



Guardian Angels' NS

November 2022 Newsletter

Parent/teacher meetings

We are coming to the end of this year's parent/teacher meetings. These formal meetings will have given you an overview of your child's progress so far this term. If for any reason you have missed your meeting, please contact your child's teacher to rearrange. Remember, you can arrange to speak to your teacher any time throughout the year and please see our 'Parent School Communication' policy on the website. Meetings for the parents/guardians of children in Junior Infants will take place over the last week of January.

SNA graduations

Congratulations to our Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) Feeóna, Kay and Liz who are the latest members of our wonderful SNA team to achieve their Certificates in Inclusive School Support from UCD. This is the first dedicated national training programme for SNAs that covers inclusion, communications and language, a range of special needs and information on caring for students with additional care needs. Our other SNAs – Martina, Mary and Michele – took the course and graduated last year.

Active school

At Guardian Angels we encourage all our pupils to be as active as possible every day and are delighted to see so many of our girls and boys walking, cycling and scooting to school. We take active breaks across the school, some of our older classes run a mile a day and we regularly drop everything and dance. We were especially impressed (and a little scared) by the incredible spooky dances everyone performed at our Halloween assembly. Sixth Class recently finished its course of swimming lessons and it's now the turn of Fourth Class to take lessons in Newpark every Friday. Fifth Class has started - and is thoroughly enjoying - the Cycle Safety course. We have GAA every week with Johnny Magee and Jonathan Sharkey of Leinster Rugby teaches weekly tag rugby classes, along with the coaches from Granada F.C.

Fundamental movement skills

Developing basic movement skills is important for a child's health and ability to do everyday tasks. As part of our PE curriculum this year, we're working on the Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS). FMS is split into three key categories – movement (running, jumping, hopping etc.), stability (balancing,

twisting, stopping etc.) and manipulative (catching, throwing, kicking etc.). Superb progress has been made across the school and we're currently working together to master side-stepping.

CLIL in the Classroom

Our school is engaging with CLIL training (content and language integrated learning), with a focus on the infant classes. This will involve teaching and learning other subjects such as Maths and PE through Gaeilge. Our Junior Infants teachers are currently attending training workshops and look forward to getting started in the classroom.

Creative Schools Programme

We are delighted that GANS has been selected for the Arts Council-run Creative Schools programme. Having been selected, the school will receive funding and support for exciting whole-school creative initiatives over two years. Planning starts after Christmas and with so much creative talent in our school, we can't wait to get started.

Shortage of substitute teachers

You will be aware from reports in the media, that there is an acute shortage of substitute teachers, especially in the large urban areas. GANS is not immune from this. On the ground this means that when a teacher is out on sick leave, the class is split up among the remaining teachers, or a teacher from the Special Education Team takes the class. Taking a Special Needs teacher from his/her usual work deprives the children who need most help, of this extra support. Unfortunately, the only other solution is to send the class home, a step of last resort. If you know anyone who is **registered with the Teaching Council**, please encourage them to volunteer for substitute work in GANS.

Christmas gifts

There is a long-standing tradition of gift buying for teachers in the school. While such generosity and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated, we would just like to remind everyone that teachers do not expect gifts at any stage in the year. Your ongoing support of our various fundraising activities is so appreciated and hugely helpful to the school. Unless your child would like to give a drawing or homemade gift, please don't feel that teachers expect anything.

Staff news

It was with deepest sadness that we learned of the death of Peter Callaghan on November 15th. Peter has been involved with GANS for 25 years. He was the director of Callaghan Contract Services. Peter was a hard worker with high standards in keeping the school clean. This was never more important than during the Covid pandemic, when the work done by Peter's team played a big part in keeping the school open. He was a most obliging man who went out of his way to do someone a good turn. He was an engaging companion who had a stack of stories from a long and varied working life, along with a lively interest in current affairs. He will be much missed. We offer our sympathies to his son Shane, his daughter Hannah Jane, and his adored granddaughter Luna-Grace.

Finally, we are delighted to congratulate Ms Keogh on the recent arrival of her beautiful baby girl, Sophia.

Latest updates from our PTA

Thank you

The amount raised from the Sponsored Walk last month was €9,247.40. A big thank you to all who contributed. Two interactive screens will be purchased from the money raised.

Christmas cards

Christmas cards will be circulated to children shortly. Thanks to Carmen and Iva on the PTA who coordinate this with the printers. Well done to all the children who have taken part.

Christmas bake sale

We are delighted this tasty event is making a comeback. The Christmas bake sale will take place on Friday 9th December in the Murray Centre, Rowan House Afterschool – next to the church gate. Unfortunately, the school halla is out of use this year due to the building works. Please drop in any of your baked/bought goodies from 8.30am to the Murray Centre and remember the school has a strict **no nuts** policy. Please list any allergens and ensure all ingredients are listed. Please ensure you put cakes on disposable plates or wrap if possible. Children will be brought to the bake sale with their class that morning until 11.30 am, so please ensure you give them cash to buy some goodies on the day – and a bag to hold them! As well as baked goodies, there will be some exciting giveaways on the day. Parents are also welcome and we look forward to welcoming both parents and children back to this very exciting event.

Cultural/religious event reminders

Please send in any cultural/religious events that you wish to be included in the newsletter.

How to contact us

You can reach out to a current PTA member through your parents WhatsApp group or at ptaguardianangels@gmail.com.