

**Minutes of Parents Association
Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh Boys School
26th January 2016**

In attendance: Louise Crowley (Chair), Mike O'Shea, Terri Kruschke, Mary O'Connor, James McKeon, Gemma Lyons, Viktoria Nosova, Inga Nosova, Patrick O'Shea, Susan O'Shea, Colin Manning, Aoife O'Herlihy, Rosaleen Fitzgerald, Donal Murray.

Minutes of last meetings were circulated.

A note from Jean Mallon was received to wish the Parents Association well in the future

Christmas Party

It was noted that the Christmas party held in Chuckies on 18 December was a tremendous success with an estimated 293 children in attendance. A huge thanks was expressed to all the Mums and Dads who helped out on the night of the party. It was a great success with lovely comments and feedback subsequently received from lots of parents and the children really seemed to enjoy it. The final accounts in relation to the costings of the event need to be revisited and they will be presented at the next meeting.

Action Entertainment (who provided Santa) were contacted afterwards to thank them for the wonderful job carried out by Santa on the night. They were delighted with the call of thanks and asked to be kept in mind for future events.

Class Reps

It was noted with thanks, that many classes have parents willing to volunteer to act as class reps. However we remain short of volunteers for a number of classes ; namely Ms Kavanagh (Ms Dodd); Mrs Corkery and Ms Curzon. The parents in these classes will be contacted again with the view to volunteers being secured to ensure a full complement of class reps.

It was acknowledged that in terms of communication, Mr Cuthbert's emails are a great source of information from the school and are very much appreciated. Some parents noted that the text messages seem to be a bit "Hit and Miss" as regards guaranteed receipt but we are aware that all parents have been asked to update their contact details so hopefully that will help resolve any issues.

It is hoped that the role of the class rep will act as an additional communication channel, most especially in respect of messages from the PA to parents through an identified point of parent contact in each class. It is envisaged that the class rep scheme will operate as a two-way channel of communications to/from the PA.

Guest Speaker

Following the success of the talk on nutrition and healthy eating delivered by Dr Janette Walton last year, it was proposed that the PA organise another guest speaker on a topic of importance to parents - a number of suggestions (speakers/topics) were mentioned and these will be followed up by Gemma and Terri.

We are also looking into repeating the Transition Talk for this year's 6th class.

Website

Colin Manning, one of our parents, has very kindly offered to support the development of the school website. He is currently working with Mr Cuthbert to make it easier for teachers to access and upload data on the website; allowing teachers to share classroom based developments with parents, whilst providing a general overview of school activities. Colin suggested that the best approach

might be to create a blog for each class, this idea received a lot of support and it was suggested by Donal Murray that it may be piloted with a few classes to start with.

School Traffic Management.

Patrick O'Shea, both a Dad in the school and a resident of Allendale Drive and member of the Residents Parking Committee, presented the views of the residents in respect of the ongoing traffic management issues at the Allendale entrance. Collectively we hope to come to an arrangement in order to help the very dangerous situation that our children are put in on a daily basis. For the most part the danger arises from the behaviour of a minority of parents who continue to refuse to abide by the school's request not to drive up the entrance to the school; as well as the dangers arising from unsafe parking, especially where parents mount footpaths whilst the boys are trying to walk to and from school. The Residents are very aware and acknowledge the efforts made by the school to make the area safe. It was agreed that this behaviour of driving up the avenue has to stop. Photographs have been taken by the Residents association and brought to the guards but without result or further action. There were a number of great suggestions made and a separate PA traffic management sub-committee is being put in place with a view to making very real and immediate headway on this issue.

Clothes Recycling

The NCIB was contacted by Donal Murray and a date of mid to late February has been suggested. This date is yet to be finalised but will be notified to parents once agreed.

Book Swap

Following last year's success where €410 was made, it has been decided to go ahead with this initiative again in 2016. Terri Kruschke agreed to lead the initiative and a number of dates in Feb/March were proposed. The Chair agreed to approach the GAA club about the availability of the function room, and once the date is agreed the event will be organised and promoted within and outside the school.

Confirmation and Communion

Confirmation date is April 6th and Communion is May 14th. 5th class parents as usual will be contacted to help out on the day with the serving of tea and coffee. The School will remain open this year on the Confirmation day. A 5th class parent to be the point of contact is required and the parents of the 5th class boys will be written to shortly to allow the vent to be organised. Similarly a 1st class parent leader must be identified. The Chair will contact Brian in order to progress this issue.

Jackets have been fitted for both Communion and Confirmation and 17 new jackets have been ordered. Approval for the spend has been given.

Constitution

Following the last meeting, 2 versions of the constitution have been found and made available, and copies were circulated at the meeting. However, neither are dated or signed so their validity is unclear. It was proposed by the Chair that if the PA would like a new Constitution we would need to agree a draft amongst the parent body. It was suggested that it may in fact be a pre requisite of our membership of the National Parents' Council and Terri Kruschke as our National Parents Council Rep agreed to investigate the matter with the NPC. Once we have that information, a decision will be made and the options will be looked at.

AOB

School shorts have been ordered. A sample was brought to the meeting and was approved enthusiastically by all present – they will likely be available to purchase from Finns Corner from the last week of February.

Thanks was expressed to Collins Print who printed the tickets for the Christmas Party.

The next few PA meetings will be on Monday nights due to work commitments of the Chair Louise Crowley.

It was mentioned that perhaps names should not have been mentioned in the last meetings minutes. It was pointed out that it is crucial that the PA meetings are regarded as a public, open forum for all parents to attend and that transparency is of the utmost importance. The minutes were regarded as a frank and honest representation of the meeting in question. The PA is an open forum for all parents to express their views and they must be made and reported in that same open manner.

Finally it was reported by Aoife O’Herlihy that a very positive meeting had been held earlier that day in the City Hall in relation to the proposed Bishopstown Playground. Aoife was present at the meeting and reported a new willingness on the part of City Council to accept the possible role of donations from business and various companies in progressing the development of the playground. The proposed site remains at Murphy’s Farm, and planning permission has been granted.

Bag Packing dates for Dunnes need to be submitted by the first week in January. This matter is now outstanding and it was proposed that willing parents might be contacted with a view to progressing this fundraising initiative.

Date for next meeting is set for 29th February.