

St. Conleth's National School Derrinturn

Parents Association Newsletter - Issue No. 1 November 2016



WELCOME

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Parents Association of our school which we hope you will find useful. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep all parents/guardians informed of the activities that are being undertaken and planned throughout the year. The Parents Association is the structure through which parents /guardians in the school can work together for the best possible education for their children and as a parent/guardian with a child in the school you are automatically a member of the Parents Association. The Parent Association works with the Principal, Staff and the Board of Management to build effective partnership between the home and school. For more information on the role of a parents association in a school please visit the National Parents Council Primary website at www.npc.ie.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parents Association AGM for 2016 was held in the new school building on the 20th of September. The following committee was elected:

Chairperson: Liam Walsh **Secretary:** Monica Flynn **Assistant Secretary:** Deborah Healy

Treasurer: Christina Leonard **Assistant Treasurer:** Niamh Moore

Board of Management Representative: Rachel Malone

UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR 2016/2017

All meetings of the Parents Association for 2016/2017 will be held in the new building of the school at 8pm. The next meeting shall take place on the 5th December 2016. The meetings are a great opportunity to come and meet some of the other parent's and bring forward any suggestions that may benefit the children and the school. We look forward to meeting you on the night!

The following is the list of dates for the meetings for 2016/2017. A reminder text will be sent from the school in advance of each meeting.

2016	September 20 th (AGM)		2017	January 17 th	April 18 th
	October 18 th	November 15 th		February 21 st	May 21 st
	December 5 th			March 21 st	June 20 th

PLANNED ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL FOR 2016/2017

This year the Parents Association is hoping to raise funds to improve the grass playing field at the school. The recent excavations for the new building have left the groundwork in much need of attention. It is intended that the playing field be levelled, rolled and reseeded, so that it is fit for purpose as a playing surface for our children. In addition, it is hoped that playground markings will be provided for the new junior and senior infants playground area e.g. hopscotch, number lines and other games which will be of great benefit to the children. If there are sufficient funds raised, we will aim to refresh to playground markings in the main schoolyard also.

PLANNED & UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The success of fundraising undertaken by the parents association relies solely on the help of the parents and guardians of the school and as the money raised benefits all of our children we are grateful of all help and support. A number of fundraising activities are currently underway and planned for the upcoming weeks.

1. Children's Christmas Cards

You will all have received in recent weeks, beautiful Christmas Cards designed by your child/children. These cards have been printed by an Irish Company, Listowel Printing Works. Please see www.christmascardsforschools.ie for further information. The cost of printing each pack of cards ordered is €5, therefore €3 from the total price (€8) of each pack of cards ordered will go towards the Parents Association Fund. The Parents Association would like to thank Rachel Malone for co-ordinating all of the work associated with this activity and also all the teachers for ensuring the children's designs were completed beautifully and in time for ordering.

2. Church Gate Collection

The Parents Association will be undertaking a Church Gate Collection during the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of December 2016. Collectors will be present at 7.30pm mass on Saturday 3rd

December and 8am and 11am masses on Sunday 4th December at Derrinturn Church. Your support and the support of the entire parish for this collection is greatly appreciated.

3. Annual Christmas Raffle

The Parents Association Annual Christmas Raffle will also take place towards the end of December. This year the Parents Association have obtained a number of really excellent prizes listed below and the committee are currently busy requesting other contributions for spot prizes. Again the support of local businesses for their contributions and of you, your friends and extended family in purchasing the raffle tickets is greatly appreciated.

The main prizes for this year's Christmas Raffle are:

1st Prize - €150 Shopping Voucher, 2nd & 3rd Prize - €100 Shopping Voucher, 4th Prize – 7 Inch Alba Tablet, 5th Prize - €50 Smyths Toystore Voucher, 6th Prize – K&D Food Hamper plus lots of other great vouchers and spots prizes.

OTHER PLANNED & UPCOMING EVENTS

- During Christmas week, as the school term comes to a close, the Parents Association have arranged for a special guest (!) to pay all the classrooms in the school a visit and give each child a present of a selection box. These selection boxes have been kindly donated this year, as in previous years also, by K&D Supermarket and we would like to thank them for this kind donation.
- In the New Year, the Parents Association will aim to organise interesting talks for parents to take place at the school. Talks are provided by the National Parents Council and include topics such as 'Easing the Transition from Primary to Post Primary', 'Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships' and 'Supporting your Child's Mental Health.'
- Applications for bag packing in Tesco and Dunnes Stores have been submitted and an application to take part in the Tesco Community Fund has also been submitted. We hope to have further information on the outcome of these in the New Year.
- YOUR SUGGESTIONS: The Parents Association are always very interested to hear from you with any ideas you may have for both fundraising and non-fundraising events. Please do not be afraid to get involved by talking to any of the parents currently involved with the Parents Association or to come along to all or any of the meetings that you can.

Contact Details for the Parents Association:

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