

## **Parents Association Meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 8pm**

**Venue:** Junior School

**Present:** Geraldine Keogh (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Marilyn Fitzsimons, Ciara Perks, Ruth Prenderville, Aoife McDermott, Loretto Martin, Ann-Marie Elliott, Louise Lacey, Ms Lennon

**Apologies:** None

**Previous Meeting Minutes** – updated to reflect attendance of Loretto Martin, omitted in error

### **Principals Report:**

- Pupil numbers currently 365
- Offers for Junior Infant places issued to 38 pupils. Forms to be returned along with €50 towards book fees by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- Maternity Leave cover position was advertised but the position has not yet been filled. Position will be re-advertised in the new year
- Welcome to Ms Kiernan who is covering Ms McGillicuddys class until the February mid-term.
- Ms Geoghegan will be taking over from Ms Egan in St Josephs who is due to commence maternity leave soon
- Emergency funding has been sought to repair significant leaks in the senior school. An engineers report supports the request
- Fire Certs have been issued for the new school building. Now in Preparing Tender Documents phase this can take up to 12 weeks
- Discipline committee disappointed that 8 letters were sent home in November. Also higher numbers than previous for detention which is given to pupils in the senior school for rough play in the yard
- Art classes will commence after Christmas with 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils
- Ms Nolan and Mr O'Brien have set up the 'Bring a Book, Take a Book ' initiative which encourages pupils to take a book from the library and replace it with a book from home. Donations of any suitable, good quality books is very welcome. This initiative is being supported by the 'Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)' programme that continues throughout the school
- Moms on the Move is finishing up this month
- Local Ed 6<sup>th</sup> Class Representative are working on a booklet of all the local club and associations in the area
- The school is linking in with Middletown Centre for Autism to provide education session for parent of children with autism
- Architect to continue to engage with various companies to source the prefab for the Junior School yard as quotes to date have not been financially viable. School to look at other options to resolve current impasse.
- Anti-Bullying Policy reviewed by committee members and approved. Policy will now be ratified by the Board of Management

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- Santa visit – 16<sup>th</sup> December
- Junior school Christmas plays – 17<sup>th</sup> Dec – see notes sent home for times of individual class plays
- Senior school Christmas concert – 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – 1pm in the church
- St Josephs Stay and Play will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Please note that children should remain in school.**

**No photography or video recordings are to be taken during the school plays/concerts due to data protection rules**

- New Board of Management will meet on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Community appointed representatives are Eoin O'Riordan and Sylvaine Doyle
- Whole School Assembly in the church at 11:15 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec
- School will close Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at 12:30. Pupils can be collected from 12 o'clock. There will be no Carambola lunches that day

### **Fundraising & Treasures Report:**

- Cake Sale made a profit of €510.40. Many thanks to all who donated. A further cake sale will be considered later in the school year
- Christmas Cards have been issued to all pupils. Final figure to be confirmed at next meeting
- Bingo Hamper Raffle raised €610. Many thanks to all who donated goods and to all who supported the raffle on the night
- Spring Draw tickets to be issued as early as possible in the new year
- We would love to hear any suggestions parents may have for a fun event that could be held for the pupils. The cost should not exceed €500. All suggestions will be considered and picked randomly from a hat. Please contact any committee member

### **NPC Report:**

- See website for details

### **AOB**

- Parents are asked to stand back when pupils come out at drop off in order to allow the pupil see their parent/guardian
- School policy for wet mornings for the Junior School is to open the hall at 8:50, subject to the hall not being used that day and set out in a classroom setting. This is for health and safety reasons. Pupils in the Senior School will be supervised in corridors.

**Parking:** The Committee are disappointed to note that parking continues to be an issue around the school buildings. This is a serious safety concern for our students. The committee asks parents/guardians to use the set down area or the Community Centre car park at drop-off and pick-up times. Please do not park at the staff parking area or on any double yellow lines, in particular the area across from the entrance to St Josephs as this severely restricts the bus that needs to enter St Josephs. Registration numbers will be given to the Gardaí in cases where cars are causing an obstruction or safety concern.

Progress is being made in relation to the request for a School Traffic Warden (Lollipop Lady/Man) at the pedestrian crossing at the Junior School. A town engineer has visited the area and put forward a report on the need for a warden on the road. Further updates will be provided when they are available.

**Next Meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the Junior School. We would welcome all current and future parents to attend as new faces and new ideas are always welcome**