

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK: NOVEMBER 2017.**

Parent Teacher meetings were held on WEDNESDAY October 25<sup>th</sup> from 2.00pm until 5.30pm in the Community Centre Hall. Thank you to all Parents who availed of this opportunity to meet Class Teachers and Resource Teachers.

Many Thanks to ALL TEACHERS and SNA STAFF for all the successful initiatives which have been introduced since SEPTEMBER:

- MUSIC GENERATION PROGRAMME
- FOOTBALL & HURLING COACHING
- STUDENT TEACHERS ON WORK PLACEMENT
- TY STUDENTS ON WORK PLACEMENT
- TEACHERS ATTENDING COURSES AFTER SCHOOL IN MATHS, Occupational Therapy
- LIFT-OFF TO LITERACY & MATHS PROGRAMMES
- TRANSITION PROGRAMME DAY TO CCA FOR 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Students.
- LABHRAIGH LOINSIGH a joint Irish initiative with CCA.
- KILCOOLE MUSIC FESTIVAL
- ACCORD PROGRAMME FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> CLASSES.
- DEVELOPMENTAL DANCE PROGRAMME
- SWIMMING PROGRAMMES
- FESTINALENTE HORSE RIDING PROGRAMME
- INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION & BEHAVIOUR PLANS
- WALK TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE
- SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
- NATIONAL TREE WEEK
- SCHOOL SAVINGS SCHEME
- ENROLMENT MASS FOR COMMUNION
- CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL: CAMOGIE, FOOTBALL, HURLING
- INTERAGENCY DRUGS TASK FORCE
- WOMENS' SUPPORT GROUP
- PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
- LOCAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- STUDENT COUNCIL
- CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL.
- DISCIPLINE and BEHAVIOUR: The Board of Management is delighted with the positive focus on Good Behaviour with children following School Rules in ALL CLASSES. Congratulations to all children who have received Certificates and Homework Passes for Completion of STAMP BOOKS
- CHRISTMAS 2017: Classes are working hard on Plays, Recitations and Music for Christmas Performances. This year classes will all perform individual pieces to mark the Christmas Season. Teachers will send home messages re Costumes and Resources.

- SIXTH CLASS have been invited to St.Catherine's for a Christmas Prayer Service
- CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Once again we will support the Christmas Bazaar in St. Matthew's Church on SUNDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>. Children from FOURTH CLASSES are preparing Christmas Songs while Parents and Children will make Crafts which can be sold at the bazaar.
- CROKE PARK HOURS: Teachers and SNA staff work every Wednesday after school on Policy, Planning and Development. We have reviewed our Strategic Three Year plan, Our SPHE and RSE Policies.
- STAFF CHANGES: We welcome back Ms. Healy to teach the Early Intervention Autism Class. Mrs. Gillick has been granted Parental Leave with Ms. Wellwood as Sub Teacher. Best Wishes to Ms. Russell as she starts Maternity Leave with Ms. Rosie Mulligan as Sub teacher for Suzanne. We welcome Ms. Meldon, Ms.Maguire, Ms. McGillicuddy to our staff. We send Get Well Wishes to Jo Power and Carol Wolohan. Congratulations to Mrs. Murphy on her Retirement.
- PEACE PROMS CONCERT: We are all excited and delighted that the pupils of FIFTH & SIXTH CLASSES will sing with National Choirs from all around the country in the RDS in FEBRUARY.
- SCHOOL EXTENSION: The Department has reached agreement that a NEW SENIOR SCHOOL will be built on the top pitch. A Planning Application will be submitted shortly
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: There is a huge shortage of qualified teachers to do substitute work. Classes will have to be divided when teachers are absent on sick leave or on courses. Children may miss some resource or support teaching when these teachers have to teach mainstream or classes for children with autism.
- ENROLMENTS: We were THREE PUPILS short of the number at the end of September for keeping the 13<sup>th</sup> class teacher. We were successful in an appeal and have been granted the teacher until Christmas. We need to enrol at least THREE STUDENTS before December to keep this teacher for the rest of the school year.
- SPONSORED WALK/BAKE SALE: Thanks to Staff, Parents, Pupils, Community for the huge support for our Sponsored Walk which so far has raised over €3,000. Thanks to the Parens' Association for the successful Bake Sale which raised almost €800.
- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS: Thanks to the O'Brien Trust and to the Board of Management for improved Staff Car Parking, A new Sensory Playground and improvements to St. Joseph's Centre. Costs ran over budget on these improvements so all sponsorship and donations much appreciated.
- HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS SCHEME: We thank Grace Garde for all her work in Classes, working with teachers to develop in children an interest in the environment and science
- PARKING: Parking at the entrance to Wicklow Hills and on approach roads to the school buildings is a safety hazard. Please use Communiy Car Park or Set Down Areas marked.

