

Newsletter

January 2019

St. Patrick's Junior School Parents' Association

Scoil Phádraig
Naofa Na Sceirí



Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas Break and we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. A big welcome to all our new Committee Members, it is always great to have more help.

Make sure to like our Facebook page – **St. Patrick's Junior School Parents Association, Skerries** – where you will see details of any upcoming events and any other information that needs to be communicated to parents.

Recent Events

+ Book Fair



The Book Fair was held at the end of November 2018. It was a great success again this year. Many thanks to all the parents who helped out and also to all the parents who purchased books!

+ Christmas Cards

This year it was decided to change the format of the Christmas Cards. Each child received their own individual card this year with their own drawing on it. This was a great success and orders increased as a result. Profits however remained mostly the same as we also decided on a different pricing structure this year which suited a lot of parents with multiple children in the school. As always this was a great fundraiser and we raised over €1,500 this year. Thank you to all parents who purchased Christmas Cards.

+ Santa Visit

The children had a very special visitor on the last day of school before the Christmas holidays. Santa himself came to visit and even took the time to sing some Christmas songs with the children.

Upcoming Events

+ Annual Cake Sale



The cake sale will take place on the morning of the 8th February. The children absolutely love cake sale day! Once again, we will be looking for baked goodies to be dropped into us on the morning of Feb. 8th from 8.30am for sale that morning.

- Sale on from 8.50am until sold out! All the children will have an opportunity to attend the cake sale during the morning to buy something if they wish, there will be plenty on offer for as little as €1.
- Please remember to give children an empty lunchbox or container on that day to bring home any buns or cake they buy at the sale (to save any squishy mess arriving home!!)
- Also, any containers that are sent in with baked goods, cake tins etc. that need to be returned, please label them clearly and they will be available to collect when cake sale is over.

+ Fun Walk

This will be held on the 15th March, weather permitting.

It is a lovely time for children to get out and about for a nice walk around the locality with their class and teachers.

- All children to wear tracksuits on this day and appropriate coats etc to allow for the particular weather on that day!
- A donation of €2 for the walk is requested and drinks will be provided on the children's return.
- As it is close to St. Patrick's Day, the children can wear any green regalia they have, e.g. green hats, hairbands etc if they wish.

Committee Members and Contact Numbers

Aisling Ellis (Co-Chairperson)	086 1050556	Fiona McGowan	087 9600783
Lorraine McPhillips (Co-Chairperson)	087 1413458	Alma Sherwin	086 8924736
Catherine Griffith (Treasurer)	085 7084762	Maeve Chapman	087 6746470
Donna Heffernan (Secretary)	086 1981057	Anne Walsh	086 8525731
Beata Fingleton	086 8232169	John O Connor	087 9973328
Sarah Gahan	086 8090522	Aoife Oxley	087 9910789
Simon O'Connor	086 3368878	Maeve Griffin	086 8492651
Treasa O'Shaughnessy	089 4990700	Karrie Cheung Dinan	086 6071990
Madeline Swan	086 1646223		

Notes from the Principal



Catholic Schools' Week

We are celebrating Catholic Schools week this week and parents can see the cut-out each child has coloured displayed in the halla. This is to show that we are all members of the school community. We are looking forward to our first ever Grandparents' morning on Thursday 31st January from 11.15 – 11.45 am when Grannies & Grandads are invited to visit their grandchild's classroom and to have a cuppa with us in the halla afterwards.

Amber Flag

The Amber Flag committee, consisting of pupils and teachers, is now up and running. Lots of initiatives are planned around the theme of "Kindness to others" and "Kindness to self". Every family received (on the back of your Amber Flag Bulletin) a list of 20 Random Acts of Kindness, to help us remember how we can be kind to others.

Road Safety

As the evenings are lengthening and children are able to play outside for longer, we ask parents to remind all children about safe behaviour around traffic, when using bicycles, tricycles, scooters or flickers, and when crossing the road. We want all our pupils to be safe this Spring!

Green Schools

A big thank you to parent Gordon Chambers who brought a fantastic presentation on microplastics and marine pollution to the school before Christmas. Pupils and teachers alike were fascinated and we all learned a lot. Watch out for this year's Green Schools Action Day which will focus on plastics – details to follow.

Active Schools

There is lots happening in school to help keep everyone active! We continue with our 10@10 on the first Friday of every month and we are looking forward to a course in fundamental movement skills being piloted by Louise and Johnny from the GAA in Mrs. Dungan's and Mr. De Condúin's classes. Training will continue as usual for all other classes. We are also delighted that coaches from Hockey Ireland will be in school after the mid term break to deliver a short course in hockey skills for all 1st & 2nd class pupils. A big "Thank you!" to all who help with these initiatives.

School Supplies Contribution

Many thanks to those parents who have already paid the school supplies contribution in respect of your children. This money helps to cover the high cost of school supplies and access to online programs used to support teaching of the curriculum for all pupils. Those who have not already paid the full amount are welcome to pay in instalments, either through the online payments button on the school website, directly to the class teacher or to Leoanacha in the office.