

**Important dates for your diary:**

**Midterm:** School closed from Monday 26th - 30th. October inclusive. School reopens on Monday 2nd November, 2015 at 9 am.

**Talk on Confirmation for Parents:** Thursday November 12th., 2015 @ 7.30 pm in the Holy Family Cafeteria.

**Confirmation Enrolment Mass:** Sunday 15th November, 2015 at 10.30 am in the Cathedral.

**Christmas Concert:** December 16th. & 17th., 2015.

**Christmas Holidays:** School will close on Tuesday 22nd December at 12 noon and will reopen on Wednesday January 6th at 9 am.

**Good attendance and punctuality at school**

is so important for many reasons. In an average school day, your child engages in several different subjects, moves on to more difficult concepts and is very busy learning and discovering new things - to name a few. As we approach half-term we want to remind parents of the importance of good attendance and that if your child is absent, to please provide a note explaining why or contact the office. All schools have a statutory obligation, under the Education Welfare Act to report absences in excess of 20 days regardless of the nature of the absence to the National Educational Welfare Board. We closely monitor the attendance and punctuality of all children at Holy Family Senior School, and may send letters from time to time if your child's attendance comes to our attention. Please be mindful that holidays, family trips etc. can really impact on your child's attendance and affect his/her learning in school. Good attendance is rewarded at Holy Family School. The following are some ways to help ensure good attendance.

- Make education important in your home and let your child know it is not okay to miss school.
- Show that you think education is important. Look at your child's school books. Be interested in their news.
- Help your child to be proud of a good attendance record.
- Build your child's confidence. Praise them when they do well.
- Read letters and reports from the school and know the school rules.
- Go to school meetings and get to know the teacher, staff and your child's friends.
- Don't take family holidays during school term unless necessary.
- Be alert for reasons why your child may not want to go to school. If your child finds school work hard or is having a hard time with friends, talk to the school right away.



**This year we have a Literacy and Numeracy hour at 9am and 10am in every class. If your child is late for school they are missing these important lessons. Please have your child in the line at 9am every morning.**

**HOLY FAMILY SENIOR SCHOOL**

October 2015

www.hfss.org

**Contact HSCL - Breege or Stacey on 086 6040686.**

**Check the website regularly to find out what is happening in school.**

**Sundries:**

Parents must contact the school before **Friday October 23rd** to set up a payment system for their child's sundries if they have not already done so. The school depends completely on these funds so we will be contacting parents after Halloween if we have not heard from you. Any effort to make payment no matter how small, will be appreciated as we do understand the pressures on families.

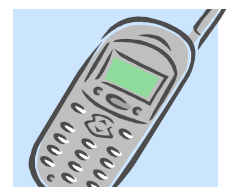
**The AGM of Holy Family Parents' Association will be held on Wednesday October 21st @ 8 pm in the Cafeteria. Come along and learn about what activities are available for your child in Ennis. Guest speaker: Mayor of Ennis, Pat Daly.**

**Board of Management Elections:**

Letters went home in the school bags on Monday last, October 12th., as part of the process in the election of a new Board of Management for the next four years. Please keep an eye out for ballot papers, etc in the coming weeks. Thank you.

**Changes in Personal Details:**

A new school term brings many changes and I am sure that many of you have changed your address, telephone number or mobile numbers while we were on holiday. It is important that school has up to date addresses and numbers for every child. As you know we use "Text a Parent" to inform you of up-coming activities or changes within the school. Failure to supply us with a current mobile number will mean you may miss out on important notices.



Please ensure that you inform the School Office if you have changed your number or address. We thank you for your co-operation in this.

## Books: Food for the Brain.

Holy Family Senior School continues to promote the importance of reading. We want to foster the joy of reading for pleasure in all our children. We hope our school community will join with us and support our upcoming **Book Festival which will be held from October 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**. We want to sincerely thank parents for their very generous donations of unwanted books which are being put to great use in our class libraries. Our school welcomes continued donations.

**Our school will host a series of reading events.** Some of the experiences linking with book week will be held before and after our dedicated book week as it would not be possible to facilitate all events in this period of time. **Second class went to Clare County library to hear storytellers Gráinne Clear and David Rudden on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class will be visited by local story teller and author Eddie Lenihan on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our fifth and sixth classes will be going to Glór on October 20<sup>th</sup> to hear award winning Irish author of the 'Darkmouth' series, Shane Hegarty, speak.**

In November all classes will be taken on a **guided tour of our local Ennis library**. They will be shown where to find fiction, non-fiction and reference books for children. Also they will be briefed as to how to find their favourite author and will have question and answers sessions. They will furthermore have an opportunity **to join their local library** if they are not already members.

On 'book week' itself, a dedicated time will be given over to recreational reading and book related activities. The only assigned homework on this week will be library reading or reading related activities. Each class group will watch a different movie based on a well-known novel. **They will be given an opportunity to dress as a book character if they so wish instead of the traditional Halloween costume on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>.** There will be art competitions and prizes and much more happening on this week. **Our bi annual book fair will be held from Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.** Each class will be given a half hour slot where they may purchase books from our Book Fair stands.



**Today a reader. Tomorrow a leader!**

### Cross Country Running September 16<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Cross-Country running was held last month in Lee's Road. The popular event was attended by hundreds of schools from around the county. We were very fortunate to have such a talented group of athletes to take to the event. With great effort and determination shown by all we were proud to win three individual medals and one team medal.



Running in the over 10's were Efe Opuoro, Domonik Ulanowski and Marvin Odeh for the boys. For the girls, Sammi Ojulari, Zara Deasy and Emilie Hamel made up our team. They pushed themselves for the entire 1100m race which is a great test of endurance and determination.

Our under 10's team was represented by Caoimhe Ryan, Olamide Lawal and Ella Deasy for the girls and Samuel Olaoye, David Murphy and Sam Toft for the boys. They ran the 700m with great determination and they all finished comfortably. Lastly our under 8's team was made up of Tori Deasy, Esther Olaoye and Keela Finnerty for the girls. The boys were led home by Aaron Lynch, who ran a great race to take home a medal in 9<sup>th</sup> place, backed by his talented teammates, Conor Howard and Séan Daly who all ran brilliantly. It was a tough 400m run for these second and third class children and all of them pushed themselves to the very end. We had a great result with Esther Olaoye winning a medal for coming in 5<sup>th</sup> position and Tori Deasy coming in 8<sup>th</sup> position. We were very privileged to bring such talented and well behaved children running this year. Ms Ford & Ms.Gill.

### Halloween Dress Up Day and Disco - Friday - in Aid of our School Library.

We will have a "Halloween Dress Up Day" on Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will fund raise in aid of our School Library which is presently being reorganised by our parents. Each student dressing up can bring €2.00 for the disco and we will have a fun day as we head into our midterm break. We will also join the Junior School after little break as they parade through the yard on their dress up day. As it is also Book week pupils can dress up as their favourite character in a book if they wish.





We wish to thank all who contributed to our **“Dyslexia Awareness Day”** Dress as your Hero Day. We had a wonderful dress up day and collected €409.58 for the Dyslexia Association of Ireland. This money will help support services for children with dyslexia, including information, assessment, and specialist tuition.

**Sale of Helmets & Hurleys.**

We have a supply of hurleys and helmets here in Holy Family Senior School and all stock is at last year's prices. Call into the school office if you wish to make a purchase.

**Cost of Helmets -**

Small/Medium/Large: €45.00 each

**Cost of Hurleys:**

**Torpey:**

**Size:**

26"	€ 8.50
28"	€11.50
30"	€13.00
32"	€15.50

**Duggan:**

**Size:**

26"	€ 6.00
28"	€ 8.00
30"	€10.00
32"	€12.00

**Gum Shields: Out of stock.**

**English classes for parents** are still continuing in the Parents' Room on **Tuesday mornings 9 – 11 am**. These classes are free and are for people with a basic level of English. There are still places available and we would encourage you to come along as with improved English you are in a better position to help your child with school work. This is so important for your child's education. Please phone 0866040686 to book your place. We are interested in setting up a **Sewing Club for parents** also. Please let us know if you would be interested in such a club or if you have any skills in this area. **There will be a school concert this Christmas so we will be looking for lots of help with costumes for the children!** And for all green fingered parents, we are looking for help with the school garden. Any help with planting and digging would be greatly appreciated. Strong Dads also welcome to help the ladies! **For information on any of the above, please telephone Breege or Stacey at 0866040686.**



**Choir News:**

**Confirmation Enrolment Mass:**

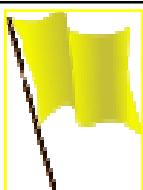
The Confirmation enrolment mass will take place on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30a.m. in the Cathedral. All choir members from 3rd-5th are required to attend in full grey uniform. Attendance at the ceremony is very important and mass should be no more than 45 minutes. Please arrange a safe collection point with your child. In the event of your child not being able to attend, please provide a note.

**Other news:**

We are all looking forward to our Christmas show, which this year will be a musical – Ali Baba. We have a large programme of music to prepare for this fun pantomime styled show which will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Mark the date in your calendars!!!



**Our Strings Programme** is progressing every Monday with wonderful music to be heard during the sessions. Our violin tutor Eddie reminds the children of the importance of practicing what they have learnt at home!



**Yellow Flag:** This year, starting in November, the school are partaking in the **Yellow Flag programme**. This is a school-based initiative which celebrates multiculturalism and diversity. At present, a committee to oversee this is being organised in the school and so far 15 student representatives and 3 teachers have been appointed. We are in the process of getting parent representatives and representatives from other local diversity organisations. We hope to have the committee fully organised and functioning by mid-November. In the meantime, the children are coming up with a diversity code for the whole school to follow. Exciting times ahead!!

## ***Holy Family Girls Make the Final.***



Our Girls School's Football Team has made it to the final in Cusack Park! The team is made up of girls from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. We started out by going to a blitz in Kilnamona and played against Lahinch National School and Kilnamona National School. Our team played Lahinch first and we beat them after a titanic battle. Then unfortunately, we lost our next game to Kilnamona. Our captain for the day was Roisin. Holy Family's next day out was Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup> in Lees Road. We played against Clooney for a spot in the final. The game was played at a blistering pace, with both sides determined to make the final. We had great displays all over the field and had a more balanced team. Thankfully we won and secured a place in the final. The girls football team is made up of Roisin, Zara, Wikitoria, Jessica, Sammie, Evelyn, Aoife, Gabriela, Caoimhe, Nora, Emma, Nina, Natalia, and Emilie. We hope we win the final in Cusack Park!



## **Boys' Football Report.**



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October our school boy's gaelic football team went to Lissycasey pitch to play two football matches. We played Caherea/Clondrinagh. The captain for this match was Mark Donovan.

We fought well. Even when they started to come back we kept on pushing. We finished off that game with an outstanding score of 5-4 to 2-3. We went back into the dressing room and ate a light snack since we were playing again straight after.

Mr Bell told us what we did wrong and what we needed to improve on if we were going to win the next game. He told us to be very clean with tackles. We then went onto the pitch to play Carron/New Quay with our captain for this match Daryll Kenny because of his great performance in the first match. We started off the match in great form but soon found out we were giving away a lot of frees. They started to come back and we were getting worried because people were starting to let their markers slip away and score. We went into the second half determined to score goals. We lifted our heads and took many shots and sometimes we didn't score but when we did score we knew we were back in the game. The full time score was 6-3 to 2-4. We went back into the dressing room celebrating and looking forward to the match next week. We ate our lunch and took a team photo and we then went back to the school feeling very happy with ourselves! (We also knew we got no written homework!!!).

On Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup>. our school boys' Gaelic team got to a semi-final against Clooney in Lee's Road. We got geared up and left for the bus at 11:20 am. When we got to Lee's Road, we changed into our boots and did some drills on the field, while our coach picked the team and the captain. The team was picked and the game was about to start. The captain for this match was Daryll Kenny.



The game started and Clooney were already on their toes ready for the ball. They took their chances and scored a goal. They kept like this for the first half and scored two more until our team decided to change it. We started passing and showing more for the ball and we equalized the goals, but that didn't stop them. They scored one more goal, but we got stuck in and scored. At the end of the first half the score was 4:2 to 4:0 to Clooney. The second half kicked off and we got a bit sleepy and they took advantage of that and scored two goals. Then that's when we woke up and realised that this was a semi-final and we scored back the two goals and the points, to find that it was a draw and no mistakes were to be made. The second half finished and it went to extra time and unfortunately in the end of the second half of extra time they found space to score a goal to separate us. We lost the match but we knew we tried our best. The score at the very end was 7:2 to 6:2 to Clooney. We went back to school knowing we tried our best until next year for some of us. By Alex Dilger & Andrew Ugwuere.

**Please note a change to Wednesday Evening Afterschool Timetable as of next Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Football for boys is now complete for this term. Boys hurling will begin next Wednesday from 2.45 - 3.30 pm**