

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 8th October 2018 @8pm

Venue: Junior School

Present: Sarah Ryan (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Anne Marie Elliott, Ciara Perks, Joanna Janiszewska, Aoife McDermott, Loretto Martin, Geraldine Keogh, Mrs Dempsey, Marilyn Fitzsimons, Debra Spillane

Apologies: Ruth Prenderville

Minutes from previous meeting agreed

Carambola

Two representatives from Carambola attended this month's meeting to listen to our feedback and provide details on the proposed updated menu which they hope to roll out after the Halloween mid-term break. They also provided some samples of the lunches they supply.

They are proud to comply with current menu and portion guidelines and appreciate that the recent changes to their menu has caused some upset for children and families.

A number of issues were raised by the Parents Association such as substitutions, freshness of fruit and vegetables, packaging and provision of water filters for the school.

Substitutions will only occur when they have run out of a particular food but this should not occur very often.

They will review their suppliers of fruit to try to source a fresher tasting product - apples and oranges in particular. A request for 'easy-peeler' oranges has been made.

The dressing on the pasta tubs will be reviewed with a suggestion for plain olive oil rather than vinaigrette.

The school will review the possibility of having water filters/water dispensers installed in the school and will respond to Carambola on this directly.

Carambola has suggested that a Fruit Platter could be provided to each class on a Friday instead of individual fruit in childrens bags. This would include watermelon, apples, raspberries and grapes as requested. Although grapes are not currently included in the lunch offering due to choking risks they are being considered in the fruit platter as the teacher will be present while the children choose and eat from the platter in the class.

For health and safety reasons (transport temperature control and classroom safety) Carambola do not provide soup.

A new menu is expected to be introduced after the mid-term break.

Carambola are always open and very much welcome feedback. They were keen to listen to the comments and took away a number of points to investigate if alternatives can be found.

They are bound by the Healthy Ireland food programme and are limited in what change they can affect with the Department Social Protection who provide the funding for the lunches. They have however advised that a number of schools have come together to approach the department in relation to the various issues and concerns they and the parents have in relation to the menus being provided.

Carambola were thanked for their attendance.

NPC Report:

No update. Check www.npc.ie for updates

Halloween Disco:

Fancy dress disco confirmed for Saturday 27th Oct. Early disco to be held for juniors and later time for seniors.

Pre-registration option to be issued via Facebook with parents encouraged to provide contact details in advance of the night to avoid delays.

Tuck shop will be open on the night. Quiet room will also be open for children who may need some time away from the noise.

Volunteers will be required on the night to assist with the children.

Fundraising:

Hell & Back has been chosen as the main fundraising event for the school for 2018/19. Initial interest in the event from Facebook has been positive. Formal pre-registration requests will be issued on Facebook by 12th Oct. Parents are encouraged to sign up early to secure sufficient places for the kids to take part as a group.

Sponsored Walk - this will take place in November. Sponsorship cards will be sent home before the mid-term break.

Due to the Bag Pack event in Dunnes Stores on 7th & 8th December and the Christmas Cake sale on 14th December, it has been decided not to proceed with Christmas Cards or the previously mentioned Tea Towels this Christmas.

Non-Uniform day will take place also on 14th December - there will be no charge for this.

Board of Management Selection:

As noted in the minutes from the Board of Management, Rachel Lowe has taken the place of Anne Marie Kelly, who left the board at the end of 2017/18 school year.

The current Board of Management has one more year left to run for its current term.

Nominations for members to join the board will commence in September 2019.

The Board, which is made up of 8 people, includes 2 Parents Representatives (who are voted in by the Parents); a teacher's representative (who is voted in by the teachers of the school) 2 Patron's Representatives, School Principal and 2 Community Representatives.

Principals Report:

Parent Teachers Meetings will be held on Wednesday 24th October in the Community Centre from 2:30 to 5pm. School will finish at 1:40 with the exception of the unit for autism which will close at 2:40 as usual. Children who wait on the school bus at 2:40 will stay in the school until collected.

New School Building:

A decision from An Bord Pleanala was due on 25th September. An Bord Pleanala have advised that there has been a delay in the decision process and have not yet provided a date by which the decision will be made.

Aladdin Payments System:

Link and log-in details to be re-sent for all children. At present there are difficulties in paying in advance for events, books etc. This is being investigated at present. details will be provided when this has been rectified.

Enrolment Process:

Due to the recent changes introduced by the Department of Education in relation to Admissions Policy, the Enrolment Bill has set out that schools can no longer operate a waiting list system. Further details will be provided by the school when they have been received from the Department.

Other News:

Ms Maguires replacement will be announced shortly.

Best wishes to Ms Donlon on her upcoming wedding.

Many thanks to Christopher Coakley who is finishing up his time with the school.

Please note that dogs are not permitted on school grounds, with the exception of assistance dogs.

The school are seeking funding for get fit mornings in the school, in particular in the run up to Hell & Back.

The Active Flag was raised recently. Many thanks to those who took part in the ceremony.

The class photos are now on the school website. Calendars will be issued shortly.

The next meeting will be held on 12th November. All are welcome to attend.