

Parents Association Meeting: Monday 9th September 2019 @ 8pm

Venue: Junior School

Present: Sarah Ryan (Chair), Michelle McDermott (Secretary), Geraldine Keogh, Loretto Martin, Ann-Marie Elliott, Ciara Perks, Danielle Moran, Aoife McDermott, Ruth Prenderville, Ms Lennon, Ms Hurley

Apologies: Ann-Marie Byrne, Gillian Garreth, Debra Spillane, Marilyn Fitzsimons

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from previous meetings approved

Committee Selection:

Chair – Geraldine Keogh

Secretary – Michelle McDermott

Treasurer – Loretto Martin

National Parents Council (NPC) Rep – Aoife McDermott

PR – Ciara Perks

Stay Safe / RSE Programme:

- Mandatory Stay Safe programme will commence in September for all children in the school. Programme deals with correct terminology for body parts as well as information on puberty etc.
- RSE (Relationship & Sexual Education) programme will commence in February to coincide with Springtime
- Walk Tall programme is a support programme to enhance Stay Safe & RSE
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to use formal terminology for body parts with kids at home in line with these programmes
- Programmes support the importance to report any incidences if needed and research has shown that the use of correct terminology can assist in such instances
- Details will be provided to parents with a link to a parents page which will provide support for parents. If any parent/guardian who would like more information on the programmes are welcome to contact Ms Hurley for further details
- The school will teach only age appropriate topics. If a child seeks further details they will be encouraged to discuss with their parents/guardians for more information
- Students in the unit for autism and those with additional needs will complete some lessons with the mainstream classes and some independently
- INTO programme "Different Families, Same Love" will also be rolled out by the school which discusses the different family types in society. The programme will deal with definitions such as lesbian, gay etc.

Principals Report:

- Current pupil numbers are 366 with 33 Junior Infants enrolled this year
- Welcome to the new teachers – Mr David Enright (3rd Class), Ms Aoife Keddy (Junior Infants) & Ms Clodagh Monahan (2nd Class)
- Many thanks to Ms McConn who will continue to provide sick leave cover for the coming 2 weeks
- A number of maternity leave positions will be advertised in the coming weeks
- There will be a focus on yards games being conducted thorough Irish. Children will be encouraged to use simple phrases at home were possible. Mr Keddy will provide some short phrases for parents
- New Senior School Building Update – Fire Certs & Disability Certs have been provided to Wicklow County Council. Further information on the Fire Certs have been requested
- Tender process is ongoing for the 2 new prefabs required for the Junior School. It is hoped that the prefabs will be in place by end of 2019
- Volunteers sought to help with gardening around the school, in particular Barra's garden and the sensory area in the Junior School
- Volunteers also sought to bring some recycling to the recycling centre. Anyone available should contact the office
- A reminder for any outstanding book money to be paid to the office as soon as possible
- Please sign and return the insurance form, even if payment was made via Aladdin
- Term 1 & term 2 for swimming is now full with names being taken for Term 3
- Whole School assembly will take place on Thursday 26th September at 9:30 in the church, all parents are welcome
- GAA football will commence in the coming weeks during lunch and after school. Mr Keddy, Mr O'Brien & Mr Enright will take the boys while Ms Keddy & Ms Nolan will teach the girls. All players are required to wear gumshields while playing
- It is hoped that additional classes for art, music, chess club etc will commence in the coming weeks
- Festine Lente course for the children with autism has commenced. It is hoped that Music Generation will start again; dates yet to be confirmed
- Mr Keddy hopes to re-commence courses such as First Aid in the coming months. Details will be provided in due course
- School will be closed on 15th October to facilitate training under the new Primary Language Curriculum
- Parents are reminded to drive and park with care all times around the school area. Please note not to park in the Staff Parking areas both at the Junior and Senior Schools which are sign posted accordingly. Please note that a new pedestrian crossing has been put in place at the entrance to the new Educate Together School building
- The application for Patronage for the new Kilcoole/Greystones Secondary school is now open. Parents/guardians of children who are due to enrol in post-primary school from 2020-2024 in the area are being invited to complete an online survey. This can be found at <https://patronage.education.gov.ie>

NPC Report:

See website for full details

Treasurers Report & Fundraising:

- Clothing Collection will take place on 9th October
- Disco will take place on 26th October
- Fundraising ideas for the coming school year are likely to include Crazy Hair Day (end of 2019), Non-Uniform Day, Dunnes Stores Bag Pack, Christmas Cards. More details on these and any further ideas will be provided in due course. Volunteers will be sought to help with most of these events as the Parents Association Committee are often too few in numbers to cover all events sufficiently
- Total funds raised for school year 2018-2019 was c€11,000. Many thanks for all who contributed to all events. Your continued support is greatly appreciated by the whole school who benefit from these funds.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 14th 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