

St. Patrick's Comprehensive School



NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2012

2012/13 Calendar



Term 1

Autumn Break: Monday 29th Oct.— Friday 2nd Nov,
Christmas Holidays: Monday 24th Dec.— Friday 4th Jan.

Term 2

School re-opening: Monday 7th Jan.
Spring Break: Monday 11th Feb.— Friday 15th Feb.
St. Patrick's Weekend: Closed Monday 18th March
Easter Holidays: Monday 25th March— Friday 5th April

Term 3

Public Holiday: Monday 6th May
Summer Holidays: Friday 1st June
State Exams: Wednesday 5th June

Year Heads



1st Year: Mr. Eamon Chesser
2nd Year: Ms. Mary Shannon
3rd Year: (Contact Ms. Davoren)
4th Year: Ms. Howard
5th Year: Ms. Brooks
LCA : Ms. Deirdre Feely
TY Ms. Aileen Dineen

You may contact any of the above by telephoning the school in the first instance. Alternatively you can contact the Principal, Deputy Principal, the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Annette Murphy, or the school Chaplain, Ms Nuala Murray.

Class Tutors: Each Junior Cycle class group has a class tutor assigned to them. The tutor monitors journals on a weekly basis and communicates concerns to the Year Head.

Examination Fees

State Examinations (Based on last year)

Leaving Certificate:	€ 109
Leaving Certificate Applied;	€ 109
Repeat Leaving Certificate:	€ 284
Junior Certificate:	€ 103



Exemptions

Candidates who hold a current medical card or who are dependent on a parent /guardian who holds a current medical card are exempt from paying state examination fees.

Mock Examinations (Full payment before Friday 22nd Feb.)

Leaving Certificate:	€60
Junior Certificate:	€60

Please note that the medical card exemption does not apply to the mock examinations. Mock examination fees may be paid by instalments.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Year	Date	Time
1	Wednesday 23rd Jan.	4.15 pm – 6.45 pm
2	Wednesday 6 th Feb.	4.15 pm – 6.45 pm
3	Thursday 6th Dec.	4.15 pm – 6.45 pm
4 + TY + LCA1	Thursday 21st Feb.	4.15 pm – 6.45 pm
5 + LCA2	Wednesday 21st Nov.	4.15 pm – 6.45 pm

Please note that you should arrive no later than 5.45 pm to ensure that you meet all subject teachers

First Years

A warm welcome to the 139 First Year students who enrolled with us this year. They have all been busy making new friends, getting to know new teachers and subjects as well as their new surroundings and we are delighted to announce that they have all settled in very well.

Welcome to new students in other years also.

Our breakfast club is open every morning from 8.30 am to 8.55 am. Students can avail of tea and toast free of charge complements of the Parents Association.

Breakfast Club



Important Dates for 5th Years:

UCAS Applications Deadline: 15th Oct., 15th Jan., & 24th March depending on courses. Check UCAS website for full details.

CAO Applications Closing Dates:

Early Online Application: **20th Jan. 2013** (€25)
Normal Application: (online or paper): **1st Feb. 2013** (€40)
Late Online Application: **1st May 2013** (€50)
Late Paper Application: **1st May 2013** (€80)
Change of Mind: **1st July 2013** (€0)

Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) and Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

Apply online as part of CAO application process by 1st March.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Children who reside at least 4.8 kilometres from and attending their nearest school are eligible for post primary school transport.



HOW DO I APPLY?

Online to your local Bus Éireann office at www.buseireann.ie

WHEN DO I APPLY?

Application forms should be submitted before Friday 26th April 2013.

WHAT IS THE CHARGE?

The current 2012/13 annual charge is €350 per child with a family maximum of €650

CAN I SPREAD THE PAYMENT OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Payments may be made in two instalments in July and September.

ARE SOME CHILDREN EXEMPT FROM PAYING?

Yes. Eligible children i.e. children residing at least 4.8 kilometres from and attending their nearest school, who hold valid medical cards (GMS scheme), do not pay.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE DETAILS ON THE SCHEME?

Full terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme are available at www.education.ie and www.buseireann.ie.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary School Transport Office, Bus Éireann, Roxboro Rd., Limerick City.

Tel. 061 217484

E-mail: schools.limerick@buseireann.ie

JP McManus Scholarship

Congratulations to Alicia von Metzradt who is the recipient of a JP McManus 2012 All Ireland Scholarship.

Alicia, who will be presented with her award by President Bill Clinton at a ceremony in UL on 17th November, is a first year student in UL.

Symon Prajz received one of these awards in 2010 and is studying at the University of Southampton.

"The greatest danger for most of us is not that we aim too high and don't reach it—but that we aim too low and reach it".

Michaelangelo

Student Journal

Parents are requested to sign the journal once a week to monitor their child's progress.

1ST YEAR HOMEWORK CLUB

A Homework Club for first years takes place, Monday and Tuesday 4:10 – 5:10 and Thursday 3:40 – 4:40.

We believe that this is an excellent opportunity for your child to get some homework completed before leaving school as well as to receive support or clarification with any aspect of homework in which he/she may be having difficulty. There will be a teacher available during the Homework Club to assist your child if they are having difficulty with any particular topic.

We strongly encourage your support in having your son/daughter attend on a regular basis if he/she is having a difficult time getting homework completed. Price is €20 for the term. Contact Ms. McDonnell for details.

'SHINE' – TALENT SHOW

Preparations are underway for the school talent show 'SHINE' which will take place Thursday 6th of December. Students are currently auditioning for their place on the night. There will be a wide variety of very talented acts on show on the night. Tickets are €10 and they will be on sale in the school library from the 19th November. A great night is promised – not to be missed!



CONCERNS-QUESTIONS-QUERIES

Please feel free to contact reception at 061 361428 and you will be put in touch with the relevant personnel.

German Students visit "The Comp"

We were again delighted to welcome a group of 19 Bavarian students and 2 teachers who took part in another successful German exchange with our school during September.

St. Patrick's and the Meranier Gymnasium in Lichtenfels established a student exchange programme in 2005 with the purpose of providing an opportunity for both Irish and German students to learn their respective languages, to integrate into their way of life and to experience facets of the local culture.

The German students not only attended classes and experienced the Irish school system but also enjoyed excursions to Bunratty Castle, Craggaunowen, Dromoland Castle, Quin Abbey, the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren. The exchange programme has provided a very rewarding experience to participants: the challenge of learning a new language, living with a host family and adapting to a new culture, presents students with a unique experience from which they will derive lifelong benefits.

School authorities are also indebted to the host families for their ongoing support of this invaluable programme.

NEW EXTENSION

A new extension to our school was included in the €2 billion capital investment programme announced by Minister Ruairi Quinn earlier this year. The 2500 square metre extension will include specialist rooms, general classrooms as well as a new canteen/dining area. Construction work is due to get under way next summer and the expected opening date is September 2015.



SCHOOL WEB SITE

Log on to our web site for up to date information, news, links and photographs. The address is:

www.stpatrickscomprehensive.ie

HOMework AND STUDY ROUTINE

From the beginning of the school year it is necessary to build-in a routine of homework/study time. You will need to discuss, agree and negotiate this with your parents.

Establishing a realistic routine, early in the school year, will make a huge difference to the effectiveness of your work. Like most jobs, study is mainly a matter of habit. Once settled in a routine, life becomes much simpler and study becomes more productive. Making out your own schedule, based on your particular circumstances, will act as a helpful structure for your work.

While quality is ultimately more important than quantity, in first year you should be aiming to do **between one and two hours of productive study** each day. This includes homework, revision, and any study sessions in school.

Create a study timetable - construct a weekly schedule for yourself. Start by including your class times, travel, sports and other commitments. Then add designated study periods for the afternoons/evenings and for the weekend. It is better to start with realistic targets that you can meet, rather than being over-ambitious at first.

Have a definite **time for starting study** each evening. Pick a time that you can stick to. It will reinforce your discipline and condition your system to make the most of the session.

Stick to your weekly schedule as closely as possible - it will become a help to your efforts and a shield against temptation. You'll still be able to socialise, rest and

OPEN NIGHT

Our Open Night for prospective students and their parents will be held on
Thursday 15th November,
from 7pm to 9pm

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

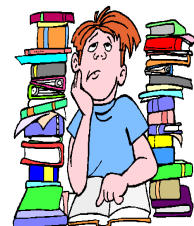
Chairperson: Sharon Delahunst
Secretary: Helen Petticrew
Joint Treasurers: Martha McNamara
Hannah Wrixon

New committee members always welcome.
The PA can be contacted on **086 2615851**

After School and Saturday Morning Study

Students can avail of supervised study sessions for 2 hours after school each evening and between 10am and 1pm every Saturday.

For more details contact Ms. Dineen and Ms. Murphy



Tips to Manage On-line Social Networking

While children embrace new technologies, parents face new challenges to protect them. Complicating matters is that many parents know little to nothing about these ever-changing technologies. Fortunately, there are many resources to educate and support parents on these new technologies.

What are web-based social networks?

Social networks are on-line gathering places where young people meet, make new friends, and gossip.

Two very popular sites are www.myspace.com and www.facebook.com.

What's a blog? Why would anyone want to blog?

- **Blogs are web journals or diaries.**

Blogs allow young people a way to post their feelings, their opinions, to share personal interests, to express themselves.

What's the risk?

- **Young people may innocently post too much personal information and pictures placing them at risk for on-line predators.**

- **There is no face-to-face interaction, so it may not seem real to kids that anyone can view or share their information.**

Youthful postings could impact getting on or staying on sports teams, getting into colleges, and even future jobs.

Parenting tips:

- Keep the computer in a central family location and limit screen time.

- Communicate your expectations to your child regarding their on-line postings and communications.

Establish a parent child contract outlining agreements about on-line conduct. (See www.wiredsafety.org for an example.)

- Ask to view your child's personal site – if he or she is resistant, use this as an opportunity for discussion. If your child continues to refuse to allow access and you suspect that your child is posting inappropriate or risky information, you can search for your child's site by entering name and/or school. In either case, strive for an open discussion.

- Talk to your children about how they can limit others access to their personal pages.

- Remind your child that everything written online can be permanent and can be easily forwarded. Explain that even young people have been charged with making terroristic threats.

- Regularly read your child's postings and check the recent history.

- Discuss cyber bullying - talk to your child about not participating in it by writing, sending, or forwarding hurtful communications.

- Take advantage of the parental controls provided by your operating system or Internet provider.

Consider installing software that will assist you with monitoring your child's on-line activity. There are many different types of software that can filter, block, or track computer use.

For more information go to: www.wiredsafety.org or <http://www.mediafamily.org>.

RIDDLE CORNER

1. Name an English word of more than 2 letters that both begins and ends with the letters "he" in that order. There are two possible answers. "hehe" is not acceptable. haha!

2. While walking down the street I met a man. He tipped his hat and drew his cane and in this riddle I told his name. What is the mans name?

3. If you cross out all unnecessary letters in the following string of letters, a logical sentence will remain. Can you see it?

AALLLOUGNINCEACELSSSEANRYTELNETCTEERS

4. Cross out six letters and you'll find a word that we should know. The word must be spelled out in order.

SBAIXNLETATNERSAS

Go to www.stpatrickscomprehensive.ie for answers

Texting Service We now operate a mobile texting service to parents/guardians to convey important messages or reminders. If it is the case that you are not receiving such messages then please contact the school and we will rectify the problem.

1st Year Maths Club

A maths club for 1st years takes place for 1 hour every Wednesday evening after school. Students who are having difficulty with Maths should benefit greatly from this service. Contact Mr. Davoren for more de-