**St. Patrick’s School, Dalkey**

**PTA NEWSLETTER
October 2014**

Hello everyone. To both new and old parents and children in St. Patrick’s school, the PTA hope you’ve settled in well and that you will find the rest of the school year both educational and fun. You will be hearing from us through texts and this newsletter during the course of the year, alerting and informing you on activities that we organise for all the children to take part in during the year. So here we go…

**New Parents’ Coffee Morning** – took place in September to welcome the new parents in our school and to give them a chance to meet the older ones. Thanks to Samantha Hayes, Catherine Watson and Deirdre Reynolds for organising those cups of tea, coffee and fresh scones, making it a lovely morning. And thank you to all the parents who attended. Class Reps and other parents are encouraged to organise coffee mornings outside of the school (at your home or in the village) to spend time with each other

**Fund Raiser** - Our first fundraiser for the year will be a **Halloween Disco on Friday 24th October** during school hours. Entry will be €5. The money will be collected through the teachers by latest Thursday, 23rd October. There will be **goodie bags for the Infants at 50c per bag** at the end of the disco (just to make it easier for the little ones) and **loads of goodies to buy for 1st – 6th class** (cup cakes, brownies, sweets, etc.) starting from 50c so parents please give a bit of spending money to the children to help our fund raiser.

**Dress up Day** - is also on **Friday 24th October** …watch out for some great costumes and please support the €2 collection towards the National Children’s Hospital, Crumlin. This fundraiser is organised by the teachers.

**Upcoming Workshop/s:**

* **Friday, 28th November** – Wassa Wassa Drumming; in school; funded by the PTA.
* Keep an eye out on the school notice board for other workshops to take place this term or later in the year.

**Annual Book Fair –** This will be running from **Monday 17th thru Friday 21st November**. It’s a great chance for some Christmas shopping whilst supporting the school as a percentage of the sales go directly to a book fund for the school. Thanks, yet again, to Zuilmah Wallis for organising this. Parents are needed to help… no experience required!! If you’re a new parent you will be paired with someone whose done this before so please contact Zuilmah on 087 6839114.

There will be a **competition** for all the pupils - **DESIGN A POSTER FOR THE BOOKFAIR**; all posters will be put on display during the week of the book fair and a winner will be picked from each class; winners will get prizes …it may be you…so start designing now!!; All entries are to be **submitted by Friday Nov 7th**.

**Variety Show -** It’s on again !! – **Friday 12th December in the Northover Hall**. So kids start practicing that song, piano tune, gaelic dance, karate display, drama sketch, gymnastics or whatever takes your fancy! Remember, this will be YOUR MOMENT ! And by the way, we need a COMPARE….so it’s a chance for a parent to step up and take that mic ! There will be tea and coffee for the adults. We also need some help to decorate the hall on Thursday 11th.

**Parents’ Christmas Get Together** **–** it’s back by popular demand! €15.00 for a 2-course meal in Tropica (Chinese) Restaurant in Dalkey (end of village opposite Post Office) at **8pm on** **Friday 12th December**; Drinks not included but are reasonably priced. It’s a great opportunity for parents to relax and catch up with each other or get to ‘meet’ that parent you’ve always ran past on those hurried mornings ! Those interested in coming please give names to Chola Boylan, Deirdre Reynolds or your class rep. A reminder note will be sent out closer to the time.

**The School Nativity** - is on **Friday, 19th December at 10.30am in the Church** with tea/coffee and warm mince pies served in the Northover Hall afterwards. There will also be some biscuits and juice for the children.

**Extra Curricular –** All those taking part seem to have settled into their extra curricular activities. Great to see a new crop of Chess enthusiasts from the lower classes – this is to be encouraged; and a great turn out in Drama too. But we had to drop Multi-Sports for 1st and 2nd class as well as Computers due to very low numbers. Marguerite will be back in January with new computer challenges for our boys and girls. On the sports front, hockey has proved to be our most popular sport among 3rd – 6th class children with an amazing 30 children playing the sport this term. We are aiming at getting both boy and girl teams into leagues. To this end, our 5th & 6th class girls’ team are taking part in a hockey blitz this Wednesday (15th Oct.) in St. Gerard’s in Bray to determine the league they will be playing in – GOOD LUCK GIRLS!! Thanks to Rachel Pope who is mentoring our girls. The boys’ blitz has yet to be organised. So let’s keep that training going!!. The PTA will also continue to work with Craig Aston to secure a training hockey pitch closer to our school.

Thanks to Kate Campbell for writing up the supervision lists. Parents please sign up if you haven’t already done so as we all have a duty of care to our children. Some amendaments had to be made to some of the sheets that may have already been signed due to changes in numbers, etc. so please recheck those lists. If you can’t make your day, either swap, arrange for someone else to fill in for you or let Chola or Deirdre know with ample notice.

**Active Flag** – Ms Galbraith informs us that there’s a newly elected Committee that will continue to work with the various classrooms as well as draw up activities for all to participate in so that we live up to the expectations of having that Active Flag that you all worked so hard to get. Keep an ear out for those events such as ‘WOW’ (Walk On Wedesday), etc…

**Christmas Outreach –** It has been decided that this Christmas we will, for the second time, support the **Bray Women’s Refuge**. We helped the centre last year with generous donations of children’s and women’s PJs and towels that they had specifically requested and they were greatly appreciated. **A representative from the centre will visit the school on 20th November** to chat to the children about the work they do in order to help our boys and girls better understand who they are helping. Parents don’t worry, this will be done in an appropriate and sensitive way. Remember, such centres can sometimes be small and poorly resourced and need help to cope with their work. We will let you know by early December what they will be requesting.

**Class Reps –** These are the liaison between the PTA and the parents. They also now have the added role of helping to organise at least one school event during the year. Class reps this year are:

**Junior Infants Szilvia Horvath 085 825 6547**

**Senior Infants Julia Kelly 086 381 8760**

**1st Class Samantha Hayes 086 o87 7644**

**2nd Class Gillian Sherrard 087 226 1718**

**3rd Class Naomi Varian 087 290 3468**

**4th Class Marie Fahy 087 663 8777**

**5th Class Jackie Cassidy 087 205 4231**

**6th Class Eva McDermott 086 853 6553**

**PTA Subscriptions –** These are now due. Please know that this helps to support your child’s school and teachers in so many ways (pay for workshops, part subsidise outings, special classroom needs, graduation books, sports day goodies, coffees and teas and umpteen more); €40 1st child, €30 2nd child, €20 3rd child. Please pass payment to your child’s teacher in sealed envelope with child’s name on it. **Deadline is Friday, 17th October**. A number of parents have sought clarification on the different payments made to the school each year. Please note that the Voluntary Contribution goes towards the running of the school (electricity, water, school supplies, phone, etc.).

**Parking -** Please, for the safety of all the children adhere to the traffic markings:

* *Don’t at any time park on the ZIG ZAG lines,*
* *Don’t park on the double yellow lines*
* *Don’t park on the pavement*
* *Don’t stop at school gate to drop off children*
* *Don’t misuse the disabled parking slot*

Given the increased number of vehicles at drop-off and collection times between Loreto and our own school, it is particularly important that we do not contribute to the congestion on Harbour Road. Please park just that bit further and walk the short distance to the school. Please REMIND ANYBODY else who is responsible for collecting your child.

**Stay in the Loop-** if you are not receiving PTA texts or if you have any suggestions or ideas for PTA workshops/activities please let us know by texting 087 2429845 or e-mail cholaboylan@gmail.com.

**PTA and AGM Minutes –** These are from last year’s AGM (held in June) and the last PTA meeting and are on the notice board in the hall.

**Post it** - All events mentioned above are summarised on the following separate sheet you can tear off and stick on your fridge/notice board at home.

 **THAT’S ALL FOR NOW…!**

**PTA Events Schedule – 2014/15**

**Term 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Purpose** | **Date** | **Venue** | **Time** |
| ***Dress Up Day******Halloween Disco******By Graham Costello*** | Fund raise €2 per child for a National Children’s Hospital, Crumlin | **Friday 24th Oct** | Parish Hall |  |
| * PTA Fund Raiser for the term;
* Fun day for the children.
 | **Friday 24th Oct**School closing for Halloween break. | 9.30 – 11.00Infants -2nd Class11.15 – 1.303rd – 6th Class |
| ***Book Fair*** | Fund Raiser in support of school library | **Mon 17th – Fri 21st Nov** | Parish Hall Lobby | Times to be specified closer to event |
| ***Bray Women’s Refuge visit to school.*** | To chat with children on group that the school is supporting in the Outreach Programme this year. | **Thursday 20th Nov** | Parish Hall during School Assembly | 9 a.m. |
| ***Wassa Wassa Drumming Workshop*** | A cultural experience for the children with individual drums provided by workshop facilitators. | **Friday 28th Nov** | Parish Hall | To take place during school hours with classrooms taken in turns. |
| ***Variety Show*** | Children’s talent show – boost of confidence and fun for all! | **Friday 12th Dec**. | Parish Hall | 9.30am – 1.30pmIn two sessions - younger and older. |
| ***Parents’ Night out*** | For parents to spend time in a relaxed way before Christmas break. | **Friday 12th Dec** | Tropica – Chinese Restaurant in Dalkey.  | 8pm-11pm |
| ***Nativity Play followed by coffee/tea with mince pies*** | Christmas Performance by all children in the school. | **Friday 19th Dec**School closes for Christmas break. | Church and Parish Hall. | 10.30 a.m. |