

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 8th April 2019 @7pm

Venue: Junior School

Present: Sarah Ryan (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Geraldine Keogh, Loretto Martin, Ann-Marie Elliott, Ciara Perks, Aoife McDermott, Marilyn Fitzsimons, Ruth Prenderville, Gillian Garrett, Mrs Dempsey, Ms Lennon
Apologies: Debra Spillane

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from most recent previous meetings and all future meetings to be shared on school website. Minutes will continue to be issued out by the school each month

Principals Report:

- Well done to all 96 pupils who took part in the recent Speech & Drama exams. Very high marks were achieved with 4 medals being awarded
- Barra McGraths family will visit the school on Wed 10th April to present the school with a Buddy Bench. Many thanks to the family for this generous gift
- The School will launch the Sunshine Awards on Wed 10th April. Four awards will be presented to a boy and girl from both the Junior School (Junior Infants to 2nd Class) and the Senior School (3rd Class to 6th Class) who generally light up other kids days and put a smile on people faces. The awards will be presented at the end of year awards ceremony
- Best of luck to all the pupils who are taking part in the musical recital on Wed 10th April
- The school had a number of people complete work experience under SNA and Transition Year programmes. Applications to undertake work experience should be submitted to the Board of Management
- Teachers have selected their preferred classes for next year. No decisions have been made yet on class teachers however there will be a number of changes made due to job-share and career breaks
- Congratulations to Mr Keddy on his appointment to Home School Coordinator. Ms Monaghan will be taking over his class after Easter.
- Carambola has removed a snack item from lunches from the month of April. It is hoped that this item will be returned from May onwards. This was due to insufficient funding provided to the school for the school lunches. The school have requested additional funding to cover lunches from May until school year end.
- Planning permission was granted for the erection of 2 prefabs for the new Educate Together School adjacent to the Junior School. These will be operational from September 2019
- It is expected that the tender process for the building of our new Senior School will commence shortly. Overall build will take 18-24 months once tender process has been completed
- Many thanks to everyone who collected the Aldi stickers over the last number of months – 3 posters were completed
- July Programme for Children with Autism will go ahead this year with discussions ongoing with Bray Emmett's to facilitate to the Cool Camps
- Congratulations to Ms Healy on the birth of baby Noah recently
- Congratulations to Fiona Keenan on her appointment as school secretary, taking over from Karen Ryan who will be finishing up with the school on Fri 12th April. Best wishes on your next chapter

Dates to Note:

- School will close at 12:30 on Friday 12th April – **Please note that there will be no Carambola lunches provided on the day**
- 5th Class pupils will take part in the Easter Sunday celebrations taking place in the town
- Standardised testing will commence the week of 29th April
- Meeting for parents of pupils joining the school in September will be held on 29th April
- Service of Light will take place on 30th April
- First Holy Communion will be 11th May
- Confirmation service will be 23rd May
- First Aid course starts on 7th May. Classes are full with a waiting list should places become available
- School will be closed on 24th May due to the Local Elections taking place
- Next Copper Friday will be on 31st May (last collection for the year)
- School will be closed on 4th June due to the Bank Holiday
- Sports day will take place in the last week of the school year
- Grace Garde has kindly offered to run a Heritage in Schools Programme again this year – dates to be confirmed

Treasurers Report:

- Spring Draw was a huge success. Congratulations to all the winners. A total of €1,814.20 was raised this year
- Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Clothes Collection which raised €427.95. Many thanks also to all those who helped out on the day and in particular to the Community Centre for their continued support
- Hell & Back have confirmed that they have extended the period for the reduced entry rate for Newtown Primary until close of business Wed 10th April. All children will receive sponsorship cards in order to raise funds for the school. Entry to this event is not limited to people associated with the school and we would encourage any groups that would be willing to support the school in taking part in this fundraising event to sign up as soon as possible to secure the reduced entry rate
- The school recently purchased sports equipment for both the Junior and Senior schools at a cost of €1,447.39 with funds raised through the various Parents Association fundraising activities
- A reminder that The Coffee Place beside Dunnes continues to collect empty crisp packets and will donate any funds received from this recycling initiative to the school. Many thanks to The Coffee Place
- There will be an Easter Egg Raffle in the school on Thurs 11th April. Pupils can purchase tickets in school on Wed 10th April for 50c each

NPC Report: Check website for full details

Mrs Dempsey:

The Parents Association would like to wish Mrs Dempsey all the very best in her upcoming retirement and thank her kindly for all her support over the years in working with the association. Mrs Dempsey has acknowledged the hard work that has been put in by all members over the years that she has been with Newtown Primary and has thanked everyone throughout that time for their commitment in building a strong team. The committee look forward to working with Ms Lennon going forward in her position as School Principal

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 13th May at 8pm in the Junior School, all are welcome to attend