



## A Christmas Message

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. ([Psalm 143:8](#))

For someone to tell you that they trust you is an important moment in your life. Why would they say this? Is it because you mean what you say? Is it because you do what you say? Is it because you are an open person with nothing to hide? Is it because you are honest? There is a lot of work in trust. This Christmas we will all benefit from the love we have created through trust. Create more.

### A message from Natuca

After several weeks out of school and in hospital, now it is time for me to get in touch through the Christmas Newsletter to thank each and every one of you for your many and varied ways of being present to me since my accident in mid-November.

I appreciate all your kindness and generosity. These certainly helped me to get to where I am today. It would be impossible for me to thank each of you personally, but I want you to know that your encouragement and support meant a lot to me.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish a blessed and peaceful Christmas to you and your family. May 2013 be healthy and happy for all of us. A big thank you, Natuca Córdón

#### ÁTHAS

**CAPTAIN: Billie Browne**

**VICE- CAPTAIN: Carmel Coulton** I am pleased to say that we have accomplished so much so far in this school year so far! In the last few months our particular team has been delegated the role of drafting our own new Teresian Student Council Constitution! Now that is fully completed we hope to plan an array of different school events this coming term and continue to tend to our Teresian students needs! Looking forward to busy Easter Term!

#### MISNEACH

**CAPTAIN: Ciara-Kidney Butterfield**

**VICE- CAPTAIN: Christina Mohan** Since October we have had another meeting which went very well. Misneach has been working with the junior school to help the school become greener and we have been very successful so far. We have set up a green committee which anyone who wishes can participate in, we have not had an official meeting yet but this will be held after the Christmas break. We also helped organize the Christmas campaigns, there were three groups the first years sang carols to the elderly, the second and third years did a sponsored treasure hunt and the fifth and sixth years made hampers for St Vincent de Paul. It was very successful and it was also good for everyone to give something back to the community especially at Christmas. Misneach wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### GRÁ

**CAPTAIN: Claire Nicholl**

**VICE- CAPTAIN: Claire-Daisy O'Reilly** This term was a very successful one for Grá. So far this year we have been working towards promoting the dangers of cyber bullying and setting up a solid system where students can confide in and help each other. We also played a role in the Christmas campaigns which were a huge success this year because we raised a lot of money made many lovely hampers for St. Vincent de Paul. We hope everyone has a merry Christmas and enjoy the break.

#### PERU SOLIDARITY

When asked to write a piece about our trip to Peru, we found it impossible to describe it in a few short sentences. Our journey started not at Dublin Airport on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, but in early October when, encouraged by the words of past pupils and Natuca, seventeen of us made the decision to fundraise, prepare, and ultimately make the long journey to Peru. I think it's fair to say that none of us had a true understanding of just how incredible the experience to come would be. (*Continued overleaf*)

### CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGNS ST VINCENT DE PAUL



An afternoon of activities which included awareness raising, fund raising and light hearted competition!

# Sports Achievements

## CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

**On the 14th of November eight 1st year students and five 2nd year students went to Blackrock college for an east Leinster cross country race. Vivienne Naughton went with them and when they arrived she helped to warm them up and she showed them the course. The minor runners had to run 1000m and the senior runners had to run 1500m. At approximately 12:45pm the minors started their race, these runners were Katie Magee, Eirinn Hourican, Sarah Domoney, Kate Eliza, Jane Terry, Emily Appleby and Bella Hughes and they all ran very well and ended up winning the bronze team medal! Shortly afterwards the seniors had their race, these runners were Sarah-Kate, Isabel, Sarah, Jodie, Cliona, Kate and Molly Whelan and they also ran very well! All in all it was a very a successful day! Sarah Domoney 1V**

## HOCKEY

The first half of the year has gone very well for the girls. The First year girls are showing great improvements with each session and have shown this in their games. After Christmas break we will see this even more in games when we begin our league campaign and move from 8 a side to 11 a side.

The Minor girls have shown great improvements from the very start, they were unlucky to be drawn against a strong Loreto Foxrock A side in the cup but showed that they were well up to that standard in a game where the score line didn't reflect the play at all and we lost out 4-0. In the League, the girls have had great results and in the last league game, secured a place in the knock outs of the league by beating St. Gerards in the last minute of play.

The Juniors have yet to get going properly on their league games, with weather cancelling the last two games scheduled. We will be busy after the break with league games and after a win and a loss from the first two league games, we are well in the mix for a place in the knock outs should we pick up some positive results.

The Premier girls have had a good season so far, it is their first time to play in the A league and all of the girls have shown that they are more than capable at this level. We had some tight games where we came out on the wrong side of the result, but in our last league game we beat a good St. Columbus team 4-0. This gave us confidence moving into the cup campaign, where we faced Loreto Dalkey away. Dalkey have had some great results this year, notably beating St Andrews. The girls put in the best performance of the year yet though and came away with a place in the next round by winning 1-0.

## BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the U19A team who beat Cluny in the Semi-Final of the South Dublin league with a great score of 58-38. They are due to play Loreto Dalkey in the final in the new year. We wish the girls the best of luck in their final.

The U19B team got off to a great start this year, winning very important matches which have put them into the semi-final of the South Dublin League, which will be played in January. Well done to the U16 team who fought very hard this season, but with a mixture of wins and defeats they unfortunately did not progress past the league matches.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years have had a few friendly matches this term to get them ready for their season starting in January. They have used their skills well and are prepared to fight the opposition in the league.

We wish all our teams the very best of luck with their remaining matches. Keep checking the school's website for the latest results.

## PERU SOLIDARITY

After a long year of fundraising, and a gruelling twelve hour flight we finally arrived in Lima, and reality hit. The next three weeks proved to be some of the most challenging, exciting and emotional weeks of our lives. The work we undertook in the community, from repainting and cleaning the local parks to our involvement in the local schools was both rewarding and beneficial; but what stayed with us long after we had left Peru was the sense of understanding of what needs to be done to make a difference, and how we had played a small part in helping to make a change.

We can honestly say that the trip was the most eye opening, fulfilling and amazing experience we have ever had. From the poorest urban areas of Villa el Salvador to the wonders of the Amazon jungle, we were able to give a helping hand to all the various communities. It wasn't until we were completely involved in the work in Peru that we realized just how valuable our help could be. We hope there will be continuous support as we now truly realise how far the smallest bit of solidarity can go. The only way this can continue is if there is continuous involvement in this project so we hope together we can all make this possible.

## Best Memory of First Term?



One of my favourite things that has happened in my time in 1st year was our school tour. It was back in September, when we didn't know the new girls very well so it was a good time to get to know them better. We went to Wicklow jail and then The National Sea life Centre in Bray. Learning the history on the Wicklow jail was very interesting. After our visit to the jail we drove to Bray. We ate our lunch on Strand road and we were allowed to go around to the shops and walk on the promenade. After lunch we toured the Sea life Centre and saw lots of sea creatures and learned some interesting facts. Overall it was a very fun day and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

Katie Magee 1V

## PERU: WORKING WITH CHILDREN



## Cáirde

**This year 5th Year are involved with a new scheme to help 1st Years adapt to School life and befriend students in their own class and other years. The 5th Years are aiming to help the 1st Years learn to become true Teresian students. They will build a relationship of trust and support. As the School grows we want to make all new students feel welcome. They hope to come up with ideas for activities which will bring people together. We wish everyone involved the best of luck!**

*Orla McAndrew, Alannah Irwin, Michelle Blake and Christina Appleby*

# Teresian School Debating

This year, the formation of the Senior Debating Club has been a great success. Three dedicated teams representing fourth, fifth and sixth year have taken part in the Leinster School Debating Competition. We would like to congratulate our three teams (Ming Flannelly, Rachael Kilduff-TY, Carmel Coultan, Christina Mohan- 5<sup>th</sup> Annabel O'Rourke, Julia McCarthy- 6<sup>th</sup>) who have gotten through the first round and we are waiting to start the second round in the new year. Ming Flannelly, Rachel Kilduff and Carmel Coultan also took part in the Soroptimist Speech Competition which focuses on female public speaking and discussed such topics as development aid and the importance of the education of women. We have also started running in-school Mace debates and really encourage anyone interested to come along. The Junior Cycle students have also been involved in a weekly Thursday debate, run by Vivienne Naughton, and have taken part in three Mace debates. In January they will be taking part in the Gonzaga and Conleth's Mace debates and we wish them the best of luck. Teresians will also be running the Suzanne McGowan Junior and Senior Debating Competition later in the year. Debating has created a great sense of unity in the school with older students helping younger students and we hope it continues. Debating is a great skill that all students can benefit from and we really encourage everyone to try it.

*Julia McCarthy and Annabel O'Rourke Co-Founders of the Senior Debating Club*

On Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 1<sup>st</sup> year went to visit the residents of the Mary Aikenhead Day Centre in Donnybrook. We brought along homemade cakes that we had prepared for them and we sang Christmas carols too. We were accompanied by Anne Marie, Terry and Lorena. Anne Marie had kindly helped us all that week to prepare for the performance. All the hard work that we put into the preparation for the visit was worth it when seeing the smiles of pleasure upon their faces. They seemed delighted by our singing, chatting and the treats we had brought them. I am so glad that we were able to brighten up their day despite the heavy downpour of rain outside. I hope that we can go back again next year. *Lily Farrell*

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, all the first years went to the local old folks day-care centre as part of our Christmas campaign 2012. We went to give them cakes and entertainment for the afternoon. We sang carols for them, people played instruments and some people danced. We all wore Christmas hats and decorated folders to look festive. Anne-Marie played the guitar and we sang with her. The old folks were singing along to the songs they knew. When we were serving them cakes we went around and had a small conversation with them about their Christmas plans. Over all we think we made them smile! *Eva Harrington*

## The Christmas Campaign: Spreading JOY at Christmas

The best thing this year was the Day Care Centre. It was such a lovely experience. There was one woman who was 100 years old! There was also a man who won a big dance competition, so at the end he sung and danced for us. They loved all the food we cooked/baked for them. After we talked and gave them our food we went into 'The Big Hall' and sung for them. They sung along with us. Some of them got a little upset (in a good way) because the songs reminded them of when they were young. One man tried to copy the hip hop dance that Grace Mullin, Nicoletta Borza, Ashley Cantwell and Serena Murphy did for them. It was such a lovely day. *Jane Terry*

**FAITH LIFE:** The faith life of the School has flourished during the term. On the anniversaries of the founders of The Teresian Association we have enjoyed presentations outlining their beliefs and commitments. In November the students commemorated those dear to them who have recently passed on. There were retreats for all classes and later on Class Masses with Father Conor Harper. Our final day of term ends with a Carol service led by 6th Years. This annual event includes Christmas reflections, carols and songs around the Christ Child.

## Spanish Debating

This year we were given the chance to take part in the Dublin Schools Spanish Debating Competition. We formed a team of four sixth year students, all with a keen interest in improving both our linguistic and debating skills. It was difficult at the beginning to overcome the challenge of debating in a language that was not our own. But with the encouragement and advice of Lorena we were soon on our way to becoming Spanish debating maestros! In our first round we faced Loreto on the Green and after a tough debate we emerged victorious. Four weeks later, after long hours of preparation, team meetings and of course many cups of tea, we took on the boys of Castleknock College. Unfortunately for us it was a narrow defeat. Although disappointed, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Agradecemos a Lorena por todo su apoyo y ayuda. Ha sido una experiencia muy provechosa y disfrutable por todo nosotras. ¡Muchas Gracias!

Livia Borza, Roisin Mac DC, Annabel O'Rourke and Ciara Kidney



Many thanks to all the parents who participated in the 6th Year Mock Interviews recently. We are very lucky to have a night of this quality at this School. The standards set were high and the students rode to the challenge.

Well done girls!