a very happy Easter break.

CRICKET LESSONS

"On Thursday we had our first cricket lesson of 4th class. The coaches (Ava, Ava, Tom and Brandon) were cool and very good at cricket. We started with a quick warm up to prepare our bodies and then played cricket. The coach threw the ball up in the sky and the batter hit the ball forward and those not batting had to catch the ball and return it. We had a lot of fun and can't wait until next week!"

- Borys and Nicholas, Room 14



SACRAMENTS

We had a wonderful day on February 15th celebrating our sixth class children who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. On March 12th we celebrated the sacrament of First Penance with our second class children. We are very much looking forward to their First Holy Communion in May. We would like to acknowledge the support of Fr. Andrew, our parish priest, and Eoin McCormick, our parish worker, to our school.

WELLBEING WEEK

We have been looking after both student & staff well-being here in St Louis and have set up our first ever student committee of Well-being Warriors! They have been coming up with lovely ideas to support positive mental health such as designing a 'buddy bench' on the Millennium playground for anyone who isn't quite sure how to initiate a game but would love someone to play with.

We will be hosting a 'Wellness Week' next month with lots of fun activities, including a fundraiser for a wonderful cause that supports people who struggle with their mental well-being. Stay tuned!

-Ms. Dignam, 4th class teacher

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

We had lots of fun celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge here in St. Louis. We had many performances with classes showing off their poems, songs and dances. Mr. McGarrigle showed us his Irish dancing talents and Ms. Johnston played for us. We were also treated to some music, song and dance from classes. Please check out our twitter account to see the fun we had.

"On the 16th of March we had our assembly to top off Seachtain na Gaeilge! We did fun and exciting things throughout the fortnight such as learning the Irish national anthem, practicing lots of Irish dances and for some, doing the Irish haka! Every week we also learned a new Irish question and answer to use. My favourite part of Seachtain na Gaeilge was performing Irish dances with my friends and classmates."

-Sinéad, Room 14

STANDARISED TESTS

Standardised tests in English and Maths will take place in May. Please ensure your child is in school for these tests. The English will take place the week of 3rd of May and Maths the week of 16th May.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

The Board of Management updated our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk assessment. Parents can view this on our website www.stlouisschool.net. Please note if you have any child protection concerns that Dolores Hanrahan is the Designated Liaison Person and Audrey Biesty is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL

Children need to be in school at 8.30am so they don't miss important parts of the day. Being on time also allows children time to settle into class and to organise their books before formal teaching begins.

PUPILS' DRESS CODE

Thank you to all parents who have co-operated with the school in implementing the dress code for pupils. They are all very smartly turned out for school each day. Please remember to keep up the habit of wearing the school uniform to school each day. In response to queries from parents and children, children can wear navy shorts to the knee during the summer months.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Children all received a book token which entitled them to a free book from a specially published set of books for World Book Day. Children made bookmarks and designed alternative covers for their favourite books and we had the author workshops for junior and senior classes.

"World Book Day was a lot of fun! Everyone dressed up as someone from a book and we had a workshop with an author. The author told us about her favourite books and answered questions. We also got book tokens from Ms. Hartigan that we could use in a book shop."

-Muireann, Room 14

INTERNET SAFETY & CYBER BULLYING

The children in 5th class enjoyed workshops regarding internet safety and cyber bullying. We also had a parent talk which was very informative. We are asking all parents to ensure they monitor their children's online activity.

"Two weeks ago, 5th classes learned about the importance of internet safety. A specialist called Ger Brick, spoke to us on a zoom call, about safety online. He taught us some ways to stay safe online, such as: Not letting apps track your location, having different passwords for everything and to never post anything you might regret in the future. We also learned about the effects cyber bullying can have on someone and how important it is to be kind online and in person. This talk made us realise how important it is to stay safe on the internet and to always tell someone if you are ever being cyber bullied."

- Cassie and Mia, Room 12

DARE TO BELIEVE

"Hello, my name is Aoife and I am going to talk to you about Sive Brassil. She is part of the Dare to Believe programme. She is also hoping to compete in the next Olympics, as a pentathlete. That means she will be doing five different sports - swimming, running, shooting, fencing and horse riding. She told us that she tried to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics and when she didn't qualify she almost gave up, but she didn't! Hopefully she will get to the Paris Olympics!

This is how to set your goals. Find something you are passionate about and then think about how you can achieve your dream. Try to set a specific goal. You will also need your family and friends on-board to help to support you in achieving your dream. My Olympic-sized dream is to play rugby for Ireland! What is yours?"

-Aoife, Room 14

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Each class in the school selects a member for the student committee. We meet once a month and we discuss different items that occur in our school. We can discuss, what we the students like to see improved in our school.

Every year we give suggestions on what the fundraising money can be spent on. Last year we made suggestions for new books for the school library and these are currently being added to the library
We patrol the yard twice a week to monitor the litter and in April we will join the Green Committee to do a clean up around the school.

This March we coordinated a fundraising event to help children who were affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. On Wednesday 15th March we wore something green to celebrate our Lá Glas. We raised a whopping €933.04 which went to Unicef!

"Hi! My name is Romy and I am the Student Committee representative for Room 14. I really enjoy being on the student committee because we get to organise fun events like Lá Glas and the clean-up in April. In the meetings we discuss things ranging from fundraisers to litter-picking in the yard. I am looking forward to everything else we will arrange this year!"

-Romy, Room 14

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

A big thank you to those who have contributed to the Voluntary Contribution Scheme. Thank you for your support and your contributions. All money raised will go towards improving the learning environment of our children, including updating our music equipment.

SMART WATCH REMINDER

There are no smart watches to be worn in school during school hours. Any child wearing a smart watch will be asked to remove it for the duration of the school day.

BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

“A few weeks ago we started our first training session. There were 36 of us so unfortunately the squad had to be cut to 21. Our first game was on March 8th. We played against St. Helen's out in Portmarnock by the sea. It was a tough battle but St. Helen's beat us 7-10. We are looking forward to our upcoming games."

-Harry and Patrick, Room 10

BOYS SOCCER TEAM

"A few days ago, the boy's soccer team travelled out to Portmarnock to represent our school in a soccer match for the very first time. Unfortunately, we lost out in a tough game, however we did not let that get us down and we worked really hard to win our second game against St Francis CBS 5-0. We would like to congratulate every boy who did their best and helped us achieve our goal, and we would also like to thank Mr. Campbell and Paul for coaching us."

-Ianis and Sean, Room 17

GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

"This year for the first time ever St Louis SPS has a girls soccer team coached by Ms. Fearon and Ms. Bennett. We had our first cup game on Tuesday 14th of March. Our bus driver Terry brought us to St. Thomas NS in Tallaght. When we arrived, we started to warm up and get ready for the big game. In the first half we managed to score 2 goals and concede 1. The second half followed the same pattern as the first half, and we ended up winning the match 4-2. It was a very good and skillful performance from all of the girls. Our next game will be in the last 16 of the competition."

-Emma and Hazel, Room 17

ROCKET WRITING IN ROOM 9

The boys and girls in room 9 were busy writing about topics of their choice as part of rocket writing. It's amazing what the children can speed write in just three minutes and fifteen seconds. Here are some examples of our rocket writing below.

Ronaldinho by Jeremi

Ronaldinho is probably one of my favourite football players, he doesn't play anymore but when he did, he was compared to Maradonna. He was VERY skilful, his favourite skill was the elastico. I like the way he made defenders look like solid statues.

Zaynab by Fatima

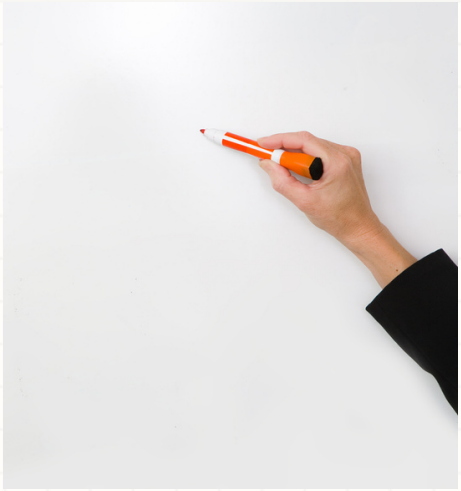
Zaynab is one of my sisters. She is in 6th Class with Ms. Fearon (Room 11). She is the best sister, she makes me laugh and she makes me feel happy. Zaynab is the best, loving sister.

Darkside by Evan

Darkside is a series of books where a kid discovers a Victorian London within London. The Victorian London is called Darkside. Darkside is full of scoundrels, bounty hunters, monsters, vampires and even clowns. The kid (who's name is Jonathan) must survive Darkside and discover its terrifying secrets.

Olly by Alannah

Olly is my dog, he is so cute and cuddly. He is a cavalier King Charles and he is eight years old. Olly loves watching tv with me and going for walks. He is the best dog in the whole world! I love him so much!



CROKE PARK HOURS AND CPD

Croke Park Hours: Staff have undertaken Croke Park Hours, which take place outside of school hours to discuss school plans and policies, in particular the implementation of the new Primary Language Curriculum. Staff also received additional training for digital learning activities in the classroom. Another area of focus has been the School Self Evaluation (S.S.E.). process which allowed staff to look at the progress made in the areas of literacy and numeracy and the impact of Covid-19 in recent years on teaching and learning.

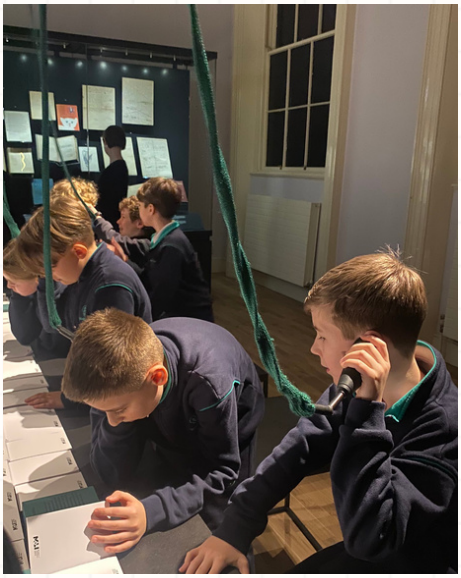
MAHMOUD BOURHAN FROM SYRIA

Mahmoud is a 2nd class student in room 3. He had to leave Syria and move to Ireland because of war. His classmates wanted to learn more about his experience. Here are some questions they asked him.

Chloé: How old were you when the war started?
Mahmoud: I was 1 and a half years old. It started in 2015.
Simeon: How long ago did you leave Syria?
Mahmoud: I left Syria five years ago. I went to Lebanon for two years and stayed with some family there.
Luke: How did you survive?
Mahmoud: Every time our house was hit by a bomb, we moved to a new house. Luckily they happened when my parents were at work and I was in playschool.
Tiarnán: Who was fighting Syria?
Mahmoud: People that didn't like Syria. It's a hard name to spell in English.
Aoibheann: How scared were you on a scale of 1 to 10?
Mahmoud: I didn't really understand because I was so small, my parents kept me very safe.
Zoe: Were you scared during the war?
Mahmoud: A little. I thought the guns and everything was toys.
Maria: Were you scared when you heard the bombs?
Mahmoud: No, because I had heard them so much it was normal.
Lucy: When you left Syria were there friends you had to leave behind?
Mahmoud: Yes, lots of friends but now luckily a lot of them came here to Ireland.
Elise: Were you nervous about coming to Ireland?
Mahmoud: I was too young to understand what was happening.
Brody: Would you still be in Syria if the war didn't happen?
Mahmoud: Yes, I would have stayed because I want to see my grandparents more.

-Mahmoud and the students of Room 3

ROOM 13'S TRIP TO MOLI

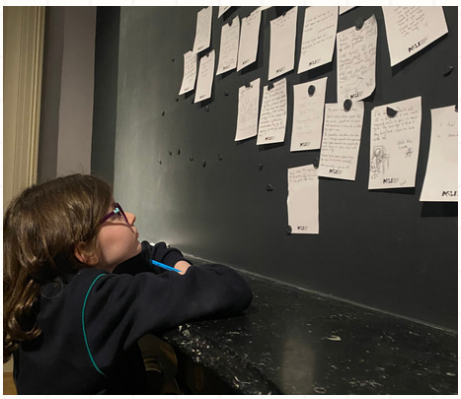


"Our names are Laura, Robyn, and Noah and we are going to tell you about our trip to MoLI. On the 22nd of February, ourselves and our class, Room 13, took a trip to the Museum of Literature, Ireland (MoLI).

Upon arriving, we walked through the front door and met our tour guides. One was very energetic and interactive (her name was Lily) and the other was more relaxed (Her name was Grainne, G for short). We raced up the stairs, counting our steps and walked through a door into the LitLab. It was a fun, colourful room with four tables all sitting five people. On the tables were boxes of colours and pencils which was very creative! We then had to make a scword page (a scribble-word page) with our favourite word, our favourite book character and our Saturday routine from 9am to 9pm! We then had to incorporate our favourite book character into our routine and write about how they would feel/ react!

Then Grainne took us on our tour of the MOLI. First we went to the wall of books that held 62 of James Joyce's books translated into different languages! There were ones in French, Japanese, Italian, Chinese and more!! We walked through the doorway and saw the most beautiful hall. There were all these letters hanging, tilting towards the original copy of Ulysses, which was sewn by James Joyce himself. The tour guide also gave us a fun fact that sunlight would damage the original copy of Ulysses and any other ancient book! Next we walked into a room with a long table with speakers hanging down from the ceiling. In here you could hear modern authors giving you advice on how to write which was really helpful for creative writing. There was also a couple of James Joyce's notebooks on display. This room was thought well, but it was also quite boring. The next room we went in was the River of Words room. In the museum, they depicted words as the flow of a river. When you stepped into a circle, you could hear people talking about different categories of life. We then left that room and looked at a cool 3D map of what was around MOLI. Then we watched snippets of Finnegan's Wake.

Lastly, we made our way to the cloakroom to get our coats, and then we walked to the Iveagh Gardens to have a play. We played man hunt and ate lunch.



ROOM 13'S TRIP TO MOLI

In conclusion, the trip was lovely. It was so interactive and interesting to experience. It was a really beautiful place and the guides seemed to really love their jobs. We had such a wonderful time! Thank you to Mr. Coghlan, Fiona, Lily and Grainne for this awesome experience!"

-Laura, Robyn and Noah, Room 13

A DAY TO CELEBRATE IN ROOM 13

"Hey! Jhonrave and Maeve here from Room 13! We are going to tell you about a special day in Room 13. The day was called Atoosa Day. It was a day to celebrate our friend Atoosa, she had moved from Iran to Ireland. The day was to celebrate her being in Ireland in for one full year and coming to this school.

Some people brought cake, brownies and sweets for everyone to have at the end of the last part of the day. We played music, danced around the classroom (sorry Mr Coghlan!) and gave Atoosa a card we made for her. The teachers in the school who have helped Atoosa visited the classroom and in general we all celebrated a great new friend in our class. The day was very fun and we are glad to have Atoosa in our class."

-Jhonrave and Maeve, Room 13

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

We had an amazing world book day on March 2nd. The school was full of Harry Potters, Matilda's, Greg Heffley's and many more! Our wonderful Parent's Association organised two author visits for the children in our school. 3rd to 6th classes were visited by Claire Hennessey and 2nd classes were visited by Síne Quinn. The children enjoyed the Reading Rocks readathon and taking part in the creative writing competition. We would like to thank the authors for visiting our school and inspiring us to be writers!

ROOM 10'S TRIP TO THE AVIVA

"On March 2nd Room 10 walked to the Aviva Stadium to watch the Irish Rugby open training session. We met the Irish Senior Men's team and the Under-20's Men's team. The announcer gave out prizes to the best supporters although somehow nobody in our class won one! The IRFU very kindly gave everyone and Irish rugby flag.

At the end of the (excellent) session, the players came over to give supporters autographs and take photos. Some of us even got Johnny Sexton's autograph!

Just before we left, the announcer allowed us to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Ms. Neill. Our class did this to express our gratitude to Ms. Neill even though she was tempted to run away! Sorry, Ms. Neill!

We thank Ms. Neill, Ms. Clerkin and Emily for planning this trip and for coming with us. We had an amazing time!"

-Aonhnait and Fionn, Room 10

LENT

"For Lent in Room 14 we all sat in a circle and talked about what we want to give up or take up. Not all the time do we actually want to give up something and it can be a real challenge to forego things that we really enjoy. We spoke about what we would like to give up - such as eating sweets, being unkind and not helping others. We also spoke about things we would like to do more of such as helping your parent or guardian, caring for others and making an effort and trying your best. Lent finishes at Easter but remember that you always have to be kind, try your best and be kind to people no matter what time of the year it is."

-Sienna, Room 14

GREEN SCHOOL

"The Green School Committee is back up and running. Since the start of 2023 we have elected our green school leaders, who received their badges from Ms. Hanrahan last week. Our theme for the month of March is Waste. Our aim as a school is to reduce the amount of daily waste and ensure we are using the correct bins to dispose of all the waste. In the next few weeks, it is very important to remember to take home any rubbish from our lunches and we have also agreed to make a conscious effort to remember to turn all the lights off. Remember if it's bright turn of the lights. We are looking forward to working hard to make our school and community 'Green' this year."

-Ellie Tobin, Room 11

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- School closes at 12.00PM on 31st March for Easter
- School reopens at 8.30AM on 17th April
- Wellbeing Week: Week of 24th April
- English Testing: Week of 2nd May
- Maths Testing: Week of 15th May
- School closed week of 5th June
- Active Week: Week of 12th June

You can now find our 2023/24 Academic Calendar here on the school website.

Cáisc shona daoibh go léir! Thank you for reading our newsletter! We hope you enjoyed reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

From the budding authors, journalists and storytellers of St. Louis S.P.S and the Room 14 Editorial Team.