

Parents Association Meeting

Date: Monday 13th Feb 2017. Venue: Junior School Time: 8pm

Present: Mrs Dempsey, Suzanne Breslin Anne-Marie Elliott, Bernie Power, Ruth Prenderville, Ciara Perks, Debra Spillane, Sarah Ryan, Ciarian Doyle, Aoife Mc Dermott, Sylvaine Doyle, Gillian Garrett & Grace Guarde.

Apologies:

Fundraising:

5k Fun Run: We are organising a “Pop Up” 5k Run/Walk and afterwards holding a family fun day. We hope to hold this event on the 28th of May at 2.00pm. A committee will shortly be set up to organise this event.

Tax Write Off: If any parent works for a multinational or large company that may be interested in sponsoring I pads for our school as a Tax Write Off we would be very grateful if they put our school forward.

Spring Time Draw: Tickets have now been sent home. Each ticket cost €15 for 10 draws please support. If you need any more tickets they can be collected from the offices.

Book Swap/Cake Sale: As parents of children in the junior school will have seen there has been a lot of work put into the gardens outside. Grace Guarde has kindly put a lot of time and effort into setting up the gardens. Grace received a grant from American Partnership which has been spent and feels that a lot more work could be done. It is her aim to plant potatoes and other beds along with the children over 10 days with 5 classes. We need some donations for this work to be carried out and to improve the ASD gardens.

Grace also plans to do some work in the senior school maybe plant some wild flowers and garlic in the area between the school and the pitch. We will clear some of the court yard and put some raised beds here. Thank you to her group of volunteers who have been helping with the transformation and if parents are available to help out you should come along ever Friday morning weather permitting.

The book swap and cake sale will take place in April and funds will go to the gardens and also if we raise enough we need to purchase some more lift off to literacy books.

At present we need funds for IT Equipment, Lift off to Literacy Books & Improving our Sensory Equipment.

Principles Report:

September 2017: Already 65 places have been offered to children wishing to attend our school from Sept 2017. This does not include a lot of siblings of children already attending our school. If you request a place for a child for next year please contact the school as soon as possible as preparations need to be made in relation to classrooms and teachers.

We will have a total number of 333 students in September but do not qualify for an extra teacher we fall short of 34 children. We will have 12 main stream teachers but may have to apply for extra accommodation which will not be managed until well into next year.

New Build: As you may be aware we at stage 2A of our new school build. The Board of Management and Mrs Dempsey attended a meeting in Tullamore with the Department of Education. Boundaries, footpaths and fencing costs were presented to the department to give an overall cost of the build to them.

The Department requested that Mrs Dempsey **Sack the Design Team** as their costing were way too high. The team has been paid for works carried out up to date. The department will now begin again looking for a new design team.

Collection of Children: Up until now the children of the junior school have been let out class by class when it has been raining. This idea does not seem to have worked as it is a very slow process. After the midterm teachers will go out with children to the yard at home time even when it is raining so there will be no further delays

Annual Report will soon be available on our school website/ Can be collected from both offices.

SNA: Two positions have now been advertised for SNA staff. The positions will be available in the Junior Infants & 1st Class.

Swimming: Swimming will commence on the 10th of January. All places have been filled. There are still some monies outstanding which can be paid into the office.

School Calendar: Junior Infants will have their photo taken in February 2017. Also anyone interested in getting a family photo taken arrangements will be announced shortly. Keep an eye out for notes being sent home in bags.

Congratulations to the children & Mrs Cheevers from 6th class who took part in the Peace Proms the event was a great success.

NPC: Are running a survey on the weight of schoolbags. If you would like to take part in the survey log onto their website www.npc.ie

Other News:

Wicklow County Council will extend the time the mobile library is available to Newtown . It will now service the community for an hour from 1:45 until 2:45. The library is available on the 2nd Friday each month. They will review their time table in Sep/Oct and maybe change the time to suit children leaving school who might like to avail of their services.

Dates to Remember:

23rd February: Garda Band will perform in the Park View Hotel. Proceeds will go to the Men's Shed.

10th March: First Confessions

10th March: 3rd class to go to CCA for Drama

17th March: St. Patricks Day. Notes will be sent home to ask parents support by walking along side the parade.

Our Condolences to the Family of, Barra Mc Grath who passed away suddenly. RIP Barra.

We have had candles lighting at the entrance to the junior school and a book of condolences if anyone wanted to sign it.

Next Meeting: on Monday 13th March in the Junior School at 8pm. Everyone Welcome.

