

# Newsletter

## November 2024

### Parent/teacher meetings

Our parent/teacher meetings are currently taking place for Senior Infants-Sixth Class and we are very grateful to you as parents and guardians for taking the time to attend. These meetings offer a great opportunity to meet class teachers and discuss your child's progress and any concerns you may have. Parent/teacher meetings for our Junior Infant classes will take place in late January.

### GANS Student Council 2024/25

Congratulations to the first ever democratically elected GANS Student Council. Representing all classes from First-Sixth, the council will meet monthly. We look forward to working with the Student Council in the months ahead to ensure the voices of the pupils they represent are always heard.



### Inter-schools Maths Quiz

We wish the GANS maths team the very best of luck at the annual Inter-schools Maths Quiz next week. A team of Sixth Class pupils will represent Guardian Angels at the quiz in St. Ann's. The standard at this annual event is always very high but we have some very gifted mathematicians in Sixth who we have no doubt will make us proud.

### School closures

Please note GANS will be closed on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** as the school will be used as a polling station in the upcoming General Election.

Separately, we will be closed on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April** for teacher training on the new primary maths curriculum.

### STEM grant

We received great news last year when our application for a STEM (science, technology, engineering & maths) grant from the Department of Education was successful. We were one of just 446 primary schools that was awarded the grant. We're now busy stocking up on STEM equipment for the whole school including these state-of-the-art Vex Go robotics kits.



### Festive diary dates

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the parents/guardians of our Junior and Senior Infants to their Christmas show on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> in the school Halla. Parents/guardians of our First-Sixth Class are in for a real treat the following evening with Christmas carols and songs at 7pm in the Church of the Guardian Angels.

### Cycle safety lessons

We are delighted to welcome the Cycling Safety School back to GANS for weekly cycling safety and awareness classes. Fifth Class are thoroughly enjoying their lessons, while learning vital skills for using the roads safely. These skills will be of huge benefit to all children, whether they cycle the roads daily or even occasionally.



### Carpark

A gentle reminder that the two disabled access spaces at the main school gates are for use **only** by those who have a valid permit displayed. These spaces are in constant use and should never be taken or blocked by anyone without a permit.

### Nutrition for neurodivergent children

Attached to this month's newsletter is an article from GANS parent Nichola Flood, who is a nutritional therapist and health coach. Nichola's article explores the ways nutrition can benefit and support neurodivergent children. Nichola has also kindly shared 'Healthy Habits Healthy Families' which is full of useful tips and recipes for healthy eating at home and on the go. This is available to view and download alongside our Healthy Lunch policy on the website.

### RoboLeague winners

Congratulations to Daniel and Alex who recently won the STEAM Academy RoboLeague. The boys spent weeks preparing with their teacher and all their hard work paid off when they took the tournament title after five consecutive league wins.



## Update from GANS PTA



### Christmas jumper swap/give-away

On the week of 25th November (date to be confirmed) we're hosting a Christmas jumper swap/give-away. It's a great sustainable way to pass on jumpers or pick up a new one. You don't have to bring one to take one but please make sure any donations are clean and in good condition.

### Bake sale and competition

On 6<sup>th</sup> December we will hold our bake sale and competition in the school Halla – a great opportunity to put your baking skills to the test and pick up some treats. There will be raffles and prizes for best adult and children entries.

### Future events

We'll hold a table quiz in February (date to be confirmed) and our Readathon will coincide with World Book Day in March/April.

### Competition prizes

Along with organising these events we also need to source prizes for the competitions and raffles. If anyone in the school community is able to donate any prizes or vouchers this would be fantastic and greatly appreciated. Please contact your class rep or email [ptaguardianangels@gmail.com](mailto:ptaguardianangels@gmail.com). Thank you.

### Other items to note

- **Sponsored walk** – this event was a great success and raised €7,062. Thank you to all who sponsored.
- **Halloween disco** – we had a great turnout and fantastic costumes. The new sound system, which was installed during the summer and paid for using funds raised by PTA events last year, had its first test run and was a resounding success. This event was great fun and raised a further €1,308. Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered.
- **Christmas/celebration cards** – everyone should have received their child's samples along with the information from the company ([www.designacard.ie](http://www.designacard.ie)). The 12<sup>th</sup> November was the deadline for ordering and once delivered to the school they will be sent home in your child's bag. Once Design a Card costs for managing/printing have been covered, any remaining profit will be given to the school, which the PTA will report on in the New Year.
- **Fundraising** - in previous years the money raised by PTA events has funded the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms and the new sound/lighting system in the Halla. We are working with the school on a number of initiatives including updating PE equipment, reading nooks and musical instruments. None of this would be possible without the continued support from the school community and this is greatly appreciated. Thank you on behalf of GANS PTA <https://www.guardianangels.ie/pta/>