

## Parents Association Meeting

**Date: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014**

**Venue: Junior School Time: 8pm**

Present: Karen Carthy, Bernie Power, Sarah Mc Cormick, Mrs Dempsey, Ann-Marie Elliott, Ruth Prenderville, Grace Garde, Suzanne Breslin, Catherine Forde, Ann Marie Kelly (BOM Parents Rep) **Apologies:** Stephaine Synnott

### **Fund Raising:**

Grace Garde & Ruth Prenderville have kindly agreed to organise the sale of reindeer food.

Ann Marie Kelly has arranged for us to do a bag pack in Dunnes Stores on the 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Can parents please return forms sent home last week to volunteer packing and if you have lost your form you can always contact the office and Fiona or Karen will take your name.

The Committee of the Community Centre has agreed to give the school the takings from the Valentine's Weekend Bingo Game. Even if you **Don't Play Bingo** you can still buy a book to support the fundraising event.

We are now collecting for the Christmas Hampers that will be raffled at the Bingo on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Funds raised from the raffle help with our IT purchases. Donations of biscuits, wine, sweets and of course everyday cupboard food make up the hampers. We also accept unwanted gifts like perfumes, candles etc., Thank You.

A number of ideas have been discussed to raise funds for the iPads, but details have to be finalised. When we have confirmation, further details will be made available. If any parent has a fundraising idea they would like to put forward you are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings.

A Non Uniform day will take place very soon. A donation of €2 will be gratefully appreciated and will be donated to a very good cause.

### **Principal's Report:**

**Code of Behaviour:** Has been reviewed by the BOM and is available on the school website for your review. Can you please read the report and speak to your children about some changes that have been made in relation to bullying. Terminology to be used in the booklet has been a very important consideration. We will now use the word bullying in relation to children's behaviour. If your child is a bully parents will no longer be called in to review their child's behaviour parents will be told that their child is a "Bully". Obviously this term will not be used loosely; this is why a lot of time is being spent on this issue. Bullying is a serious offence and while one off problems can be dealt with swiftly, bullying behaviour of a student must be dealt with over a period of time. Documentation must be completed and continuous evaluations of a situation and evidence must be collected and recorded.

If your child comes home from school and tells you stories of student being bullied you can as a parent report it to the school without your child's knowledge. Each class teacher will now deal direct with bullying issues. New procedures have now been put in place to protect every child.

As this is Anti-Bullying week the teachers will give talks to each class and explain bullying behaviour.

Ms Hurley has also organised a very interesting evening for Thursday night at 7.30pm in the parents room in St Joseph's School. The meeting talks about being "bullied" and being the "bully".

**Enrolment:** November is our month for enrolment. We have 22 children on our list so far this month. As procedures are always being updated in our school, so too, has the enrolment forms. We will now have a section on the form for the guardians to sign. Normally the natural mother of a child is the legal guardian but in this new age some families now have fathers, grandparents, or other relatives who are the legal guardians of children attending our school. Teachers should be aware who they are permitted to talk to about a child's education. By filling out the new form this will make guardians easier to identify.

**Teacher Meetings:** Thank you to all the parents who attended the parent/teacher meetings. Using the community centre to hold the meetings was a great success. We realise that there was a bit of confusion with the layout of chairs (which queue you were in) so next year we hope to have the same venue but, be more organised with the seating arrangements.

**Swimming:** The second session will start next Tuesday for 1<sup>st</sup> and Mrs Murphy's classes.

**School Calendars:** The majority of classes have now received their school calendar with your child's photo.

**Website:** Our new web site is [www.newtownprimary.ie](http://www.newtownprimary.ie) All of our dates to remember can be found on our website.

**NPC:** Grace & Ruth have informed us that there will be a conference “Brighter Futures” held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November at the Ashling Hotel, Dublin 1 from 11am to 4pm for parents wishing to attend. The conference is for parents who want to know more about special education.

Speakers will include experts in the area of speech and language, occupational therapy and psychological therapy

You can register on the npc website, at [training@npc.ie](mailto:training@npc.ie)

#### **Other News:**

**Kilcoole Feis:** Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Kilcoole Feis. Well done!

**Shoe Box:** Thank you to all those families who made donations of, Shoe Boxes. We hope that they will make a lot of disadvantaged children happy at Christmas.

**Parent Training:** Ms Hurley, works hard to facilitate as many programmes that she thinks may benefit parents.

At present there are classes being run in Maths on a Tuesday morning at 9.15 to help parents grow more confident in helping their child with homework.

On Monday morning there is a class running “How to communicate with your child” in the parent’s room.

Notes were also sent home last week in relation to a Drug Awareness workshop, which will run this Tuesday night.

Catherine will be launching a booklet on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December with details of all groups & organisations working in our community.

Thank you to Elise Hanley, Gina Phibbs O Connor & Sharon Bishop who recently represented parents at the last Local Ed Meeting. We are considering a positive Mental Health week in January. If anyone in the community would like to take part or give a talk it would be very welcome. Further details will be sent home soon.

**Uniform:** Students can now wear their winter shoes or boots if needed. Girls boots must be black (dark colour) no blingy pink or bright colours shoes please. Again hair bands may be worn but please try to keep the colour to a navy or black.

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

**Anti Bullying Week:** Will run all this week.

**Dance Programme:** Will commence on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November and will run for 6 weeks for ASD Classes.

**Read & Share Book Fair:** Will be hosted by the Village Bookshop, Greystones all day on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Teachers will take the students to the book fair, which will be held in Ms Broughan’s classroom. That evening, parents are invited to come along from 7.30pm until 9.00pm to meet with John Newman author and teacher who will give a talk on reading for pleasure for anyone interested. Notes will be sent home for your review and information about the fair.

**Science Day:** The 18<sup>th</sup> of November, will be facilitated by Christine Campbell who will give lessons in science.

**Bowling:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class are lucky to be been selected to enjoy an afternoon of Bowling in Wicklow. A fee of €5 is requested to pay for the bus. A note will be sent home shortly.

**CCA:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class to travel to CCA on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### **Reminder: Car Park**

**Yet again we are reporting on the car park. 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. A small number of parents just don’t care;**

**We are contemplating putting a walk way through the grassed area between the school and the community centre so that children who are picked up everyday can walk down to the old steps and can be picked up here. The children who walk everyday can take the same route down the avenue. Have you any idea how much this is going to cost!!! Groundwork’s, gravel and kerbing will be needed.**

**Next Meeting, Monday December the 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 in the Junior School at 8pm. Everyone Welcome.**

