

**Parents Association Meeting Date: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014**  
**Venue: Junior School Time: 8pm**

Present: Karen Carthy, Bernie Power, Sarah Mc Cormick, Mrs Dempsey, Ann-Marie Elliott, Ruth Prenderville, Grace Garde

**Apologies:**

Suzanne Breslin

**Fund Raising**

**We are hoping to purchase new ipads/tablets with our fundraising activities which our children will use in the classrooms as research tools.**

We are organizing the sale of reindeer food. This is a last push for this fundraising venture, if people think they could sell a batch in work please request a batch from Fiona/Karen at the Junior School or Senior School reception. We would sincerely like to thank local businesses for agreeing to sell the reindeer food Eugenes, Fishers, John Synott, Glenview Hotel.

6<sup>th</sup> class will be selling this at lunchtime in the school if you would like to send in €2, for anybody who hasn't purchased this magical food!.

Ann Marie Kelly has arranged for us to do a bag pack in Dunnes Stores on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Can parents please volunteer to do bag packing Fiona or Karen will take your name. We are badly in need of volunteers to help.

Big thanks to the Committee of the Community Centre & the Community Centre – we raised €700 for the school from the fundraising Bingo night. Many thanks to all involved. Many thanks for the people contributing and putting the hampers together for the raffle. Big effort involved.

A Non Uniform day took place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, and was donated to a very worthwhile local cause.

**NPC**

The school organized an Anti-bullying information evening. Seven people attended in the parents room. It was a very informative evening, and the lecturer from NPC reviewed the anti-bullying policy (on the schools new website - <http://www.newtownprimary.ie>), and was happy that this is in line with current guidelines. There are lots of anti-bullying resources on the NPC.ie for extra guidance. Please come to the class teacher with any issues that you would like to discuss. We would like to thank the school for facilitating this meeting and providing tea & coffee after the event.

**Principal's Report**

Carambola.ie is very keen to keep our custom, and is listening to the school/parents. They are hopefully going to be able to offer additional fruit on the menu, with the compromise of substituting the water. The water will be refilled on a day to day basis within the school. We are doing a water test & also we have applied for a higher budget allocation for food of €2 per lunch. Hopefully this will allow us have more food on offer. Carambola are very keen to keep our business and have been working hard to hard out the issues. This feedback is based on a student survey project that was undertaken by student council. There may be another item such as snack/cereal bar, and tasting platters will be presented in due course. In addition - 4-5 ipads will be donated from Carambola.ie. We can ask a storyteller in from Carambola who apparently is very good.

Enrolment for 2015 Junior infants to-date is 26 students, most of whom are siblings of existing children in the school.

Thanks to all who bought books at the book fair. If we could ask parents to send their books back into the school once the children have finished reading. Thanks to the parents who participated in this worthwhile injection of reading material into the school library.

#### **Uniform:**

With the cold snap of weather, the school wanted to outline that there is no issue with the girls wearing 'navy school uniform trousers'. These can be purchased in Dunnes/or M&S. Children are allowed wear navy tights with black boots. Please try and stick to the uniform guidelines, PE gear should only be worn on PE days/and perhaps swimming days if stated by class teacher. Keep head bands to black/navy low key statement if possible.

**6<sup>th</sup> class are going to sing at St. Catherines Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1.00pm.**  
**Christmas Plays**

Senior school plays are on the 16<sup>th</sup> December  
3<sup>rd</sup> on their own, & 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> together.

Specific times will be sent home they will probably start from 9.30am.

Junior school plays are on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 11am.

**Last day of school before Christmas break-up. 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**

Parents can come to the classrooms from 12 (you may need to sign-out) on the last day of school 19<sup>th</sup> December, to ease congestion in the community centre car park. There will be a whole school assembly gathering @ 10.30am in the church the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> December – all are very welcome to attend.

#### **Communion Mass**

There is a mass on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December @ 11.30 in preparation for Communion.

The school would ask that children do not exchange cards to each other at Christmas time, it is felt that this is unnecessary, and can often lead to problems if children don't receive cards etc. There is no need to send gifts to Teachers at Christmas.

Ms Lennon is returning to teach the ASD classes, Ms Healy will teach 2<sup>nd</sup> class, and Ms Flemming will teach 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

**Sports: Congratulations to the group who played in the camogie final.**

#### **BT Young Scientist Exhibition**

Only 120 submissions from Primary Schools all over the country were submitted to this competition for one day @ Primary School Level, and Newtownmountkennedy Primary School were successful and will be competing in this competition on the 10<sup>th</sup> January. They have made a motorized vehicle with recycled materials.

Junior Infants have an excursion to the 'Mill theatre' in Dundrum.

There will be a Christmas newsletter.

Thanks to the Sean Mc Shane Golf Classic which raised €2,500 for the school.

Thanks to all the fundaraising efforts, local businesses & to the parents who contributed items to the hampers for the bingo night – much appreciated.

A 'local services' directory has been published and is free of charge and is available around the shops in the village, this details all the varied activities that are available in the village. Reach out to people within/outside the school network and let them know.

#### **Website:**

Our new web site is [www.newtownprimary.ie](http://www.newtownprimary.ie)

**We have asked on numerous occasions for drivers to be careful and to give way to children walking, through the car park or trying to cross the road to get to the footpath across the entrance of the car park. We also ask every month that you don't park in the playgroup car park and the bus parking area. Patience please.**

**Date of Next meeting: MONDAY JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> . HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE**