

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK, MARCH 2017.

- **BARRA:** Our School Community is experiencing deep sadness at the sudden death of Barra McGrath on Saturday February 4th. Staff, with help from NEPS, explained to children what happened in a sensitive manner and worked hard to keep school life as regular and structured as possible. Many Thanks to Parents, Grandparents, Friends and the Local Community for the many offers of Help and Assistance. Barra's parents are very grateful for all our support and kindness.
- **NEW ROAD:** Thank you to Tower Homes and Wicklow Co.Council for the successful completion of the new road. We have asked for a Pedestrian Crossing from the Set Down to the footpath leading to the Senior School. When our new school is built there will be set down for cars at the current staff parking at the Senior School. Thanks to parents and visitors for following road markings and heeding safety warnings re safe crossing of road etc.
- **BACK GATE :** The Board of Management was delighted to open this gate at school opening and closing times in an effort to reduce congestion in the Community Centre Car Park. Unfortunately there have been complaints from Road users re unsafe practices where parents are parking on footpaths and letting children out of cars in the face of oncoming traffic. The Gate will be locked until further notice if unsafe habits continue.
- **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. Many Thanks to All the Families and Local Community who have already purchased tickets. THE MONEY RAISED IN THIS YEAR'S DRAW WILL BE USED TO UPGRADE OUR SCHOOL & CLASS LIBRARIES.
- **Feast of St.Brigid :** Wednesday 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. We will celebrate Mass for the Feast of St.Joseph on MONDAY MARCH 20th at 9.30am
- **ENROLMENT :** A few places remain for our JUNIOR INFANT CLASS for SEPTEMBER 2017. Newtownmountkenedy is seen by the Department of Education as a major area of growth in the coming years . Places have been offered to children transferring to our school when they come to live in Newtown. We hope to have Pupil Numbers to gain our 13th Mainstream Class Teacher for September 2017

- Currently there are no places available in our ASD PRIMARY CLASSES for SEPTEMBER 2017. There may be ONE places in our ASD EARLY INTERVENTION CLASS
- **OPEN AFTERNOON:** There was an opportunity to visit the JUNIOR SCHOOL on WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15th 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 2016-2017 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.
- **UNIFORM:** 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
- **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:** Thanks to Grace Garde & Parent Volunteers as well as Paddy our Caretaker and Paul Lewis for the upkeep of the School Grounds. Grace will work with classes on the School Garden as part of the Heritage in School Scheme
- **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** Second Classes are busy getting ready for First Confession on Friday March 10th at 10.30am. First Communion will be on SATURDAY MAY 13th at 11.00am in St.Joseph's Church. Unfortunately we are no longer in a position to offer refreshments to families after Communion Mass. The Photographer will be in the school on Monday May 15th for Communion photos. Children may wear Communion Clothes to school on May 15th. Sixth Class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday June 11th at 11.30am. Children will continue to wear Albs this year for Confirmation.
- **CAPITAL WORKS:** Stage 2A of our New School Design has been completed and a report submitted to the Department.
- **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018:** The Standardised Calendar has just been published. Calendar for next school year will be available shortly.
- **DATE FOR DIARY:** FAMILY FUN DAY MAY 28th

