

MARCH 2021



St Patrick's N.S. Parents Association Newsletter



Dear Parents,

The Parents Association Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy St Patrick's Day. We may not be able to celebrate it in our usual way but we hope you enjoy the time with your families.

We are delighted that all of our children have been able to return to school safely this week and we would like to thank the staff for all their work with remote learning and getting us to this point.

Unfortunately the PA Committee have not been able to run all our usual events this year. However we would like to reassure you that the we are still meeting (remotely) every month and maintaining our contact with the school and the Board of Management. We will keep you informed about any events or activities that we can go ahead with, within guidelines, as the school year progresses.

Many school celebrations have had to be cancelled, or postponed, over the past year. The same fate befell the retirement of our Principal, Mary Power. Staff, students and parents would have loved to celebrate Mary's well deserved retirement properly and thank her for the service she has given to our children, and past pupils, since St. Patrick's opened. Indeed some parents will remember being taught by her themselves when she was in St Francis Xavier N.S.! We would like to thank her for her energy, patience, persistence, compassion, generosity and her unending committment to the well-being and education of all our children who have been under her care. Go raibh míle maith agat Mary.



The PA Committee did make a (socially distanced) presentation to Mary on behalf of parents over the mid-term break. Mary Cooney, the grandmother of pupils Patrick, J.R. and Isadora Tunney, kindly crafted the school crest in Carrickmacross Lace which we framed in a Waterford Crystal frame.

We wish Mary a very happy retirement with her family.

The PA Committee

facebook

Please follow our page at
www.facebook.com/schoolPA

You can always contact us
by email at
stpatrickspa@yahoo.com

SOMEONE TOLD ME THE GAEILGE FOR SEVEN - I WAS SEACHT!!!

Fundraising Update

Despite not being able to run the Christmas Fair in 2020 we were able to raise some funds through the Christmas Raffle, Christmas Cards, Class Calendars and the Sponsored Santa Walk.

Thank you all so much for your support.

Funds raised (after printing costs etc)

Christmas Raffle: €6,175

Christmas Cards: €1,386

Class Calendars: €2,515

Santa Walk: €4,598

The majority of funds requested by the school in the past 6 months has been used to purchase new ActivPanels (interactive white boards) for classrooms. The Parents Association originally purchased the interactive whiteboards in each classroom. They were a big investment and most are now nearing the end of their lives. They are being replaced by PA funds, where possible, when they can no longer be repaired. These are a very valuable tool in our children's learning and we are delighted to be able to do this, with your support..

Funds raised last year were also used to purchase a lot of additional books for September so all students could have their own copy of class books and they don't need to be shared.



In line with the school's healthy eating policy Santa brought Christmas annuals this year instead of selection boxes. We hope the children enjoyed them over the Christmas break.



Outdoor Classroom

A very exciting initiative undertaken this year between the Partnership Schools Committee/ Action Team for Partnership and the Parents' Association is the creation of an Outdoor Classroom. Planning is well underway with the expectation that it will be ready for use by classes before the end of the school year. The project has been funded by the sponsored Santa Walk in December, in conjunction with support from the Board of Management.

The plan is to make the space as attractive and multifunctional as possible so the whole school will benefit from it.

All classes will be able to use the classroom with their teachers and it will be available for some of the children to use at yard time. The seating and artificial grass surface will make it a pleasant alternative spot for children to follow occupations such as reading, chess, puzzles, and games. The children, led by the children on the Partnerships Schools Committee, are coming up with the ideas for using the space.

We would however be delighted with help making some structures such as raised beds and planters, equipment storage, benches, or seating. We are also hoping to add some stencils to our yard space and if any parent would be interested in some socially distant spray painting in the summer term, we would love to hear from you.



St Patrick's N.S. Parents' Association is a member of the National Parents Council Primary. Please see their website npc.ie for useful information and publications for parents. They also operate a helpline for parents on 01-8874477