

Parents Association AGM

23rd September 2020

Presentation Building, 7.30pm

Attendance: Linda Lambert , Brenda Byrne, Lorraine Moran, Mary Wilson Aucharaz, Donal Fleming, Claire Hall , Olive Livingstone, Niamh Cullagh, Ms. Cunningham, Ruth , Sean James McHugh, Aron Dooley, Michael Kowalski, Evelyn Domeyer, Helena Humphreys.

Apologies: Tara Reilly, Martina Quinn

- Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and discussed the unusual year we've had so far and what the school year ahead will be like. As the parents association we will try to get involved with the school as best we can adhering to the current covid-19 guidelines. The chairperson also noted this will be Ms. Cunningham's last Parent Association AGM ahead of her retirement.
- Treasurer gave a run through of the yearly expenses for the Parents Association – Christmas, Easter Raffle, 6th class graduation presents, donation towards the stair graphics recently completed in the school & fixed costs such as the payments for insurance and NPC membership etc. Generally there is an expense for tea/coffee – drinks & popcorn provided for communions and confirmation; however this was not the case this year due to covid-19. An outline of the annual expenses was detailed and provided to the secretary.
- The chairperson thanked the committee members for all their support, help and those who volunteered even though the year was cut short.
The 2019/2020 committee stepped down and the new committee was voted in, the PA committee members are:
 - Chairperson: Linda Lambert
 - Co-Chairperson: Brenda Byrne
 - Secretary: Lorraine Moran
 - Co-Secretary: Claire Hall
 - Treasurer: Mary Wilson Aucharaz
 - Co-Treasurer: Olive Livingstone
 - PRO: Niamh Cullagh
- It was decided a decision with regards to the Christmas card project will take place at the next PA meeting in October. This project is extremely time consuming, and there is a lot of back and forth within the school / classrooms during this whole project from start to finish. With Covid-19 guidelines this will make it quite difficult for the volunteers. We would also require payment

online i.e. through the schools Aladdin app to avoid the handling of cash. However, should the project go ahead volunteers will be needed.

- Other types of fund-raising ideas were mentioned such as a raffle held between now and December, also possibly in the New Year holding a non-uniform day.
- Covid-19 Update – The school was lucky to have a nurse on site for the month of September, which gave peace of mind to parents, staff and children. 4 Fogging machines are due to arrive next week, 2 for the presentation building, 1 each in the Academy building & De La Salle building, the staff will be trained on how to use them, and after PE equipment, gymnastic mats or hurling etc. the teacher will be able to fog & sanitize the equipment used. Huge efforts have been made to get the school opened and since it re-opened, Mr. Fleming noted the children have been exceptionally good, a fire drill recently took place and a new teacher commented how well behaved all the children were during the drill. Mr. Fleming also noted how everyone both children and parents have adapted to the new school guidelines so well.
- Mr. Fleming addressed the meeting; firstly by stating the honest feedback the school received in relation to the home schooling during lockdown. The school recognizes everyone comes from a different home, for example; both parents may be working, or working at different times or working from home and it was not always easy to get through the work etc....
 - The Board of Management has greatly invested in the school, preparations for re-opening of school under the covid-19 guidelines.
 - New shelters have been ordered for the yards all 3 buildings.
 - Drainage work will be carried out in the Academy yard.
 - The Board of Management thanked all staff, pupils and parents for the smooth transition in the return to school.
 - A number of policies' were reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management.
 - Mr. Fleming thanked the out-going members of the Parents Association for all their help & support over the years.
 - 1 to 1 parent / teacher meetings will take place in November which was noted in the latest letter sent out via Aladdin.
 - The Board of Management approved school activities such as hurling, communications, gymnastics etc. after the October mid-term.
 - Admissions policy – There is a new process for school enrolment, from Sept – Dec is now pre-enrolment whereby you can register your child and in January the school will contact the parents via email with enrolment applications.
 - Bright Beginnings are hoping for 2 additional prefabs in 2021 and will possibly look into after school options.
 - Mr. Fleming finally wanted to say a special thank you to Ms. Cunningham for all her hard work and support through-out the years. The knowledge of each pupil, she kept her finger on the pulse with class visits which Mr. Fleming is greatly appreciative of. Ms. Cunningham provided great wisdom, calmness and prospective during her time in St. Brigid's.

Ms. Cunningham addressed the meeting noting the Parents Association is a great link between home and school and is hugely valuable. It was a pleasure to work for 36.5 years in Kildare Town and loved every minute of it. Ms. Cunningham also noted she is still friends with parents from years ago as well as colleagues. The children have been fantastic settling back into school, with the new covid-19 guidelines.

- The new homework policy – a limited timeframe for completing homework, homework will consist of reading and writing, some nights it will be math's work and reading. The work will alternate.
 - Ms. Cunningham also wanted to acknowledge the huge amount of hard work and effort Mr. Fleming puts into the school especially this year with covid-19.
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- AOB:
 - Face masks – please continue to wear face masks while in and around the school gates.
 - Car parking was also mentioned – please park in assigned car spaces, it was noted cars parked up on paths reversing as children are coming out of school.
 - SeeSaw App – a tutorial would be beneficial if possible.
 - Flashing amber lights were suggested for outside the presentation building or a zebra crossing.

The next meeting will be on 7th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Subject to change

If you would like anything added to agenda, please email the parents association, ideally a week beforehand, if possible.

Contact: sbpsparentsassoc@gmail.com