

Parents Association Meeting

Date: Monday 9th November 2015 Venue: Junior School.

Present: Ann Marie Kelly, Mrs Dempsey, Bernie Power, Suzanne Breslin, Ruth Prenderville, Grace Garde, Ann Marie Elliott, Gillian Gillan, Rachel Dwyer, Catherine Forde, Carol Molloy, Caroline Costigan, Gemma Ledwidge, Gillian Garrett.

Fund Raising:

Copper Friday

As you may be aware 1c & 2c will be very soon will be removed from circulation. Until then Ann Marie will continue to collect the coppers on the last Friday of the month. After that she can still collect coppers in the form of 5c or if you're feeling generous we can also take 10c pieces. This may have to be reviewed shortly.

Christmas Cards: The Children have drawn up their Christmas cards and we are awaiting a draft to be returned to the school very shortly, as soon as that happens they will be sent home for your approval. Please ensure that your **child's name is spelt correctly**. We would ask that if you would like to support the school by purchasing a packet of cards that you return the money asap as there will be a **strict deadline** from the production company.

Reindeer Food: Ruth & Grace have kindly offered to organise the sale of Reindeer food for us again this year. They have enough supplies to produce up to 500 bags. We were very well supported last year as some very generous parents took bags to local shops and their work places to be sold. We would ask for that support again this year. Even if working parents could take 10 bags to their place of work and sell them for €2 we would be very grateful. The bags can be collected from both offices very soon.

Images Art Exhibition: Has been booked for February. More information will follow nearer the time.

Halloween Walk: Thank you to the Tidy Towns who kindly organised a Spooky Walk through the Season Park Wood at Halloween. Thank you to all who supported. A total of €408.00 was raised. Well done everyone involved.

Principal's Report:

School Build: A meeting was held in Tullamore with the Department of Education in relation to School Build. It has now finally been confirmed that a New School will be built on the pitch. The design team are working on a number of schools at present and won't be ready to complete drawings until next year. In reality we won't see the new school for at least another 2 years.

We are now in a position of "No Man's Land" in relation to the senior building. The department **will not fund** us for repair to the leak in the roof as they have passed a new build. At present all that can be done is wait and see how the winter weather effects us, and hope that we are not reduced to using prefabs.

We will apply for a grant to have the heating system in the junior school converted from oil to gas. This way the temperature can be regulated and can be set to come on and turn off at appropriate times.

Our Annual Report for the school year 2014 /2015 has been published and a hard copy can be collected from the Junior or Senior School. A copy of the report will soon be added to our school website.

Flag Raising Ceremony: As we approach 2016 we will remember the 1916 Easter Raising. The Defence Forces will present us with a commemoration flag, on the 19th of November. We will have a ceremony which all parents are invited to attend. The Proclamation will be read out by one of our 6th class students. We will then erect the flag in March next year.

Staff Reshuffle: As some parents are aware a number of our teachers are on sick leave at present. We would like to thank parents for their patience and understanding. We are very limited with staff available to take over and trying to get substitute teachers is proving to be very difficult. We thankfully have an understanding teaching staff, in our school that are prepared to take over when need. We thank them for their understanding.

Junior School Playground: The Junior school playground has been *revamped* thanks to a generous donation made to the school by a local man Mr Liam Clancy to commemorate his late mother Anne. Liam and his family are past pupils of the school, and he returns to Ireland next week when we will have a ceremony to open the playground and erect a plaque in memory of Anne.

Lift Off: Lift off to literacy is only being offered to Senior Infants at present. A version of it is being practised by the 1st class teacher.

Catholic School Partnership: The Parents Association will review this report over the next couple of meetings.

Dates to Remember:

12th November: CCM Open Night. This will be the only night available to register your interest to send your child there.

17th November: Confirmation Meeting at 7.30pm

18th November: Transition Day at CCA

26th November: Whole School Assembly in St Joseph's Church

28th November: Preparation mass for 1st Communion.

There was some confusion as to when the school closed for Christmas Holidays this year among the parent attending this meeting. The school will close Tuesday 22nd of December at 12.30pm, which is correct on the calendar. Please keep an eye to the calendar dates in relation to the class plays 15th & 16th of December and Santa's Visit which we hope will be the 21st of December.

Other Business:

The new BOM will meet next week and will hold their first official meeting in December. Congratulations to Shane Murphy & Ann Marie Kelly who won the parents vote. In total 558 votes were returned.

Swimming is still underway for 4th Class. It was hoped that every child in 4th class would attend but there were a few who chose not to. These children are now allocated work to complete under supervision. It is the Department of Education who insist that we take swimming lessons as part of our PE class.

It is hoped that parents of the 1st will send the **complete class** as finding teachers to supervise is proving very difficult especially at present with a skeleton staff.

There are also places available for the mixed group 2nd, 3rd & 5th please register your interest as soon as possible.

Safety.....It has been brought to our attention that children are now climbing up on top of the new retaining wall that has been built. If a child falls from this wall there could be serious or fatal injuries. Please ensure that your child uses the new footpath provided. We have requested footpaths for the past 30 years and now that we have one the children are still climbing the bank.

Can parents please stop driving up to the top school to drop off or collect children? Please drop them off at the car park and let them out there. It has been noted that people have started to park in the Bus parking space. Please leave this space clear until the bus has gone.

Class Rep's will be contacted to attend the next meeting, thank you to the parents who attended tonight's meeting. It is good to have a large group so that matters can be brought up a discussed.

Carambola Lunches are now available on early school closure Wednesdays. Parents no longer need to send lunches.

Well done to all the children who took part in the Kilcoole Feis.

Just to remind parents that all notes will now be accessed on our school website www.newtownprimary.ie. Thank you once again to Ms O Connell who has updated our web page.

Next Meeting 14th December at 8.00pm in the Junior School. All Welcome.