

Parent Newsletter

- **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:**

- **Internet Safety Seminars:** We have organised an expert speaker to run a seminar for parents in the school at 7pm today, Wednesday January 29th. This is being held in conjunction with pupil seminars for 3rd to 6th class on the same day. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend the evening seminar no matter what class their child(ren) is in. Attendance is free but you need to reserve your place by emailing scoilursulapa@gmail.com
- **Thank You** to all who volunteered and assisted in the running on our Christmas Disco. The funds raised are being used to fund the Internet Safety seminar for parents and to co-fund the ones for pupils.
- **After-school Activities** are continuing this term and we would like to thank the volunteers and teachers whose supervision allows these activities to happen. The activities can only continue with the help of volunteers and we are struggling to get enough. Volunteering is easy (it is supervision, not coaching!) and you don't have to have a child doing the activity. And a family member can volunteer too as long as they are over 18; perhaps grandparents might like to help out. If you or a family member can give a little over an hour on any Tuesday (2:25pm to 3:40pm) or on any Thursday (1:25pm to 2:40 or 2:25pm to 3:40pm), please email SUPAafterschool@gmail.com and let us know what date you can help.
- **Registration** for the next set of after-school activities (which start after half-term) opens on Monday 3rd Feb. This will be for 1st class soccer (Tues 2:30-3:30), junior & senior infant gymnastics (Thurs 1:30-2:30) and 5th class gymnastics (Thurs 2:30-3:30). Please register early if your child is in these classes and wants to take part. The 2:30-3:30 activities will open up to other classes on 10th Feb if they are not full by then. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on registration.
- **Pancake Tuesday** is on Feb 25th (the second day after the mid-term break). The PA will provide the treat of a pancake with toppings (or a gluten-free alternative) for all children in the school. We need volunteers to help for about an hour that morning. If you can help that day, please email scoilursulapa@gmail.com or message us on Facebook. For parents of children with nut allergies, please note that we will be using a chocolate spread that doesn't have nuts but neither the spread nor the pancakes can be certified as nut-free so we suggest that you give a safe treat to your child that day.
- **The PA are co-funding** (together with the Board of Management) additional literacy resources, new geography resources (updated maps), gymnastics mats and playground equipment. This was approved in November and some of these items have already arrived and are being put into use. We are delighted to have

been able to use our fundraising to contribute these additional resources and would like to thank the teachers and parents who offered ideas and input.

We always welcome more people to help and contribute new ideas – so please think about coming to our next meeting on Thursday Feb 13th and giving your input. Stay in touch with what we are doing by checking our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Scoil-Ursula-Parents-Association-970193929690511/>) and as always, feel free to email us at scoilursulapa@gmail.com

- **NEW ENROLMENTS:** If you have a child starting school this September, please make sure that you apply for a place as soon as possible. You can apply online at scoilursula.com The school has been oversubscribed for the past few years and some applicants did not get places. If you have an older child in the school, you still need to apply to make sure of your place. Do not assume that we will know that you have another child starting. Once all the places have been allocated, it will be too late to apply then. We are having our Annual Open Day for new pupils on Wednesday, February 5th at 1pm.
- **SLIGO CANCER SERVICES & SLIGO SOCIAL SERVICES:** A Heartfelt Thank You to all the parents and staff who contributed to our pre-Christmas collection for Sligo Cancer Services and Sligo Social Services. Thanks to your generosity, a total of over €800 was raised. I would also like to pay tribute to the teachers, who put so much work into the preparation and presentation of our Christmas Shows – Ms Donnellan, Ms Regan, Ms Hoey, Mrs Kernan, Ms Mitchell, Mr Phelan, Ms Dwyer & Ms Munnely, ably assisted by our SEN and SNA Teams. We also thank our Student Council members who acted as ushers and collectors on the days of the performances. Well done to all concerned!!
- **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:** A couple of reminders re school policies & good practice that we would appreciate your support for:
 - **School Parking** – The school car park is for Staff Only. Please do not drive into or impede access to the school grounds to drop off or pick up your children. Doing so creates a dangerous situation for our pupils and staff.
 - **Blocking Driveways** – We have had a number of complaints from neighbouring houses that parents on pick-up runs are parking in front of driveways and preventing residents from getting in and out of their houses. Please do not block driveways when dropping off or picking up your children.
- **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:** Catholic Schools Week takes place this week. The theme this year is '*Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation*' and we are marking the occasion in the school throughout the week with our popular Grandparents' Day on Tuesday.

- **SPORT:**
 - **GAA:** The Sligo IT Coaches will be starting their programme of football coaching with our junior classes on next month with the hurling to follow on after Easter with the senior block. The Mini-7s teams continue training in preparation for the next stage of the competition.

- **DEBATING:** Our 5th Classes are taking part in the Concern Primary Schools Debating Competition for the first time. Míle buíochas to Ms McMoreland and Ms Taaffe for coordinating this very worthwhile learning experience.

- **SWIMMING LESSONS:** This year's swimming lessons have begun with 4th class, who have started their eight-week programme. We have kept the cost at €50 through a school subsidy and we would be grateful if you could please send in the money as soon as possible. We understand that there may be experienced swimmers in these classes. However, this is an enjoyable class activity and part of the P.E. curriculum and, because the teachers have to travel with the group, we appreciate full attendance and participation. Experienced swimmers are utilised by coaches to provide example of correct technique and are also employed for peer tutoring.

- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Don't forget to keep up with school news, events and policy formation on our Facebook and Twitter pages and our website www.scoilursula.com You can also get updates to our School News blog directly to your email address! Subscribe in the sidebar of the School News page!

- **DATES FOR YOU DIARY:**
 - PA Meeting: Thursday February 13th.
 - Mid-Term Break: Closing Fri. Feb 14th, Reopening Mon. Feb 24th
 - 1st Confession 2020: Thursday March 19, 7pm, Cathedral
 - Confirmation 2020: Sunday May 24, 12:00, Cathedral
 - 1st Communion 2020: Sunday June 7, 12:00, Cathedral

Le meas,

Tony Gallagher, Principal.