

Parents Association - 9th February 2016

In attendance: Ann Marie Elliot, Bernie Power, Ruth Prendeville, Gemma Ledwidge, Catherine Forde, Bernadette Goff, Gillian Gillan, Rachel Lowe, Grainne Donnelly, Grace Garde, **Mrs Keyes**

Next PA meeting in the Senior School staff room at 8pm Monday, 14th March, 2016.

Emergency work is required in the senior school, we were turned down for this funding by the Department of Education -**We would urge people to canvass local politicians** and stress that our children are not in healthy working classroom conditions - with leaking roofs etc., and when can this emergency funding be pushed through? Will we have to wait another three winters? We need to speed the new build; push for prefabs; push for emergency funding.

- National Parents Council - nothing new to report - check out www.npc.ie - great overall resource for families.
- Communion mass - Saturday night @ 7pm in St, Joseph's Church on the main street of Newtownmountkennedy.
- Art Images exhibition Tuesday 16th February 1.30-3.30 & Tuesday evening 6-8pm. Opportunities to buy your children's pieces of artwork. The 'Gallery' will be on display with tea, coffee & cakes to purchase. This is a fundraiser for the school & we would ask for your friends and family to pop in to view the gallery of excellent work. Donations of cakes/buns would be really appreciated and if these could be dropped in on Tuesday morning before 1pm on the day of the event. All help welcome in attendance or cake baking ☺. Please put your name down with Fiona if you can help out. The children will be very proud of their work ☺

Tuesday Morning Set-up
Ann-Marie Elliot
Grainne Donnelly
Grace Garde
Gillian Gillan
Tuesday Afternoon - teas & coffees
Ruth Prendeville
Gillian Gillan
Tuesday Evening - teas & coffees
Grace Garde
Gillian Gillan
Grainne Donnelly

- In addition we are having an open day on Wednesday 1-2.30pm. Children will remain in school during this period.
- If there are people who could offer to help out with a clean-up on the sensory garden in the Junior school please contact Grace Garde (0871477507) Monday morning 15th February @9am after school drop bring your wellies & gloves, and we could get the sensory garden looking smart for these days coming up. Grace Garde has secured a Local Agenda 21 grant and will be delivering nature workshops to all the classes over the coming year; this is worth to the value of €1,700 to the school. If there are any parents that would like to help on any of the planting projects please liaise directly with Grace Garde.

- Again there are serious road safety issues in the school - PLEASE NOTE: ANY FORM OF DANGEROUS DRIVING OR PARKING WILL BE REPORTED BY PARENTS TO THE GARDAI. PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND PATIENCE PLEASE. Children crossing at the zebra crossing think that they are completely safe running across, but again cars are driving too fast coming up this point. We need flashing lighting at these zebra crossing again local politicians need to be canvassed on this point to make this safer for all our children going to school.
- A new traffic warden has started in the village - please encourage the children to cross with Linda.
- Mid-term break Holiday - School Closed on 18th & 19th February, 2016.
- For all written information please refer to the schools website.
- <http://www.newtownprimary.ie/>
- Speech and language exams are coming up : Parents are asking what help the children may need for the exams, so they can help with the preparation.
- Two Spanish children may come on a language exchange programme after Easter if we can organise a host family. They will require homes to stay in. Please check with the office for more detail if you might be interested
- Mr Keddy is directing a play called Tir Na Og. We are looking forward to this production on the 7th March.
- Sixth Class children travelled to the Peace Proms - this was said to be an extremely successful evening of music in the RDS on Sunday 7th February, 2016.
- School will walk in the parade on St. Patricks Day. More details to follow. Any parents willing to help in this walk would be greatly appreciated. The St. Patricks Day parade is a lovely community event in the village, and perfect for Primary aged children to partake & view.
- There is a request to do an end of year show. This would be a full production directed & choreographed by Grainne Donnelly from 'Razzle Dazzle Academy'. Details to follow but she would require a band of helps from all areas of production.
- The pathways in the Junior school need to be addressed urgently as a slip and dangerous mucky hazard. Tidy Towns had offered to look after this repair.
- If anybody has spare tracksuits they could donate to the school - as the children tend to jump into muddy puddles and on play equipment & if there were spare clothing that would be appreciated.
- There were concerns raised due to recent events in the media about Online safety on the internet for our children, and perhaps we could look into a course for parents in the senior school.

Congratulations to Ms Hegarty who had a Baby Boy Ms Dowling who had a baby girl **Community**

Notes:

There is a fundraiser for Pieta house on Friday night 19th February in the Parkview Hotel - run by Theresa Martin. This is fashion show from Fishers & Ann Gregory Wedding Designs.

Heritage talks ongoing - next one Sunday 4pm 21st February by Tom Stokes, Community Centre. The title of the talk is 'The Proclamation & the Republic - what did it all mean?'. Admission Free.

Anybody wishing to help out on St. Patricks Day Parade contact Ann Duffy at the flower shop beside the post office. If you wish to put in a float again let Ann Duffy know.

There is a public meeting @7pm on Monday March 7th to facilitate all groups within Newtownmountkennedy. If representatives would like to attend please email grace_garde@hotmail.com; or contact Ruth Prendeville/Catherine Hurley

