



Parents Association Newsletter

A Spring Note from the acting principal Mrs. Amy Daly

Welcome all to the spring edition of our wonderful Parents' Association Newsletter!

As usual, it's been a very busy term in Citywest & Saggart Community National School. All of the teachers and children have been working hard, teaching and learning. But it's not all hard work, with lots of fun and exciting curricular and extra-curricular activities ongoing.

Shortly before the holidays, 3rd & 4th Class travelled on the luas to visit the National Gallery as part of their visual art education. They got a tour of some of the highlights of the gallery, including works of Jack B. Yeats.

Senior Infants have been busy learning about the Post Office, practising oral language in the role play area of their classroom. What better way to put their new language into practise for real than to visit Citywest Post Office? The boys and girls each posted a letter to their homes and I'm sure were very excited when it arrived in their letterbox.

This term also held an exciting development for our school, the first time Citywest & Saggart CNS entered teams into competitions with other schools! This came first in the form of two teams representing our school in the Credit Union Quiz. The boys and girls put lots of effort into brushing up their general knowledge, led by Ms. Bates and encouraged by their parents. They did us very proud. Following this, on 13th March, we will have two soccer

teams representing the school in FAI Primary 5s competition. The boys and girls teams will travel to Irishtown Stadium and will wear our school jerseys for the first time! We wish them the very best of luck.

We celebrated Maths Week with lots of maths games and puzzles. Boys and girls were encouraged to put on their maths eyes, to spot maths all around them in the environment. First Class upwards were asked to use our lovely new iPads to take photographs of maths in the environment and ask their classmates questions about the maths they saw. Lots of Moms, Dads, Grannies and Grandads came to play

the children from First Class upwards will have been presented with their official CSCNS library cards by Ms. Whyte.

Coming up after the holidays, we are looking forward to engaging with the Zeeko Internet Safety programme, for pupils, teachers and parents. I encourage all of the parents of Second, Third and Fourth Class children to complete the survey sent out with their child and to attend the parents workshop on Monday, 9th April. We will also begin the term with Human Rights Month which is very important to us, as a Community National

School. As in previous years, each year group will learn about one of the nine grounds of discrimination and how we should always strive to treat everyone with respect and kindness, no matter our differences. The children will also learn about some of their rights and the responsibility that go along

with those rights. Most of this learning will be story based, with art and discussion playing an important part also. Be sure to talk to your child about what they are learning about.

I wish you all a lovely break from the routine of school over the next two weeks. I am looking forward to welcoming all the boys and girls back refreshed and full of enthusiasm for the third term.



Maths4Fun with the boys and girls, much to the delight of their children. This term we also celebrated Literacy Week and although it was cut short by the Beast from the East, I'm sure lots of the boys and girls enjoyed "reading in unusual" places while the school was closed, to enter the Literacy Week competition. In the lead up to Literacy Week, a number of parents have been working tirelessly, covering books in our library. It is hoped that by the time this newsletter is published all of

Greetings from the PA Committee Vice Chairperson A.Bannister

Hi everyone!

It's hard to believe that the second school term is over especially after all that extreme snowy weather. It was hard to believe that it was actually March. I hope all the children, big and small, had lots of fun in the snow though.

We have lots of events coming soon which you will read about in this issue and we look forward to your continued support.

port.

If anyone has any suggestions or wishes to contact the committee please email:

cscnsa@gmail.com

I hope you all have a very enjoyable Spring Break and to those of you who celebrate it, have a very happy Easter. See you all next term.

Alison



**DATES
FOR YOUR
DIARY**

MARCH

♣23rd—Bake Sale

APRIL

♣20th—The Big Quiz night

♣Sponsored Walk/Relay (in May, TBC)

♣Family Fun Day (in June, TBC)



A new beginning for our Parents Association. On December 6, 2017 the Parents Association Committee appointed a new chairperson in **Mrs Eliza-Jane Branning**. This is an informative interview and I hope our readers will know a bit more of the new development of our Association.

Could you briefly tell us about yourself, where you have come from? What were your childhood dreams?

I grew up in a very loving and happy home. I have my two parents who on 25th March will be celebrating 50 years of marriage. I have 3 siblings, my older brother and sister and my twin sister. We are a very close family but of course growing up, you argue with your siblings but as we have all grown we are now all very close and best of friends. I grew up in Dublin where both my parent are from and went to our local schools in Templeogue. I used to dream about travelling and even considered a career with an airline to see the world but that never panned out, I guess life had other plans. I married a guy from America so before we settled down to have kids, we done a lot of weekend getaways to places around Europe as we both wanted to see as much as we could. We had regular visit to the US to visit his family and friends and even now with 3 kids try to get there every 2nd year or so!



How do you evaluate your first 100 days as the newly elected chairperson of the Parents Association Committee?

To be honest since I took over the reigns in November to date, this would probably be our quietest time for events, just a few small ones here and there so really hasn't been too bad. Its now starting to get to our busy time arranging some of our big events, table quiz and family fun day, I'm starting to feel the pressure a bit more....lots to keep on top of and ensure dates and events are getting booked early to avoid last minute panic. I'm lucky to be coming in as 2nd chairperson since the PA was formed as we have a lot of annual events set in stone and know the process at this stage after 4 years of being part of the PA committee!

What are the biggest challenges facing the Parents Association Committee right now?

I suppose the biggest challenges is trying to get Parents engaged and involved in events and recruiting new parents annually to join the committee. The Parents Association committee is there for the benefit of the entire CSCNS

community, it success relies on continued support from all families of the school and we always welcome anyone who wants to get involved or seeing new faces at all our events! I think we are very lucky so far with the funds we have raised for the school and what it has been able to provide for our children... it's all our children who are getting to benefit from what is raised!

Where do you think the Parents Association Committee is headed in the next three (3) years?

As the school is growing we hope to see new faces joining us and a more diverse representation on the committee. We may look to get involved in more Community run events and build stronger relationships between CSCNS and the broader community. As the children are getting older, I would hope in the future that we can get the kids involved with helping and planning of events.

What is the Parents Association Committee trying to achieve? Why is this important?

There a number of reasons a Parents Association exists but I suppose our main goal is fundraising. The funds that we raise through our various events are used to purchase additional equipment that is not funded by the Department of Education such as iPads, science equipment, music equipment, additional maths equipment, the sensory room etc. I believe these additional tools are vital to enhancing our children's education experience. In line with the ethos of the school our events are centered around community and are designed to bring Parents, student and teachers together in fun and entertaining ways and help build lasting friendships.

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

First and foremost my parents who instilled in me the core values which has made me the person I am today, such as importance of family, working hard, friendship and respect.

I had a teacher in Secondary school Mr Cosgrave who was my tutor "Registration teacher" who was one of those teachers, who was strict in a good way, made school fun, arranging outings for our class to movies, ice rink, adventure parks and always told me I was "good enough" to do what I set my mind to.



And lastly, later in life, my husband, who I met through work and has always backed and supported me in anything I wanted to do and pushed me when I needed it.

Do you have any heroes?

In all honesty, the first person I would say is "My Dad" As a lot of girls are, I am truly a Daddy's girl, I look like him and look up to him. He worked hard all his life to give us a great childhood! As a grown woman today, I still go to my Dad with problems or worries and he is always there to support me. He is an amazing Grandad to my kids and idolizes his Grandchildren!

Being mum of three and the chairperson of PAC can be a stressful. What do you do to relax?

Haha... relax, what is that? I love to spend time as a family whether it be family days out or just relaxing at home with the kids. I suppose for my own time, I try go walking at least a few days a week, it helps clear the cob webs and the head! I love to spend time with friends, going out for food and a few glasses of wine! There's not a lot of spare time with 3 kids so in the evening I like to unwind watching some TV! Right now loving "The Good Doctor" and "The Brave" and some other US dramas!!

What do you wish for your readers?

I suppose I wish that from reading my answers, they learn a little more about the PA chairperson and that I am just a regular Mom doing what it takes to survive...HA! I hope they learn a little more about what the committee do and why we do it and inspire even a few readers to get involved in some of our next events! **I also want to wish those who celebrate Easter, A very Happy Easter and to all readers a very Happy and enjoyable Spring break.**





Highlights of our winter/spring events



SHOEBOX APPEAL by Allison Carter

In December of last year we held a **Shoebbox Appeal** which aimed to gather together gifts and essential items for the homeless and needy in our community. This is the second year that we ran this event. All the boxes and bags collected were delivered to **Tallaght Adventure World** on the last day of school before we finished up for the Christmas break. Tallaght Adventure World work together with VISIT who are a local charity who help support the homeless in the area. We collected lots of boxes and bags and would like to say a big thanks on behalf of the PA Committee to everyone who donated. We hope that the gifts will have brought smiles to a few faces over what can be a very difficult time of year for a lot of families.



RECYCLING COLLECTION by Allison Carter

Our most recent recycling event was held in February this year and are delighted to announce that it was another hugely successful event raising €350!! Obviously, we are thrilled with this result. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for information as we plan to hold another recycling day later this year as many 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 but it will likely be after the summer holidays when everyone is hoping to clear out their summer gear!! If you feel there would be a need for a third event, maybe just before the summer holidays, just get in touch and let us know!



WINTER POST BOX

by Gillian Doyle

Our Winter Post Box made a welcome return in December. The lobby looked fantastic lit up and decorated so well. Lots of children came in to admire it in the mornings. There was a huge amount of cards posted in our box this year. These were sorted by the parents and delivered to each class on the last day of term. Special thanks to everyone who helped sort through all the cards as it took a lot of hours to sort through. A special thanks to **Mara Prah** and **Ilze Vaitkus** who put so much time and effort into creating this wonderful display for our school.

VALENTINE'S DAY RAFFLE

by Melissa Harman

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we held a raffle on February 14th to win a hamper full of treats including a voucher for a family of four to Dublin Zoo, chocolates, teddies, toys and arts and crafts materials. Raffle tickets were priced at 2 euros and we raised **400 euros** in total. There was great excitement from all the children while they were purchasing their raffle ticket from the parent committee volunteers. All the children wore red or pink to signify the day. Karen pulled the winning ticket and the hamper was won by **Shatakshi** from junior infants. Very well done! Enjoy your day at Dublin Zoo.



Student Council by Melissa Harman



The **Student Council**, organised by **Ms Long**, have been hard at work! Lots of school council time was given to an initiative called **'Playworks'**. This is now up and running and the children are really enjoying all the games out in the yard. The fourth class children are doing a fantastic job of being Playworks lead-

ers. Most recently, the school council planned **'Share a compliment day'** on February 14th. They designed posters and visited all the classrooms to speak about the event to their fellow students. On Valentine's Day, each student gave a compliment to their friends and received one in return.

The Student Council members are elected by their fellow classmates.

The current council members are: **Emma** - Chairperson, **Lauren** - Secretary. **Reece, Dane, Ruby** and **Tegan**.

Great work everyone!



Business Directory



Cleaning services (houses, windows, gutters and everything around the house)

Gabor Lapos, ph: 085 858 5704

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

COCOON CHILDCARE

Ph: 01 419 9999, www.cocoonchildcare.ie

Opening hours 7:30am—18:30pm from Monday to Friday



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



On January 26th eight students from 3rd and 4th class took part in **The Credit Union Schools Quiz** at The Red Cow Hotel. Headed by Ms Bates, they did a wonderful job representing Citywest and Saggart CNS. This was the first time our school has competed in this event. A huge thank you to Ms Bates for tutoring the students and very well done to **Sean, Julien, Naseem, Jakub, Charlotte, Junayd, Tyler and Ismay!!**



Rebecca Curran from 3rd class competed in the Dublin Irish Dancing Championships in February and placed 2nd, 3rd & 4th in her solo dances.

Liam McNamara, Charlie Dunne and Conor Fitzgerald all attend GAA training in St Marys, Saggart. The boys and their football team travelled to Mayo on February 24th to play Kiltimagh, then on to support the Dubs where a great time was had by all! **Keep up the training boys!**



**Citywest / Saggart
Post Primary Parents
Action Group**



NO SECOND LEVEL SCHOOL IN PLANS FOR CITYWEST/SAGGART



We the members of the 'Citywest/Saggart Post Primary Parents Action Group' wish to bring to all families in the school a sense of urgency to the situation regarding lack of a plan by the Department of Education to build a second level school in the CityWest/Saggart area.

In the last 5 years there have been 3 new schools in the area with no post primary/secondary for these schools to feed into. Currently we have **315 children** in our school with an additional **345** in the Educate together and **250** in Scoil Aoife.

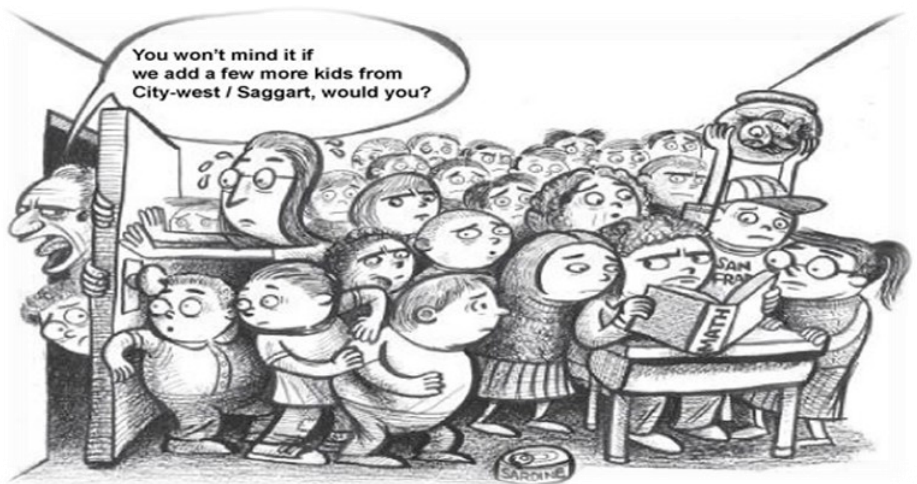
In 2 years time that will be at least **1300** students across the 3 new primary schools.

Where is your child going to go the secondary school??

We are being told by TD's & the dept of Education that there are schools in the plan that will accommodate our children. These schools include Kingswood/Belgard & Firhouse/Oldbawn.

Our children should not be forced to leave their home area to attend a school. If the current solution by the Department of Education is put in place it would see our children travelling up to **18km daily** just to go to school. This is not an acceptable solution to any of us parents.

While some of you parents may only have children in the junior classes of the school we all need to push together **NOW** to



get the department to rethink their plans for our area.

If we got a school into the plan this year it will still not be built until **2020/21** school year. We need to push now before it's too late.

The new school in Kingswood, for example, can only take approx 180 new students each year. For next year with no children feeding from our schools they enrolled 164. What is going to happen 2/3 years time when there are hundreds of additional children from our area looking for places?

Our children will be split up from their friends and peer groups. Potentially traveling up to 2 hours on public transport each day to get to and from school.

This is a crisis ladies & gentlemen!

We need your help & support to push and push the local politicians of our area to get behind us to get our school into the plans for next year.

We will be doing a door to door survey and getting names on a petition for this school.

As the Citywest/Saggart area is quite expansive we are looking for some help with collecting the signatures. Even the smallest area covered will be a great help e.g. if you just did your road. It would help us immensely. Can anyone that is interested in helping with this project email the group directly at this email address:

cs.postprimaryaction@gmail.com



Editor and designer **Māra Prah**
Printing **Joanna and John Hyland**