

MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Number 12

1st May, 2014



Sponsored Walk/Family Fun Day - Sunday 8th June, 2014

Sponsorship cards will be circulated shortly. The PTA are enthusiastic about building on the success of last year's family fun day back in the school grounds and extra activities are being planned. More details later in the month.

Hampers

This year each class level will be creating a themed gift hamper, which will be raffled on our Fun Day which takes place on Sunday 8th June. Each class level will choose a theme for their hamper with their class teacher. You will be notified shortly of the theme your son's class has selected. Every student is asked to either:



- Bring in a suitable item for their class hamper.
- Give a €2 donation which will go towards the purchasing of items for the hamper.

The hampers will be displayed in school the week before the Fun Day and tickets and raffle will take place on Sunday 8th June. Many thanks for your support this year with our fundraising.

Website Improvements

As part of the process of improving the school website, two new links have been added to the home page – on the bar at the top right hand side, under the picture of the school.



Contact us

A direct link to school contact details, including e-mail form.

Calendar

A new “live” calendar which will give you information on activities and events on a much more detailed basis than is available when we formulate the regular school calendar at the beginning of the school year. This will be populated over the next couple of days and will be updated on a continuous basis. If you want to keep up with what is happening - CHECK IN ON THIS LINK REGULARLY.



1st Class Parents

Just a little reminder that next week we will be contacting you about volunteering to assist with First Holy Communion Day – either by helping with the catering on the day, or providing some baking or refreshments.

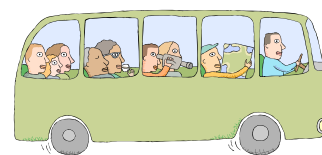
NEWB Reports

Under the National Education Welfare Act schools must make returns each quarter for all pupils who have been absent from school for 20 days or more. The National Education Welfare Board must be notified regardless of the reason for the absence. The third quarter returns have just been made. If your son was included in the return to the NEWB, you will receive a standard letter advising you of this.



Tours

27th May Tour 4th Classes – Dunmore Caves & Kilkenny Castle
 29th May Tour Senior Infants – Larchill Arcadian Garden
 Tour 3rd Classes – Viking Splash and Dublinia
 4th June Tour 6th Classes – National Aquatic Centre & Bowling
 6th June Tour 1st Classes – Causey Farm
 Tour Junior Infants – Lullymore
 Tour 2nd Classes – Croke Park & Play Centre, Coolmine
 10th June Tour 5th Classes – Clara Lara



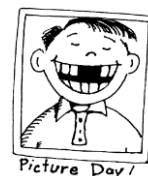
You will receive full details of your son's tour 2-3 weeks in advance of the tour date.

Trócaire Boxes

Boxes can be returned to the school by Monday 12th May, 2014.

Class Photographs

The class photographs are currently on display in the entrance lobby of the school. Order forms have already been sent home with the boys. Please note that all order forms should be returned no later than Friday 16th May, 2014.



English Language Classes

English language classes for parents from the school are ongoing every Thursday morning from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Maynooth Adult Learning Centre in Manor Mills. There are some places left in the class. If you wish to enrol, please give your details to the school office.

After School Activities

Session 4 of after school activities commence next Monday. Registration took place this morning in the P.E. Hall. Details of activities are in the previous newsletter which can be accessed on the website. Forms can be given directly to the school office.

Cross Country

On Thursday 10th April last, two teams represented the school in the Cumann na mBunscoil Kildare Cross Country Finals in Hawkfield GAA Centre outside Newbridge. Over 180 competitors took part in the race from schools throughout Co. Kildare. Our teams narrowly missed out on the team prizes coming in 5th place overall. Well done to all the boys who ran brilliantly and competitively and special thanks to the parents who came to support them.

Squad Members: Harry Dunne, Daragh Hewson, Steven Toderic, Odhrán Brady, Patrick Feely Sheerin, Eoin Richards, Conor Murphy, Enea Hoxha, Cathal O'Donovan, Timmy Cotorobai, Conor Hegarty-Morris, Cillian Kearney.



BOM Report

The Board, while often seen as unobtrusive and in the background, has been working consistently during the year to ensure the smooth running of the school and to provide support and high quality facilities for the pupils and staff in the school.

There were two changes to the Board this year, with Fr. Liam Rigney joining as a Patron's Nominee and Mr. Cathal Fenton joining as a Staff Nominee.

Earlier in the year, the Board met with the Inspectors as part of the Whole School Evaluation and again prior to the publication of the report. It welcomed the fact that the report recognised the high

quality of education provision within the school and that it acknowledged the significant contribution of the staff, the Board and the PTA in achieving this. (Link to report on school website).

As well as ensuring ongoing building maintenance, it has dealt with the detection and repair of a major water leak; improvement of school security by the provision of a new external door access system; improved wet day facilities by extending the shelter (with PTA support); arranging for All Weather Pitch Maintenance; overseen the purchase and installation of new teaching computers in all classrooms.

Development and review of policies is an important responsibility of the Board of Management. Policies reviewed this year include Administration of Medicine, Extra Personal Vacation, Lone Parents, Staff Absence Procedures, Parent/Teacher Meetings, Relationships and Sexuality Education, Religion, Special Education Needs, Sexual Harassment, Child Protection, Adult Bullying, Complaints Procedure and Assessment. As directed by the DES, a new Anti-Bullying Policy is under development.

Through the course of the year, the Board deals with a variety of matters such as staff Professional Development, use of Croke Park Agreement additional hours, leasing of the school premises (an audit of this is currently underway), Staff Appointments, Enrolment matters etc. It deals with issues as they arise, such as Child Protection, Discipline, Attendance, communication from parents, etc. It also communicates and liases with various state and local organisations.

Note: While the 8 members of the Board come from different sectors of the school community (Patron, Staff, Parents, Community), once nominated, they become part of the body corporate – i.e. they are not representatives of any particular group, but act in the overall best interest of the school community. Anyone wishing to bring a matter to the attention of the Board should write to the Chairperson, care of the school (- it will be immediately forwarded to him).