

Mary's BNS, Maynooth
Parent Teacher Association December Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 6th, December 2011

1.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

2.0 Financial Update

Voluntary Contributions first count was €4950 then €1000 was added last Friday, giving total so far of €5950. This is roughly the same amount as this time last year.

The Christmas cards orders amounted to €4006.50. There was a shortage recorded of approx. €50, which was impossible to trace because of the complexities of collecting the money at class level. This was put against PTA profit. Overall, this was an excellent fundraiser giving an exciting €1300 profit.

We have paid school requests to date and have various other commitments to come out e.g. defibrillator, Junior Cycle, Art Project plus €3085 annual costs.

In reality, there is no surplus money and available funds are very low.

Remember to put in requests for Voluntary Subs in every newsletter.

3.0 School Requests

None

3.1 Art Project well on it's way. Final bill in January.

4.0 Follow up from November meeting

4.1 Yard Games - noted that Staff were not keen on suggestions so far, as they had concerns about supervision and organization required. We need to "think again" in the New Year.

4.2 Morning Club - there has not been a huge interest shown. Only 40 people declared an interest with only 2 kids attending. Some mornings only 1 kid in the hall. Morning Club will stop at the end of the week. Suggested to try it again after Christmas to let people have time to re-arrange their child care. A letter will be sent out to let parents declare and interest again and then it will be decided if Club should re-start.

4.3 It has been suggested to BOM that school should collect non-perishable items for needy families in the area.

4.4 Signage at gates - BOM are organizing that the times on the signs are changed.

4.5 Fruit Breaks - will be discussed at next staff meeting.

5.0 **December Calendar**

- 5.1 Xmas card fundraiser - this is well on track and getting organized by the PTA and school together.
- 5.2 Santa Visit - Santa will arrive in firetruck and then will meet the kids in the hall Class by Class. Jr Infants to 3rd Class boys will meet Santa and get a present then have a few games and lollypop & biscuit. 4th-6th Class will have a class photo then games and lollypop & biscuit.
- 5.3 Xmas Cake sale date set for Friday 9th December. After-school club room will be set up the night before on Thursday from 3-4. Need cakes, plates, tableclothes, xmas decorations, poster, bags, float, coffee. Will open from 930 till cakes run out! Cost is 2 for a coffee and extra for cake, with free refills. We will have jugs of juice for toddlers. Ask priest to announce at mass. Sell raffle tickets and "adult" cakes too.

6.0 **AOB**

- 6.1 There has been a new report issued about the drop in standards for Literacy and Numeracy in schools. Therefore the curriculum will be altered slightly to have an extra hour of literacy and extra 1 hour and 10 minutes for numeracy. There will be a change of report card format. Parent teacher meetings will be at the same time. Summer reports will be issued in mid-June. Standard tests are reported to Parents. From 2012 on, results will be reported to BOM and Dept. of Education.
- 6.2 Annual Year Book - a comment was made that the quality was very bad last year and getting expensive. Could the PTA "upgrade" the quality with extra money. One book issued per family?
- 6.3 Meeting was reminded of a previous suggestion that the PTA fund a tree-planting ceremony by two retired teachers in recognition of both their 40 years teaching service to the school. Now that the corner at the Kilcock / Moyglare Road junction has been cleared, this might be a suitable location.
- 6.4 Can BOM give a summary report to PTA of non-private points every month?
- 6.5 Ideas for Fundraising -
 - Sponsored Walk - 28th/29th April? Could do a loop of the College and end in family fun day in school car park.
 - Coin Trail - give kids a challenge to save coins and winning class gets a prize by having the "longest line". Starts in first newsletter in January ends 10th February. Prize could be e.g. class party with "homework pass".
- 6.6 Communion DVD - book DVD for Communion on 19th May. Not happy with quality and sound from last year. Every child not on screen on DVD. Girls school DVD was much better quality but cost €20 whereas ours was €10. Decision to stick with same guy because cheaper but give him clear direction

what we want. PTA will contact dvd guy.

6.7 Teachers retiring - 3 teachers are retiring at Xmas

Teacher 1 after $34\frac{1}{2}$ years

Teacher 2 after $30\frac{1}{2}$ years

Teacher 3 after $28\frac{1}{4}$ years

It was asked that the pta would record their wonderful service over the years

Next meeting - Tuesday, 10th January at 8pm.