

ST PIUS X PARENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 2008

At the end of the school year, I would like to thank the members of the Parents Association and the many volunteer parents who have offered their services throughout the year on the events we have organised. Mr. Dermot Lynch, Principal, BNS has also asked us to thank all of the parents who supported the very successful production of "*Oliver*" which took place in the BNS recently.

Our main achievements from September, 2007 to June, 2008 are listed below:

- Made representations to South Dublin County Council re suggested parking improvements at school
- Organised meetings in conjunction with school principals with SDCC resulting in parking improvements being put in place at school
- Took part in 2 meetings with new Boards of Management of both schools
- Hosted a talk for parents on "*Your Child & the Internet*"
- Organised and funded a basic life support course to Parents Association committee members
- Organised and funded an advanced life support course to teachers in both schools
- Drew up revised constitution for Parents Association
- Thursday/Saturday classes organised and supervised
- End of Year concert for classes organised
- Swimming classes organised and supervised
- Swimming Gala organised
- Hosted Communion reception
- Organised Heather Cup

NOTES FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR – SEPTEMBER 2008

- Sign on date for Thursday/Saturday classes will be **Saturday 13th September, 2008**
- Proposed classes for **Thursday** (3rd – 6th): Guitar – Chess – Yoga – Speech & Drama – Self Defence for Fun
- Proposed classes for **Saturday** (Jnr Infants – 4th): Ballet – Hip Hop – Gym – Art – Self Defence for Fun – Speech & Drama – Guitar for Beginners – Spanish - French - Music for Fun
- Note – according to Child Protection Legislation and Schools Board of Management rules, all teachers, committee members and volunteers will need to obtain Garda clearance when involved in Thursday/Saturday classes. Forms will be available at sign on day.
- New Walking Bus Initiative in conjunction with SDCC to be introduced in 1st term of 2008/2009 school year (see over for details)

Dear Parents,

In an effort to reduce traffic congestion around the school and also to improve the fitness level of our children, we are considering setting up a “**Walking Bus**”. This entails children walking to school as a group using an agreed route under the supervision of a minimum of two adults volunteers/parents/guardians.

The “**Walking Bus**” initiative is sponsored by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and has been successful in other schools in our area. SDCC will help us establish routes for the “Walking Bus” but our initial view would be to establish a route at St. Pius X Church. Depending on the success of the initiative, other routes could quickly be added.

The success of this initiative depends mainly on the support of YOU, the parents in the school and your willingness to act as volunteer leaders. The number of times a volunteer/parent/guardian will be required to supervise the “**Walking Bus**” will depend on the number of people who volunteer – it could, for example, be as little as one morning per month that you are required as a volunteer leader if the numbers of volunteers are sufficient. You should note that your child cannot take part in the initiative unless you can volunteer some time to help out.

At this stage we are trying to establish whether or not there is support for this initiative so I would be obliged if you would email your contact details to the Parents Association website - StPiusPA@piusxgns.ie . Please note that this email address services both the Boys and Girls Schools.

We hope to commence the “**Walking Bus**” in the 1st term of 2008/2009 school year.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary
St Pius X Parents Association