

Parents Association Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 8th January 2019

Attendees: John Gowan, Michael Wardich, Helen Foley, Rhonda Devine, Helen Swan, Patrick Johnston, Sylvia McLoughlin, Mary Mulligan, Pat McElwain, Siobhan Hoare, Lorraine Ousby, Aisling O'Meara, Nicole Gilroy, Ralph Mills, Claire McDonnell, Jennifer Greene, Anita Brennan, Claire Fitzpatrick (Vice Chair), Eve O'Donnell (Chair), Tracy O'Donoghue (Secretary)

Agenda:

1. National Parents Council workshop – Wednesday 30th January, 7:30-9pm – *Eve O'Donnell*
 - Provide guidelines on how a Parents Association should be run
2. Class Representative proposal – *Eve O'Donnell/Tracy O'Donoghue*
 - A few changes were proposed to the draft Class List consent form. These will be reviewed prior to sending out the final form.
3. Parents Association Constitution – *Eve O'Donnell*
 - To be reviewed at the NPC workshop on 30th January
4. Infant School Report – *Mary Mulligan*
 - Thanks to the PA for organising Santa visit
 - Music in the classroom – trip to the NCH on Tuesday, 15th January for first classes. PA funding the cost of bus hire.
 - Enrolments for September 2019. Parish & Siblings applications, 15, 16 & 17th January from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. Other parishes applications, 22, 23 & 24th January.
 - Catholic Schools week – 27th January to 3rd February. Grandparents Day Wednesday, 30th January (volunteers for tea and coffee please). Prayer service in school hall. Letter to follow.
 - Junior Infants hearing and sight testing by HSE – week of 4th February
 - Immunisations for Junior Infants (MMR & 4 in 1 vaccinations) 13 & 14th March 2019.
5. Girls School Report – *Pat McElwain*
 - Thanks to PA for organising teas for our carols morning and for Art competition, Santa visit etc.
 - Teams from 5th and 6th classes taking part in Credit Union Quiz on 1/2/19
 - Cycle training for 5th classes beginning on 21st January
 - Six weeks of swimming lessons for 4th classes beginning on 16th January
 - 6th class choir taking part in the Laudate festival in Our Lady of Victories Church on Tuesday 29th January
 - 6th class retreat taking place on 30th January
 - Ms Gallagher's class taking part in Fighting Words creative writing workshop on 4/2/19
 - Ms Leddy, Ms Corr and Ms Butler's classes will be presenting projects at the ESB Science Blast exhibition in the RDS on 6th March

6. Treasurer's Report – Eve O'Donnell (on behalf of Justyna Mullin)

Treasurer's Report Nov and Dec:	
Calendar:	
Sales	€ 4,890.00
Ads	€ 5,880.00
Total	€10,770.00
Refund from PA of boys school for 6th Class Quiz:	
Book Sale 2018	€ 25.00
Total income	
	€10,939.00
Calendar Printing	
Christmas Gifts for Teachers	€ 30.00
Art Competition Prizes	€ 359.00
NPC workshop	€ 50.00
Total Expenses	€ 2,439.00

- The PA will make a disbursement of c. €4k to each of the schools
- The PA would like to promote greater transparency around where the funds are spent and will work with the schools on how best to achieve this

7. Fundraising:

- Calendar Sales – *Patrick Johnston*
 - Sponsors were asked to pre-pay for their ads this year which worked extremely well. The certainty of money being paid upfront meant funds were available to cover the cost of printing and reduced the likelihood of having to chase payment. There is c. €1,800 outstanding (majority of this is from previous years and will likely be written off).
 - Order forms worked really well and will be repeated next year
- Uniform sale – *Claire Fitzpatrick*
 - Bags of uniforms were collected from storage and cleaned over Christmas; there are a few more bags from upstairs to go through.
 - Sale to be held Monday, 21st January in the Learning Support room (from 9am – TBC)
 - 1-2 volunteers needed
- Clothing collection – *Aisling O'Meara*
 - Date and volunteers TBC
- Broadway Challenge ('Technology Fundraiser') – *Eve O'Donnell (on behalf of Paul Mullin)*
 - Saturday, 13th April in the Bonnington Hotel
 - 10 teams will perform, and various roles will need to be filled (ticket sales, etc.)
 - Information evening to be held – date TBC

8. Upcoming events
 - a) Table Quiz – *Nicole Byrne*
 - February 1st in Clontarf Golf Club
 - c. 132 tickets available, cost €10 pp
 - Nicole to send an email to Pat/Mary with details of the event and a notice will go out to parents
 - Request for raffle prizes from businesses (no unwanted gifts please). If any parents can help in this regard, it is greatly appreciated.
9. School Hall Kitchen – *Lorraine Ousby*
 - Both principals are happy with the plans and for the upgrade to go ahead
 - Aim is for the kitchen to go in during Easter break; ensure Martin/Peter are available for school access.
 - Two (similar) quotes received, but a parent mentioned they could likely get a better price. Lorraine to follow up on this.
10. Cairn Homes development on Griffith Avenue and its implications on traffic in the area – *Eve O'Donnell*
 - Developer is seeking fast-track planning permission from An Bord Pleanála for a large development of 347 apartments/7 houses and creche beside Marino Institute (entrance on Griffith Avenue)
 - The issue raised several concerns with those in attendance:
 - o Health and safety of students walking/cycling to school through the construction area on Griffith Avenue;
 - o Traffic and parking;
 - o Significant influx of residents may result in prospective students residing in the catchment area not getting places in the school.
 - The PA Committee is wondering whether there is remit for a response to be made on behalf of the Parents Association. The Board of Management indicated they might submit a response.
 - The PA Committee is urging everyone to get informed and respond to the application
11. Preparing survey for parents – *Eve O'Donnell*
 - A parent raised a concern about mobile phones and peer pressure. Further discussion to be had at the next PA meeting.
12. Buddy bench proposal – *Claire Fitzpatrick*
 - A company called Buddy Bench Ireland is providing a school-based mental health program that empowers children to foster friendships and eliminate loneliness in the yard. It also releases the stigma of asking for help.
 - Claire to get more information and principals to speak to teachers to gauge buy-in
 - Similar idea of a "Friendship Stop" was proposed
13. Other
 - A parent raised an issue about head lice in the school and provided information about a company that can offer screening to students. Further consideration to be given to the matter.

- Walking bus volunteers needed for Charlemont and Donnycarney. Sylvia to provide more information and a message to be sent out to the PA.