



Parents Association Newsletter

A Winter Note from the acting principal Mrs. Amy Daly

Term 1 in Citywest & Saggart has been a busy one but there's nothing new about that! We welcomed 57 new Junior Infant children and their families to our school community, as well as other children in the older year groups. We have also welcomed lots new faces onto our staff: **Ms. Jordan, Ms. Smyth, Ms. O'Donovan, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Holland, Ms. McGrath and Mr. Kirwan!** And of course we also said "farewell for now" to Ms. Doherty as she takes her maternity leave.

Amongst all of this excitement, the children have been very busy. We've had lots of interesting people visiting our school. Third and Fourth Class met and learned about local business people from Saggart. They had guest speakers from the pharmacy, Centra and the barbers, to name a few. Junior Infants have been learning about people who help

us and have enjoyed visits from a vet and firemen. **Science week** was held in November and was a fantastic success. Once again **Dr. David Fitzpatrick** visited the school and generously organised science workshops for every year group. Some of our teachers became "expert science teachers" for the week and visited different classrooms to teach a science lesson and experiment. Third and Fourth Class took some very interesting science projects which they then presented to their classmates.

Over the mid-term break our yard was extended and while this did mean some rearrangements in the carpark, it has meant there is far more room for the children to play and exercise at lunchtime. **Ms. Long and the Student Council** have begun to introduce **Playworks** to our yard. Playworks is a semi-structured playtime which helps children to play well together and

develop their conflict-resolution and organisational skills. You may hear about the skipping ropes, hopscotch or hoola-hoop games that are part of this.

There has been great excitement and enthusiasm in relation to the development of our **sensory room**. Through the amazing generosity of the Parents' Association and donations from individual parents, Ms. Long and Ms. Mahon have been developing a wonderful space which will help so many children, with a wide variety of needs. **Thank you so very much!**

So after a busy and enjoyable Term 1, I want to thank all the boys and girls for the hard work and kindness they have shown this term.

I wish everybody a wonderful break and a Happy Christmas if you will be celebrating.

Greetings from the PA Committee new management

Well, it's hard to believe it's this time of the year again and we are at the end of our 1st term of the school year. I hope all our new families have settled in to school and all the children are making lots of friends. We have had lots of event already this year and held our AGM on 16th November where we had a great turn out. It was great to see lots of new faces! We welcomed 3 new members to the Parents Association committee: **Linda, Lisa and Maggie**. We also say goodbye to Mara and Isabella and thank them for all their hard work and contributions and wish

them well! On that note we would also like to thank Allison Carter for her tireless efforts as our chairperson for the last four years. She has done a fantastic job and now myself and Alison have big shoes to fill taking over the reigns. Thankfully, Ally isn't going to far and will remain a member of the committee.

We'd like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing everyone at the many events we have planned for the rest of the year.

Eliza (Chairperson) &
Alison (Vice chairperson)



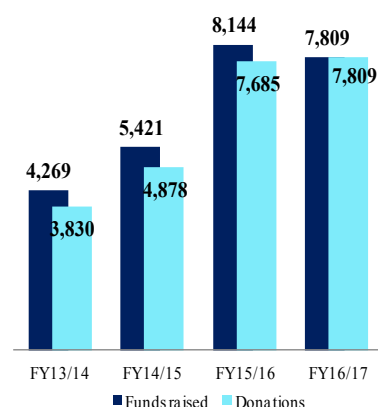
DECEMBER

- * Until 20th—Christmas Shoe Box Appeal
- * 22nd—Christmas Coffee Morning

FEBRUARY

- * Recycling campaign (TBC)
- * Valentines Day Raffle and non-uniform day

Highlights of Finances



Since September the Parents Association Committee have organised four fundraising events:

- * Recycling Campaign - € 405.00
- * Annual Bake Sale - € 713.00
- * Coin Collection - € 503.00
- * Design a Card project - € 756.00

The PA Committee would like to extend abundance of appreciation to all the members of PA who got involved with the above mentioned four events. As you can see from the list, we successfully managed to raise a considerable amount to add to what we managed to raise before the beginning of this academic year.

We would like to wish you all merry Christmas and a successful New Year!!!



Interview with the school's Secretary Mrs. Karen Kelly by Māra Prah



In this edition of the newsletter we selected **Mrs Karen Kelly** for interview to know a bit more about the longest serving member of staff of our school. This is an interesting interview and I hope our readers enjoy it.

Our readers will like to know a bit more about you. Could you briefly tell us where Mrs Karen has come from?

I have been working in Citywest & Saggart CNS since it opened in September 2012. I always had a passion for working with children. I qualified with a National Certificate in Pre-School Care in DIT, Cathal Brugha Street. I went on to work in a nursery for 15 years. As well as this, I tutored children with dyslexia. I took up the role of supervisor in a crèche under the Education Training Board and was in that role for 7 years prior to taking up the post in Citywest & Saggart CNS. I enjoy dealing with parents, children and teachers and love the challenging and varied nature of the job.

What circumstances made up your mind to take up the role as the administrator of Citywest & Saggart Community National School?

In the summer of 2012, the VEC, (now the ETB) were left with no option but to withdraw their childcare services. As a long term employee of the VEC I was given the option of redundancy or redeployment. I choose redeployment. All the former crèche staff were sent on a computer course to brush up on their office skills, as the new jobs would be office jobs. After one day computer training I was told, the perfect job had been found for me. A new school was opening in Citywest. They had only A Principal and it would be great if I could go to the school and help answer the phones. Little did I know that I would be still here six years later answering the phone.

Have you ever thought about a different career? If so what?

At my age I don't think I would like a different career. During my college years I worked in Mc Donalds in O'Connell Street, then for fifteen years I worked in a large Day nursery in Dublin's Mountjoy Square, a job I really loved. I have met many of the children while away on holidays in recent years both in Ireland and in Spain. About three years ago I was stopped while walking to the Square by one young lady (a child who attended the day nursery) who now attends IT Tallaght. The parents and children always have stories and memories to share when they meet me, they seem to never forget the first person they handed their two or three year old child over to. At this stage I had three children of my own and after my maternity leave I decided to take a career break and never went back. My career then took another turn and I started working with Dyslexic children. This was the most rewarding job I have ever had. Both my eldest son and youngest son have dyslexia and it was in an effort to help my eldest son that I fell into this role. This summer my eldest son qualified as an engineer. Making all the years of worry and support worthwhile. The last job I had before joining the VEC was in Ard Mor Montessori school, just down the road from Citywest and Saggart CNS, I stayed here for about two years before being offered a the job of Creche Supervisor for the VEC. So I have my share of jobs and this is the one that makes me happiest.

What do you make of the last six years?

The last six years have flown by. The school started with just 19 students. If we got 20 students we could get a teacher. A couple of days before the deadline for pupil numbers the local

health nurse called the school to ask if we had a place in junior infants, this child became our 20 pupil and Ms Doherty could start teaching in Scoil Niamh CNS. How things have changed since then? We have waiting lists every September for nearly all year groups. I have never experience anything like the hard work that the teachers put into every school day. Many afternoons I would go home at three pm and return to the school the next morning and the school would have a new look, be it a new display in the lobby, corridors, or staff room letting me know that work continues late into the afternoons.

Tell us about three people who have most influenced your own education and the career?

School and the education system have changed so much since I was in school. The person or people who influenced me the most are my mam and dad. Mam always wanted her children educated. She led by example returning to education in her early 50's. Mam is always there, even if it's just childcare or a few words of wisdom that is needed in that moment. Dad on the other hand instilled his work ethic on me. I do think that life it's self is a great teacher. I have found as I go through life I do things very different now than I did when I started working.

After the hard day's work what are your pastime?

Being a mam, until recently I didn't have much free time, I spent most of my time in my car, sitting in traffic going to swimming lessons, dropping my daughter to gymnastics and my sons to football. Now thankfully they can all swim, the gym has moved and it is within walking distance for gymnastics and my older son can drive himself to football I have some free time. I like to read books, make jigsaws, listen to music and enjoy a bit of peace. I also like to travel.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal by Alison Bannister

Christmas is fast approaching and for the homeless and those less fortunate it can be a very difficult time. The Parents Association are running our **Shoe-box Appeal** again this year with that in mind. This is a really lovely project that the kids can help with. Once again we are donating the shoeboxes to **Tallaght Adventure World & Visit** who work with those less fortunate within our community to provide a Christmas Day meal this

Christmas.

Here's' what to Do:

- * Pack a shoebox and label it Male, Female, Boy, Girl. (If possible please wrap the shoebox and lid separately as contents need to be checked by the charity before distribution).
- * Fill the shoebox with essentials such as hats, scarves, gloves, socks, underwear, toiletries (no aerosols, mouthwash, hand

sanitizers or perfumes should be included), colouring pads & pencils, cuddly toy, sweets, selection box. Another nice suggestion is to include a blank Christmas card and a stamped envelope.

- * Drop your shoebox back to the school **by Wed 20th December**. It can be left under the Christmas tree in the lobby.

We really hope as many people as possible help us out again this year.

Thank you.





Highlights of our autumn events



DESIGN A CARD by Melissa Harman

In October we started our annual **Design a Card Project**. Many schools in Ireland participate in a yearly fundraising Christmas Card project. As Citywest and Saggart CNS is a multi-denominational school, we have been fortunate to work with an Irish company called 'Design a Card' that suits the needs of our school.

The children designed some really lovely artwork! Thank you to the family and friends of the children in the Infant classes who came into school and assisted with the card designs. The majority of cards were designed with Christmas drawings and greetings but Birthdays, Thank yous, Easter, Halloween, Eid, Diwali, Happy New Year and Abstract art was also represented.

We were delighted with the response. Out of 314 children, 170 orders were placed raising a total of **€756** for our school. It is very special for family and friends to receive a personally designed card, especially for those of us who have family abroad. Thank you to everyone who supported our school in this way.



BINGO NIGHT by Eliza-Jane Branning

We held our 2nd annual Bingo night on 24th November! It was another great success and a lot of fun!

Thank you to all families for showing up and showing support, we had a great turn out. It was a great night, I'm sure everyone who attended will agree that all grown up and kids had so much fun.

Congratulations to all the Bingo winners on the night. After the Bingo ended the party began with our fantastic DJ who had everyone up on the dance floor by the end of the night!!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by Allison Carter

The AGM of the CSCNS Parents Association was held on **Thursday 16th November** last in the school at 7.30pm. It was a very informative evening. There was a quick run through of what the PA does and who is involved. We also had a visual look back at our events from this year. We were thrilled to have **Trevor Higgins**, Parent Coach, as our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting talk about Parent Coaching and what it is. There is a possibility that we will look at running some workshops with him in the new year if there is enough interest from parents. We will be in touch in due course about this. We were delighted to present our acting principal Mrs Daly with a cheque for **€8000**, the proceeds of all our fundraising efforts this year, which I think we can all agree was an amazing result! Thanks again for your support throughout the year. **A big thank-you to the parents who came along on the night**. We were absolutely thrilled with the turnout, the best attendance at any AGM to date. It is clear to see that lots of parents liked the idea of a night off homework in return for their attendance!! We also held a raffle and one lucky parent won a lunch voucher for two at McGettigans restaurant in Kingswood. **We hope to see many more of you there next year.**



BAKE SALE by Eliza-Jane Branning

We held our annual **Bake Sale** on 27th October and it was another fantastic success. Well done to all the amazing bakers, we had some amazing home baked goods again this year! Thanks to everyone who donated all the baked goods and all those who came along and purchased on the day to help raise funds. We raised **€750**. Congratulations to our winner of the raffle **Natalja**, who won the fabulous cake!



RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

by Allison Carter

We held yet another recycling event in October this year and are delighted to announce that it was another hugely successful event raising **€405!!** Obviously, we are thrilled with this result.

Watch our Facebook page for information as we plan to hold another recycling day early in the new year as parents had requested we hold these events on a more regular basis.

As soon as we have our next date confirmed we will let you know!! We will write to you in the new year with a reminder of what items are accepted.



Business Directory

Electrician

Eddie Harman, ph: 087 936 7342

KB Painting & Decorating Service

Karl Breslin, ph: 086 898 9179

kbpaintingdecoratingservice@gmail.com or Facebook

Plastering contractors

Ben Griffin, bgplasterers@gmail.com



ALLWAYS TRAVEL

28 Georges Street Arcade, Dublin 2

01-6728805

Do you have a business that you would like to include in the Business Directory? If so, contact cscnspace@gmail.com



cscnspace@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/citywestsaggartCNSParentsAssociation/

Students Awards & Achievements by Melissa Harman

The Parents Association Committee is delighted to recognise the following students who have had success in their chosen afterschool activities:

Ballet:

Sarah Maher, Sofia Morgan, Zoe Fitzpatrick, Holly Glanville and Rebecca Carter danced at the official launch of The Irish Board of Dance Performance (IBDP) at The Maldron Hotel Newlands Cross in November. The IBDP is Ireland's very first Irish run Dance Examinations Board for Ballet and Modern Dance and works in conjunction with The Irish Board

of Speech and Drama.

Taekwondo:

Darragh O'Neill from Room 4 Senior Infants attends Newlands Taekwondo club in Clondalkin. He was recently Graded and awarded his Red Strip.

Very well done everyone!!! If your child has an award or achievement that you would like recognised, please email Melissa Harman at melharman78@gmail.com



Committee Members of the Parents Association 2017/18



From far left to right: Nicola Fitzpatrick, Paula Moyles (Treasurer), Rosie McGovern, Eliza-Jane Branning (Chairperson), Lisa Doyle, Allison Carter, Linda Morton, Gillian Doyle (Secretary), Alison Bannister (Vice chairperson) and Melissa Harman. Maggie Butterfield is not present.

