

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 14th October 2019 @ 8pm

Venue: Junior School

Present: Geraldine Keogh (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Loretto Martin, Ciara Perks, Debra Spillane, Aoife McDermott, Ruth Prenderville, Marilyn Fitzsimons, Ms Lennon

Apologies: Ann-Marie Elliott, Sarah Ryan

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from previous meetings approved

Principals Report:

- Pupil numbers currently 366
- Lack of space now a major concern with resource rooms and PE areas now regrettably being used as classrooms. Very difficult for children and staff. The tender process for the 2 new prefabs is ongoing
- October focuses on Manners with extra stamps being given where children are using good manners with staff and pupils
- PE As Gaeilge has started with many children also using simple Irish phrases while in the yard. Mr Keddy will send home some useful everyday phrases in Irish to encourage continuation at home.
- Discipline – children will know in advance what activity they will miss out on if they receive 7 or more steps in one month. Activities would include DVD time, a walk in the woods etc. Detention has been introduced as a form of consequence for continued very rough play in the yard. Detention will be held during lunch time and children will be assigned work by their class teacher.
- Many thanks to parents for helping out with bringing recycling to the recycling centre.
- The school are looking for some parents to help out with gardening. Please contact the office
- The school is disappointed with the Departments decision to discontinue funding for Ms Geraldine Leader who had worked closely with the staff, parents and children in the classes for autism. Ms Leader provided specialised support around language and behaviour plans and will be a great loss to the school.
- Ongoing activities – Festina Lente visits; GAA Coaching with blitz held last week and this week; Chess club for some classes which are hoped to be expanded; Burns by My Side reading programme; Swimming; Developmental Dance classes
- Moms on the Move fitness class starts on Friday 18th Oct at 11am in the Community Centre. This is a free class. Please register with Mr Keddy
- Mr Keddy is arranging a drugs awareness session for parents. Further details will follow.
- Parent teacher meetings will take place on Wednesday 13th November 2-5 pm in the Community Centre. Resource teachers will be in attendance.
- School calendars will issue in the coming weeks

Board of Management:

- A new Board of Management is currently being selected and will run for a term of 4 years from December 2019 until November 2023.
- The Board manages the school on behalf of the Patron (the Archbishop of Dublin) and is made up of the following:
 - Chairperson (appointed by the Patron),
 - Secretary (school principal),
 - Teacher representative (selected by the teachers),
 - 2 parents representatives (a male and female parent selected by the parents) and
 - 2 community representatives. The Community reps are independent of school but who have a commitment to the ethos of the school. They are selected by the Board and would generally hold a skillset that would complement the need of the board and the school such as a treasurer, legal experience or experience in planning etc.
- Ballot papers will be sent home on Wednesday 16th Oct outlining both male and female parents reps that have put themselves forward for nomination. Each parent of a child in the school may vote for one male and one female from the list. Votes must be returned no later than Wednesday 23rd Oct.

Treasurers Report & Fundraising:

- Clothing collection raised €400.80 . Many thanks to all who donated. A special thanks to the community centre for the use of the hall and to the men who helped out on the morning. A further Clothes Collection will take place in March/April – details will be issued closer to the time.
- Halloween Disco will be held on Saturday 26th Oct. Details of the night will be sent home from the school in the coming week.
- Cake Sale will be held 15th November
- Bingo Raffle to be confirmed for early December – details to follow once confirmed

NPC Report:

- Board of Management guidelines publication is available to view online
- There is a survey for parents and children available regarding their experience of secondary schools
- A seminar on supporting people with mental health issues on 17th Oct – see website for full details on registration etc
- Details of Internet Safety available online
- Details of recent budget announcements relating to education are available online.
- Check website for full details www.npc.ie

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 11th November 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