

**St. Mary's BNS, Maynooth**  
**Parent Teacher Association January Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, January 2012

**1.0 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

**2.0 Financial Update**

**2.1** Current balance is €187.

Coffee morning raised €330 and Christmas parties cost around €300.

Christmas cards made a profit of about €1340. This project went very well and the PTA has voted to go ahead with it for next year with the following points:-

- Start before October mid-term break aiming to have the cards returned by mid November to allow for early postage overseas
- Give teachers some guidelines e.g. try to use bold colours and let the kids bring the cards home for "parent proof-reading"

**3.0 School Requests**

**3.1** Electric piano - the school is starting up a choir for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class and it would be great to have a new electric piano. Music teacher has tested out a few models and has found a decent quality one for €500 at K+B. The Choir is going to be much more active in the future and this would prove to be an excellent benefit to the school.

**3.2** A barcode scanner was requested for the books, costing around €150. Teacher will research about the software to go along with this and see what kind of system could be set up. This request has been put on "low priority" depending on funds coming in.

**3.3** Safer Cycling course for 5<sup>th</sup> Class - last year this cost €15 per child, which broke down as €5 each from the Council, PTA and parents. If the Council cannot fund their €5, school is going to ask the Company if we could go ahead at a reduced charge of €10 per child. PTA contributions would be < €300.

**4.0 Follow up from December meeting**

**4.1** Communion DVD -PTA will call company tomorrow 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**4.2** Coin Trail - A note will be put in newsletter tomorrow with a note in the bags on Thursday to explain the "Challenge". The deadline will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February with the Coin Trail count on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The prize will be a Class party.

**4.3** Sponsored Walk - will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Sponsor cards will go out pre-Easter around 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Bike will be displayed after Easter break around the 16<sup>th</sup> April. Snacks and drinks will be provided afterwards. Venue to be discussed later. Either walk around the College finishing in the school car-

park or maybe "Treasure Hunt" in the grounds of Carton Estate.

4.4 Morning Club - There are about 5 boys attending. The club will continue until the end of the school year and then it will be decided if there is enough interest.

#### 5.0 **January Calendar**

5.1 Confirmation on 9<sup>th</sup> February. We will need to organize volunteers for tea & coffee afterwards. We will have tea, coffee, biscuits, drinks for kids, crisps. Volunteers required are in 3 shifts:-

- 3 for setup from 11.45 - 12.30
- 6 serve tea/coffee 12.20 - 1.30
- 3 cleanup 1.30 - 2.30

5.2 Open Day - date to be confirmed but normally in February.

5.3 Teacher Retirements - The issue of retirement gifts was raised, and a suggestion made that since funds were so limited this year, that gifts should be limited to €50 to €100. Question was raised as to whether gifts should be a token rather than a large gift. It was suggested that €150 to €200 was more appropriate. The teachers have each given over 30 years service to the school. It was put to the committee and the majority agreed that because of the number of years service, a gift of €200 was more appropriate. A One for All voucher of €200 for each teacher was agreed. These vouchers will be presented to them at their Retirement Function at the end of the January.

#### 6.0 **AOB**

6.1 Principal was asked to discuss with Staff, the idea of "gently reminding" the boys to drink more water during school. Dehydration is a concern among parents.

Also, to consider "fruit break" or "play before eat".

**Next meeting - Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm.**