



PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Contact us : http://www.stpatricksns.ie/pa_committee.php
 email stpatrickspa@yahoo.com

2012/2013 Year in Review

June 2012	September 2012	October 2012	November 2012	December 2012	January 2013	February 2013	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013	June 2013
PA meet with incoming Junior Infants parents to share what we do and encourage new members!	PA AGM record attendance	 Individual & Class Photographs	Christmas Fair THANK YOU to all our volunteers	 Thank you Santa for visiting our school and giving every student a selection box!	Funding for new maths scheme for Junior Infants	PA contribute to school book scheme	Parent talk on Bullying	First Holy Communion & Confirmation receptions for students and their families. Communion/Confirmation Photography	Parent talk on Transition to Secondary School. Graduation reception and pizza party for 6 th class.	

WHO ARE THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION?

The parents association committee is comprised of 16 parents and guardians of students at all levels in the school. The PA committee meet once a month in the school library and always welcome new members who would like to get involved. If you are interested please contact us via email stpatrickspa@yahoo.com.

Officers; Chairperson; Olivier Santamaria, Deputy Chairperson; Stephen McGuinness, Secretary; Bridin Conroy, Treasurer; Chris Murray.

Board of Management Parent Representatives; Karen Kearney, Pat Lynch.

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank the Board of Management, our Principal Pairic Clerkin, and Mary Power for their support to the PA Committee over the years.

I would also like to give special thanks to the school secretary, Andrea, for all her help, and of course the teachers for their commitment and dedication to teaching our children.

Last but not least, on behalf of the PA Committee, I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for their on-going support and participation. None of this would be possible without you.

Olivier Santamaria PA Chairperson

FUNDRAISING

Although the Parents Association is active in many aspects of school life, we are probably most conspicuous by our fundraising activities. Through fundraising, we provide financial support to many activities and resources in the school for which no other funding exists.

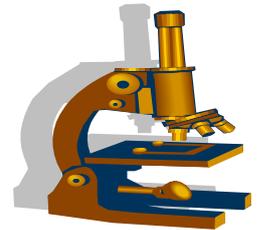


The 2012/2013 school year was another great year for the PA in terms of fundraising. Some highlights include the Christmas Fair which again brought in over €20,000 thanks to the generous participation of the parents and all the sponsors without whom it would not be possible.

So where does this money go..?

In December 2012 we contributed almost €16,000 to a variety of resources requested by the school.

- These included €4,000 which was spent on a large amount of materials for teaching science, from beakers to bug viewers, so I imagine the kids are enjoying their science classes!
- Approximately €3,500 was also spent on Math, English and Irish books also.



- Sport was not forgotten with another €2,200 on equipment and bibs.
- Of course the communion and confirmation receptions and graduation pizza party are supported by the PA, and we also organise the school photographs.



Looking forward, our goal is to continue to help reduce the financial burden on parents by supporting the book schemes in the school. This has proven to be very popular and will be the main focus of our fundraising in the coming year.

All these things add not only to the quality of education in the school, but also to the experience of school life for all our children. It is achieved through the hard work and commitment of both the PA Committee members and an army of parent volunteers who contribute a little time and energy to the various events and for that **THANK YOU.**

If you have never volunteered to help, now is your chance as preparations for this year's Christmas Fair are now underway. Look out for more information in the school newsletters.

Thanks for your support and here's to another successful school year.
Chris Murray PA Treasurer

PARENTING TALKS



St Patrick's Parent Association strives to provide informative and relevant parenting talks that are facilitated by experts in their field. During the course of the school year 2012/2013 we hosted three talks:

In November 2012 "Positive Parenting in Challenging Times" by Sheila O Malley of Practical Parenting (www.practicalparenting.ie) took place.

Sheila had facilitated a talk for us in 2011 and returned to provide another interactive, fun and interesting talk suitable for parents with children of all ages. We achieved our highest attendance ever with this talk last year and for that reason we intend to book Sheila again this year.

In April, following huge media coverage in relation to bullying and cyber bullying in the last year, the PA booked Jennifer Ryan, MSc Forensic Psychology, Hdip Guidance and Counselling, to provide a talk titled **"Lets Talk about Bullying"**. The purpose of this talk was to outline the definitions of bullying, types of bullying, what schools are doing to protect children, how to know if your child is bullying or being bullied, cyber bullying and what parents can do to help. The talk was well received by the parents in attendance.

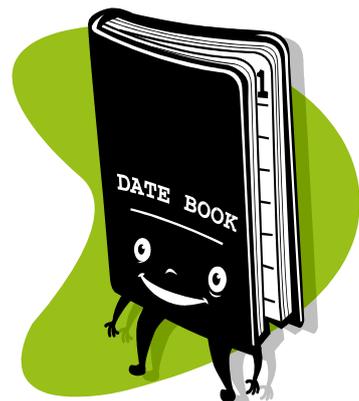
In May our final talk took place. An annual booking **"Transition for Primary to Post Primary"** talk is aimed at parents of children in 5th and 6th class. Facilitated by Tom Casey, Teen Counsellor, Crosscare who brings a lot of relevant experience and practical advice. Feedback from parents who attended was very positive.

If parents have a particular topic they would like us to organise a talk on please email your suggestion to stpatrickspa@yahoo.com or drop a note in the PA post box in the school reception area.

Karen Kearney Board of Management Parent Representative



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!



- ⇒ **PA AGM Wednesday 25th September 8pm in the School.**
- ⇒ **Don't forget Class and Individual Photos take place 7th, 8th and 9th October 2013.**
- ⇒ **There will be a Parenting talk in November, Date to be confirmed : keep an eye on School Newsletter for updates.**
- ⇒ **Christmas Fair confirmed December 1st 2013 School Hall**

CHRISTMAS FAIR DECEMBER 2013!

We are delighted to let you know that St Patrick's NS Christmas Fair will be held in the school hall

Sunday 1st December so please 'save the date'!



Preparations for this annual event are well under way, we do however need your help and we hope you can participate in one or all of the following ways;

- * Donate any UNUSED gifts (esp Toys, Toiletries', Games etc) - we will put them to good use!
- * Sponsor a raffle prize - urgently needed, please contact Colette on 087 9380380 or Karen on 087 4187253
- * Donate a prize
- * Seek donations (product, corporate gifts, umbrellas, golf balls etc) from your employer
- * Volunteer to help - We need lots of helpers in the effort to make the 1st December a success.



Fairs run in previous years have required 100's of prizes, nearly all of which are donated. This is immensely challenging in the current economic climate so ANY support you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Keep an eye out for further updates. Brídín Conroy Secretary PA Committee

RAMBLINGS OF A NEW PARENT ON THE PA.....When our girls started Junior Infants last year, I decided to join the PA committee. I was

welcomed with open arms by a group of parents who give their time and passion to enhancing our children's experiences in St Patricks.



After my first PA meeting I volunteered to lead the Coffee Shop and Cup-cake Competition for the Christmas fair. Little did my family and friends realise that they too were being volunteered to help! The sheer commitment and hard work by all our volunteers was incredible, collecting produce from our generous sponsors, baking and on the day it was all hands on deck as we sold over 600 teas and coffees! At one point we were literally head to toe in cupcakes in the kitchen. The standard of entries to the cup-cake competition was very high, Mary Power our Vice Principal judged and afterwards all the cupcakes were sold for tea time in Carpenterstown.

I look forward to another exciting year on the PA and handing off my "L" plates to some new members this year!

Go néiri linn , Mairéad McIlkenny PA Committee

