



Mercy Convent Primary School

Parent Committee Newsletter

Christmas 2009

Welcome to our first newsletter of this school year !

The Parent Committee of the Mercy Convent Primary School is a volunteer group of parents. The role of the Parent Committee is to support the school in the education of the children and development of the facilities in the school. This role is achieved through fundraising, event organisation and assistance in school maintenance programmes.

The current Parent Committee Members are :

Chairperson : Sheila Hannon

Vice Chairperson : Fiona Bergin

Secretary : Celine Burke

Assistant Secretary : Irene O'Rourke

Treasurer : Ber Gielnik

Assistant Treasurer : Carolyn Dempsey

Public Relations Officer : Denise Walsh

Assistant P.R.O. : Jacinta Noone

Committee Members : Colette Breslin, Maria McKeown, Mary O'Shea-Ryan,
Noreen Hanna & Patricia O'Callaghan

Board of Management Representatives : Josephine Broderick & Gerry Kelly

School Representatives : Jacqueline O'Reilly & Brigid Dowling

Co-opted Member : William O'Donovan (with regard to issue of Traffic Safety)

Annual General Meeting Update :

The Parent's Committee Annual General Meeting was held on the 6th of October. A special word of thanks to all those who attended. For those who couldn't make it – here are some of the highlights !

- Reviewed last year's AGM minutes & accounts and mentioned some of the events organised by the Parent Committee during the last school year.
- A new Parent Committee and two Board of Management Representatives were elected.
- The three motions were read out, voted upon and passed by the parents at the meeting. A letter has since been written to the Board of Management on behalf of the parents outlining the motions and the results of the vote and requesting them to consider the wearing of trousers and shorts, notwithstanding the full uniform review. We expect a reply shortly.
- The updated Constitution was discussed and pending one change suggested by a parent regarding the re-wording of point 3.7.2.1, passed.
- Mary O'Connor gave a very interesting talk on her role as Camogie Association Development Officer, the importance of sport in young children's development and her experiences/achievements as a Camogie player.





Halloween :

A big “Well Done” to all the children from the First to Sixth Classes who entered the Halloween Poetry competition! To view the winning entries, check out the school website www.mercyconventprimarynaas.com

Children helping Children :

Congratulations to the pupils in the school who raised €3,000 for the Society of Missionary Children last year. The money was sent to the Catholic Missionaries who fund projects in Africa – providing an environment in which children of all faiths are given a chance to live and learn together and from one another. Well done to all !



Sixth Class Bake Sale in aid of Michael Garry House :

Congratulations and well done to Ms. Kelly’s class who had a bake sale before the mid-term break. They raised €676.60 for the Michael Garry House for the homeless. Well done to all the girls !

MS Readathon : Well done to all classes participating in the MS Readathon. This year, as in the past, we are hoping to help the MS Society while building up our class libraries and encouraging the children to read.



Book Drive : The School Library is always looking for good quality used children’s books. We would appreciate if you could donate any unwanted books that are in good condition to us in order to broaden the choice of books available to our children. Thank you to anyone who has already donated books – much appreciated !

6th Class sing at Halleluiah Concert in RDS :

Schools from across the country, including our very own Sixth Class girls, participated in the Hallelujah Concert on Sunday 13th December. Thank you and well done to all the girls and their teachers for what was a most enjoyable concert !



Traffic Safety Update : The Parent Committee and the Board of Management have formed a Committee to progress parents' concerns re safety outside the school. Submissions will be made to Naas Town Council in the forthcoming review of parking by-laws in the town. We hope this will address the issue of adequate, safe parking /drop off areas for buses and cars bringing children to school. We will continue to work with the Council on the other safety measures proposed by the Parent Committee i.e. improved safety signage, flashing lights, improved crossing point/ramp and the reduction of speed limits. We will keep you informed of any further developments.



Jack and Jill Children's Foundation Mobile Phones for Boards Appeal

The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation campaign to raise money for home nursing care for sick children across Ireland are donating an interactive whiteboard to schools for every 500 old phones that the school donates! So far, we have collected 500 phones and received one interactive whiteboard.

We have now started to collect phones for a second interactive whiteboard and so far, have collected 156. We need 500. So, if you get any presents of new mobile phones in your house this Christmas, we'd love your old ones!! Or maybe you could ask in your workplace !!



The Phones for Boards project also encourages recycling which is important as we are a Green School. On that note, we are starting the process of working on our **Fourth Green Flag**. The theme this time is "Travel". We have already had a visit to our school from Sarah from An Taisce. Sarah will be working with us to help us to win this flag. Watch the Green Schools Notice Boards for ideas as to how you can help towards this flag. But for now keep recycling, saving energy and make sure you turn off the taps!



Transport Costs : Did you know that the cost of transport to sporting, swimming and other recreational events has been funded to date by Parent Committee funds via voluntary contributions and fundraising events. Last year this cost amounted to €8900. while the total funds raised by the Parent Committee amounted to €21,200. Nearly 50% of the funds raised were spent on transport costs - activities for students in 4th, 5th and 6th classes.



This year it is proposed that voluntary contributions collected go directly towards funding new IT equipment for the school. Funding for transport will not come from the levy and will have to be raised through other fundraising activities which all parents will be requested to support. Therefore for 2010, after much consideration, a hard decision has been taken by the Parent Committee to ask parents of the children attending swimming lessons through the school for a small contribution towards the transport costs so that the best use of limited money is made and that it is fair and equitable for all students and parents. It should be noted that the cost parents are being asked to bear are still considerably less than other primary schools in the area are paying.

Fundraising :

First of all, the Parent Committee would like to thank all those who made a voluntary contribution. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Our Christmas fundraising initiative this year has been the Class Calendars and we would like to thank all of you who supported us in purchasing them. A special word of thanks to Eamonn O'Callaghan who freely gave of his time and services in taking the Class photos and to all the teachers who helped in organising this.



In addition to our annual Easter Parade fundraiser, another fundraiser is being looked at for the New Year – First Aid courses for parents – more details to follow in 2010 !

School Pitch : The final instalment has been paid. The work on our new pitch is almost complete. The goalposts will soon be erected and the markings painted on the field. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped in providing funding for this project. The Parent Committee would also like to thank St. Mary's College who organised all the planning and groundwork in connection with the pitch which was done in conjunction with the development of their own two pitches. The pitch has already been used for P.E. classes during the fine weather last summer and of course for the School Sports Day. We are very fortunate to have our own sports pitch and look forward to seeing all our children benefit from such a great amenity during the coming school years.



U11 Camogie : For the first time since camogie began in the school in 1992 a team was entered in the Cumann na mBunscol under 11's League which took place last September/October. After beating Kill and Ballymany, they had a draw with the very well matched Gaelscoil – Scoil Uí Fhiach from Maynooth in the semi-finals. A most entertaining and challenging replay took place with both teams level at the end of time and with extra time played, "Sudden Death" was decided. Unfortunately for us, Maynooth scored the winning goal. While our girls were disappointed, they had played their "hearts out", despite the very hard game that twelve of them had played the day before and won the County Division 1 under 11's Cup for their Naas GAA Club. Great credit is due to all involved and with a special thanks to the large number of parents and GAA members who supported all our matches. The team are now training indoors with the GAA and preparing for the Senior League next April when the school hopes to retain the cup for "Four in a Row".



A special word of thanks to all the teachers who so willingly give of their time and energy after school to all our school teams, be it athletics, camogie, basketball or gaelic football and to choir – without your commitment, these activities would not be possible in our school.

School Uniform Update : A review group has been set up by the Parent Committee to review all aspects of the school uniform. This review group has met twice since the AGM and are hoping to have a submission for the Board of Management ready soon. More details to follow later in the New Year.



School closes on Tuesday 22nd and re-opens on Thursday 7th of January 2010.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh. Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia



Mallgayan Paskoi

Finally, the Parent Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and every health and happiness for 2010.

Linksmu Kaledu

Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom