

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK, FEBRUARY 2016.

- **IMAGES ART EXHIBITION:** Congratulations on the brilliant success of the IMAGES ART EXHIBITION. Well done to all our students on the wonderful works of Art. Many Thanks to Justin from Images Art, Teachers, SNA staff, Karen & Fiona for organising the Art work & the Exhibition. Special Thanks to Gillian Gillen, Chairperson PA and all her Volunteers who helped with Cakes, Tea/Coffee at the exhibition. A total of €820 was raised to help with computer upgrade.
- Cars are still parking at the Junior School Entrance, on the approach to St. Joseph's centre and in the lay-by at Watson's gate. This has to stop as lives are seriously at risk. More children and school staff walk between our three school buildings right through the day and their journey is made extremely dangerous by the selfish actions of a small number of people dropping and collecting children from school and from playschool. Also NO CARS should access the SENIOR SCHOOL AVENUE at Home Time in the interests of Health & Safety.
- Children are also at risk when crossing the road at the Church. Please slow down and look out for children who may be in front or behind cars as they move from one side of the road to the other. We welcome Linda, our new School Warden. Children coming to school from Rossmore and Killadreenan should cross the road with the School Warden. We will lose this important service if more children do not cross safely with Linda.
- **SPRINGTIME DRAW:** This major annual Fundraising event will start in March. For a cost of €15, you are entered into 10 draws run over a FIVE WEEK period with money prizes each draw for NINE DRAWS : (€65, €30, €20) and a final Draw with Prize fund of €1,440. To be successful we need to sell at least 500 tickets. TWO TICKETS will be sent to every household this week. Please try to sell tickets among workmates, family, relations etc. If you have sold tickets before in the parish community, we would appreciate your help once again. THE MONEY RAISED IN THIS YEAR'S DRAW WILL BE USED TO UPGRADE OUR COMPUTERS.
- **Feast of St. Brigid :** MONDAY February 1st. Many Thanks to 5th class and their teacher for leading us in Prayers and Readings for Mass for the Feast of St. Brigid. Thanks to 4th and 5th classes and their Teachers for singing in the choir. Thanks to Fr. Smith for celebrating Mass and Blessing St. Brigid's Crosses which children had made.
- **ENROLMENT :** Some places remain for our JUNIOR INFANT CLASS for SEPTEMBER 2016. Places will be offered at the end of FEBRUARY when all enrolment forms have been received and processed.
Newtownmountkennedy is seen by the Department of Education as a

major area of growth in the coming years, the only local area where new residential development has started. Currently there are no places available in our ASD PRIMARY CLASSES for SEPTEMBER 2016. There may be TWO places in our ASD EARLY INTERVENTION CLASS. We will appoint a new Teacher in September to bring us to 11 classes.

- **OPEN AFTERNOON:** There was an opportunity to visit the JUNIOR SCHOOL on WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16th from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. Classes continued as normal with Student Council Members hosting tours of the school. We were delighted that so many families of prospective pupils visited our school on Wednesday.
- **SWIMMING:** All Children who want places in 2015-2016 SWIMMING PROGRAMME have now been accommodated. Swimming Programme THREE which runs for EIGHT WEEKS from APRIL is now open for applications. Names and Money to the school secretary as soon as possible please. The Board may sanction a Swimming Programme for the next school year depending on the level of interest.
- **INFECTION:** Many of our children are suffering from Viral Infections this winter. These infections are not responding to antibiotics but can be very debilitating. Children seem to get repeat infection and while not very sick, may need to stay off school for some short periods. Parents are reminded that Children should not be sent back to school if they are still sick and that we have a small number of children with Compromised Immune Systems who should not be exposed unnecessarily to infections as they are at risk of more serious conditions.
- Children should be reminded of the importance of wearing correct uniform at all times. When not in full uniform, correct shoes etc children will not be allowed privileges, sent on messages etc by their teachers.
- **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:** Thanks to Paul Kavanagh, Grace Garde & the Tidy Towns Committee for giving us a lovely concrete path at the side of the Junior School. Also Thanks to Paul for organising new Flagpoles.
- **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** Second Classes are busy getting ready for First Confession on Friday March 11th at 10.15am. Sixth Class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday April 29th at 11.00am. Children will continue to wear Albs this year for Confirmation. The B.O.M. will consider a proposal to wear school uniform for Confirmation from school year 2016/2017 and for all future years. Third Class Parents are reminded re Organising & Helping with Refreshments on Communion Day, May 14th 2016.
- **EMERGENCY WORKS:** We have applied for Emergency Funding for essential roof repairs to the SENIOR SCHOOL BUILDING, so far without success. Please bring this matter to the attention of politicians in the lead up to the General Election. School will be closed on FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26th as the building is used as a Polling Station.

