

# Newsletter

October 2019

St. Patrick's Junior School Parents' Association



## WELCOME

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter. This is our first newsletter of the academic year.

We hope you all had a lovely summer break and your children are all well settled into their new classes. A special welcome to all our new Junior Infant parents, especially parents who are new to the school.

For new parents to the school, who may not be familiar with a Parents' Association, we have highlighted a few points below on the aim of the St Patricks Junior School Parents' Association:

- To help all parents understand that they have a part to play in the school
- To help build a strong community between the school and the parents
- To raise much needed funds for many projects directly benefiting the school and your children

The aim of this newsletter is to give you a short insight into the events that the Parents' Association run for the school and any other news that Ms. Ní Chróinín and our wonderful teachers would like to share. It is also intended to help all parents feel connected to the school.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our events. If you would like to be a helper, please get in touch with a member of the PA Team. Indeed, if you wish to join the Parents' Association, please also get in touch with us. We always welcome new members to join the PA Team. You will find our contact details near the end of this newsletter. Please give a warm welcome to Louise Harmon, Caroline Hickey and teacher representative Patricia Comer, joining us this year.

We have had a lovely start to the school season, with some lovely events, and lots more coming up too before the end of the year.

Please follow and like our [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date on all our events and activities taking place.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for the following PA events & activities coming up:

- Halloween Disco—Friday October 25th

This will be a morning of (not so) spooky fun in school in the Halla, where our children get to dress up and enjoy a Halloween disco.

From previous years, this is an event that all the children love and it marks the start of Halloween and the mid term break.



- Christmas Cards—Deadline for orders Wednesday October 23rd

This is a brilliant and unique fundraiser for the school, where the children get to showcase their amazing artistic skills and have them printed and made into Christmas cards.

Your children have been working very hard with their teachers to create the most gorgeous cards. And it is a lovely way for you, as a parent, to keep one as a keep sake each year. You also get to show your friends and relatives how amazing your children are at art by sharing one with them! Double winners!

The cards are sold in packs of 10 at a cost of €8 (€15 for 2 packs). For orders of 3 or more packs, these will be sold at €7 per pack.

Order forms have gone home with each child with full details of same.

Please place your order (with exact payment enclosed and marked for the PA attention) no later than Wednesday October 23rd to the school secretary.

Many thanks for your support in advance.



### RECENT EVENTS

#### • *Junior Infant Parents' Coffee Morning*

This was a lovely, informal way for all our Junior Infant parents to come together and meet up with parents from their child's new class. It was a lovely morning and the feedback from it was very positive.

#### • *Junior Infant Photos*

Our Junior Infants children, and their older siblings all had their best smiles out for their recent school photo session with Designworks. It all ran very smoothly and the children were all very well behaved. Thank you to all the teachers and PA members to navigated the sessions so swiftly and seamlessly.

Proofs have been sent home with your children for ordering.

#### • *AGM*

We had our annual Parent Association AGM recently, and it was a huge success and turnout in the Halla on the evening.

Our PA Co-chairperson Lorraine opened up the meeting with a welcome and a report on upcoming events for the year. Catherine, our PA Treasurer reported on the funds raised and how they have already been utilised for the benefit of all the children so far. We also took the opportunity to thank our previous Co-chair Aisling Ellis and previous Secretary Donna Heffernan for all their hard work over the years.

We were delighted to have one teacher representative from each year give us a brief outline on the curriculum and for them to share a glimpse of the school classroom with us. Many thanks to Ms. Wilde, Ms Grimes & Mr. De Conduín for giving their time and efforts in preparing for this and presenting it on the night.

Ms. Daly, who is a passionate advocate of mental health awareness talked about the Amber Flag initiative and how we achieved our first ever Amber Flag this year.

THE AMBER FLAG  
*Promoting Positive  
Mental Health*

The Amber Flag initiative recognises the individual efforts of primary schools and various groups to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being. The aim of this initiative is to all collectively work together toward a happier, healthier Ireland and eradicate the stigmas associated with mental health issues. We are delighted that Ms Daly will be running this program again this year. And we thank Ms Daly and all the students involved for all her hard work and efforts in achieving this.

We closed the AGM with a very informative discussion from our guest speaker Aoife Hughes from [Be Well Do Well](#) on resilience and how to maintain a mental fitness for you and your children. Thank you Aoife, for taking the time out on the night to join us.

And thank you to Ms Ní Chróinín, Leoanacha and all the teachers for all their support and assistance.



### NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

#### **New Board of Management**

As you may be aware, the school's current Board of Management will end on the 30th of November. Elections for the two parent nominees (one mother, one father) will take place soon after the mid term break. The Parents' Association will notify all parents of the election meeting in the near future.

#### **BeeBot Adventures!**

Our STEM co-ordinator, Ms. Wilde, has borrowed BeeBots from our local Education Centre for the school. We will have them until the 15th of November. The BeeBots are a resource for introducing programming at its most basic level to the junior primary school. Over the next couple of weeks teachers and pupils will get to know how the BeeBots work and teachers will evaluate how they can be integrated with our curriculum. Well done to all involved!

#### **Violin Lessons**

Violin lessons for 1st and 2nd classes are now well underway. The lessons take place with Ms. Foy in the halla on Tuesdays. Thanks to Fingal Co. Co. and to the Board of Management who are co-funding this pilot project.

#### **School Choir**

Our Laudate Junior Choir are busy rehearsing every Monday after school with Ms. Wide. They are working very hard and also having fun learning lots of different styles of music and song.

#### **Upcoming Dates**

National Science Week 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November

Parent Teacher Meetings Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

#### **Green School**

A big thank you to everyone who helped with our Plastic Collection for Climate Action Week. There were lessons all week about Plastic Pollution in our oceans. The children helped collect lots of plastic, which will now be recycled and reused. A big well done to Ms. Grimes' and Ms. Holohan's class for their performance of their recycling song. If you want to listen to it again it can be found on our Instagram page-@stpatsjnsngreenschool.

#### **Amber Flag**

Last year we received our Pieta Amber Flag promoting mental health and well-being in our school. To renew our flag this year we will revisit the themes of kindness and friendship while placing an emphasis on the theme of resilience and a growth mindset. Our Amber Flag Committee (kindness ambassadors) will assist Ms. Daly organising activities/initiatives throughout the year including our Well-Being week to take place in the spring. The PAWS B (Mindfulness in Schools Project) is currently being delivered in Second classes.