

**Parents Association Meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 8pm**

**Venue:** Junior School

**Present:** Geraldine Keogh (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Marilyn Fitzsimons, Ciara Perks, Ruth Prenderville, Aoife McDermott, Sarah Ryan, Guy Garrett, Ms Lennon

**Apologies:** Ann Marie Elliott, Gillian Garrett

**Previous Meeting Minutes approved**

**Principals Report:**

- Pupil numbers currently 366
- Parent teacher meetings take place Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2pm-5pm in the Community Centre. A re-scheduled date for Ms Cheevers class will be advised in the coming weeks. Ms Quinn and Ms McConn will be available for Ms Broughans class.
- Welcome to Mr O'Leary (3<sup>rd</sup> class) and Ms Quinn (1<sup>st</sup> class) who have recently joined the school
- Ms McGillicuddy will commence her maternity leave in December. The position to replace Ms McGillicuddy has been advertised
- It is acknowledged that there have been a number of substitute teachers present in the school over the last number of weeks to cover instances of sick leave etc.
- Focus for November is Good Manners.
- Discipline committee Pleased with behaviour for October
- There are a number of leaks in the Senior School at present which are being looked at in the coming week
- Developmental Dane with Zoe continues in the classes for children with ASD. Zoe has agreed to take a number of students from across the school for a separate class in coming weeks
- Parents Association committee to review the Anti-Bullying policy for the school at next month's meeting
- November is enrolment month. There will be an open day for all new pupils on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Christmas plays will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec for Junior school. Senior school pupils will hold a carol service in the church on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> class have been invited to St. Catherine's to sing carols on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Times will be issued in the coming weeks.
- For November the school is focusing on "Every Day Counts", an initiative in relation to attendance. Classes with the highest attendance levels will receive extra Golden Time. There will be a poster competition for the Senior School.
- Community Awareness for Drugs talk with Paula Tunney taking place Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov in Community Centre
- New Board of Management meeting to take place in coming weeks. Ciara Perks and Thomas Foley have been appointed as the Parents Representatives. Ms Cheevers has been appointed as the Teachers Representative.

**Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

- Parent Teacher Meetings – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Cake Sale – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Junior School
- Open Day for pupils due to start in Sept 2020 – 28<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Christmas plays – 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Dec
- Santa visit to Junior School – date to be confirmed in coming weeks.

**Fundraising & Treasures Report:**

- Halloween disco raise €810 profit. Very successful night. Many thanks to those that helped out on the night.
- Further disco to be planned for spring. Details will be provided in due course
- Sponsored walk will be scheduled for Spring/Summer. Details will be provided in due course
- Christmas Bingo Raffle date to be confirmed
- Cake Sale will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov in Junior School 10am-12am. Limit of €2 per child. All donations of cakes & bakes very welcome
- Christmas card samples will be sent home Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov with orders to be returned by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Bag Pack in Dunnes Stores will not take place before Christmas – details of alternative date to be advised in due course

**NPC Report:**

- Focus on attendance for November. Tusla is leading the campaign to promote, retain & prevent.
- Details of Loreto Primary School in Rathfarnham trialling no homework for pupils. Ms Lennon confirmed that this was previously trialled in the school but based on feedback from parents homework will continue to be given.

**AOB**

A request for an additional Lollipop Lady (School Traffic Warden) was sent in to Wicklow County Council in early October, with a copy being sent to all current sitting county councillors who have a responsibility for the Newtownmountkennedy area. No response has been received from any party.

A letter supporting this request has been received from Garda John Whelan which enforces the need for a School Traffic Warden outside the Junior School.

Many thanks to the Gardai for their recent presence around the school area in recent days. Although traffic issues have reduce there is still a need for increased vigilance when travelling and parking along that very busy road.

The request for the School Traffic Warden will be re-submitted along with the letter from Garda Whelan in the hope of getting a positive response.

**Next Meeting will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December October 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**

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