

## Parents Association Meeting

**Date: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015    Venue: Junior School Time: 8pm**

Present: Mrs Dempsey, Karen Carthy, Suzanne Breslin, Ruth Prenderville. AnnMarie Elliott, Grace Garde, Geraldine Keogh, Aoife Bayle.

**Fund Raising:** Sponsored walk will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> June,

Copper Friday: Thanks to AnnMarie for all her of her hard work collecting your coppers from children this school year. AnnMarie will make her final collection at the end of this month. A text will be sent to remind us.

### Principal's Report:

**School Extension:** We are delighted to confirm that the Department of Education has been approached to provide an additional extension to our **Junior School** for our Autistic Centre and our Pupils. It will mean that our children with Autism will avail of much needed sensory rooms and other facilities.

**Complete Build** is now on the agenda for the Senior School. It has been discussed that we should build a whole new Senior School on the top pitch, the existing building will be demolished and this area will hopefully be used for car parking, the other option is to completely knock the existing Senior Building and start again, on the existing site. If the approval comes in favour of a new build on the pitch, this will elevate any problems we would encounter trying to organise temporary accommodation for classrooms. We are very excited with this new proposal. Funding has been approved and we are literally waiting to be told to turn the First Sod!!

**Standardised Testing:** Congratulations to all the students from 1<sup>st</sup> class upwards who took part in the testing. We have good positive results and we are very pleased with all of the students. Well done! Scores will be included in the end of year school report. A marking system of 1-10 is used. If your child has scored a 5/6/7 this can be a very broad average, so don't be discouraged as we think, this is excellent your child is doing very well. If you're still not convinced you can speak to the teacher and ask for the percentage mark that they achieved. Sometimes this gives a parent a better perspective as to how your child has scored, because we are better able to relate to a score of; for example 70% rather than a mark out of 10.

All 6<sup>th</sup> Class Students will be given a Pass Card into Secondary School which is now needed, containing their results from their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class tests.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of May Staff Meeting:** Will be dedicated to organising the new school year. Booklists will be reviewed and class teachers will be decided. This year Arts & Crafts and Photocopying will be included in the cost of the booklist. Collection of money for payments against next year's books or swimming is now being taken by both Karen & Fiona our school secretaries. We use the option of making small payments in instalments to make it easier for parents, and find that it helps when it comes to September and we have had the added cost of replacing uniforms, school stationary etc.,

**Teaching Staff Sept 2015:** We will have 2 temporary positions in September 2015. Two of our teaching staff would like to job share and Ms Corcoran will continue on a career break. As we have 3 temporary staff in our school at present it is hoped that they will apply along with outside interest for the positions available.

**First Holy Communion:** We would like to wish our pupils well on their Holy Communion this Saturday. Congratulations to all the children who have prepared well and a thank you to all of the teachers and staff involved in making this day a great success. Parents just a reminder that 2<sup>nd</sup> class students will finish at 12.30 on Friday. The photographer will be available in the junior school after the Communion Ceremony to take pictures for anyone who would like them.

Parents of the present 3<sup>rd</sup> class are being asked to organise refreshments for the children making their Holy Communion this year. We would ask that if some parents would come along at 2.00pm on Friday afternoon just to help set up the hall that would be appreciated. All donations of cakes and biscuits can be left into the junior school canteen on or before Friday. On Saturday morning 11.00am we will meet in the Junior School canteen, arrange the refreshments and prepare tea & coffee for parents and families. Carambola will be also making a donation of refreshments for the children. They have also recently added new products to their range that we can avail of. Check out their website.

**Self Evaluation:** Some of the junior students have been testing out a new system of self evaluation for us. It involves a Learning Log book for their records and a folder to store their good work.

The system works when a student has been returned a piece of work that has been corrected by the teacher. The student looks over their work and decides if they should reward themselves with a happy face stamp in their log book.

If a child realises “I have not done so well” they don’t give themselves a stamp and they have an opportunity to speak to the teacher to find out where they may, need some help. If a child has “done well” they get to reward themselves and feel proud of their achievement. There are some children who really benefit from the system. It has two benefits, we feel it is an excellent way of building a child’s self confidence, and realising that they have self worth and on the other hand gives a child the confidence to speak to the teacher and be better able to ask for help.

**NPC:** The NPC Education Conference will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June at the National College of Ireland. Topic will be “Building Brighter Futures. Speakers will include experts in the area of education and parental involvement from Ireland & Canada.

E.U ParentsNets Project are calling for parents to complete a survey as part of a concerted effort to aid parents in the prevention and combating of cyber-bullying amongst children. If you would like to take part in this survey log onto [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)

A new training programme by the NPC in conjunction with St. Patrick’s Mental Health service can be run in our school, if enough parents are interested. Topics covered in this programme will be: Exploring the factors that influence mental health and well being in your child, learning how to build and nurture resilience within your child & be given tips on how to best support your child’s positive mental health and well being. All of this information can be found on the NPC website.

**Other Business:** Swimming next year will be for 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class. There will be one open swimming session for 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Tablets: We have inquired about leasing tablets from a company who provide technology for schools. Each Tablet will cost €100 per year to lease and will come installed with all relevant apps downloaded. They will provide docking stations and will be available to service and upgrade the tablets for us.

Chickens: Great excitement in 2<sup>nd</sup> class as 5 baby chickens hatched from eggs in the student’s classroom

Mrs Dempsey & some students from the Green School Committee will attend a ceremony in the Helix on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May to receive a Green Flag, awarded for transport.

Groups who currently use the hall and grounds of the senior school will no longer be able to avail of this service from September. We will be placing an advertisement in the local newspaper re same. They are welcome to apply to the BOM to use the junior school hall if they wish to do so.

Parent Rep’s: as you are aware we are looking for parents to represent their child’s class at Parent Association meetings. Nomination forms will be sent out before the school holidays to organise a committee for next year.

#### **Dates to Remember:**

15<sup>th</sup> May: 12.30pm finish for 2<sup>nd</sup> class & Donations of cakes and biscuits before 2.00pm to junior school.

16<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am First Holy Communion & 3<sup>rd</sup> Class to sing in choir and parents to host refreshments.

18<sup>th</sup> May: Primary School Golf Competition. 21<sup>st</sup> May: Cake Sale in aid of Playschool.

22<sup>nd</sup> May: NO SCHOOL (School closed for Referendum)

23<sup>rd</sup> May: Goblin Car Race at Nutt’s Corner Belfast. Good Luck to everyone involved.

25<sup>th</sup> May: Meeting of Parents of the New Junior Infants 2015/2016 27<sup>th</sup> May: 4<sup>th</sup> Class School Tour

28<sup>th</sup> May: 5<sup>th</sup> Class School Tour & Service of Light for Confirmation at 7.30pm for 6<sup>th</sup> Class

30<sup>th</sup> May: Mass at 7.30pm for 6<sup>th</sup> Class re Confirmation.

29<sup>th</sup> May : Non Uniform Day in aid of past pupil Diarmuid Cassidy who will volunteer this summer in Calcutta.

**We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Rosanna Bellomonte and her family on the recent death of her husband. Rosanna has played a major role in our community over the past 20 years, working in our local playschool.**

**Next Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June @ 8.00pm in the Junior School Building.**