



Parents Association Newsletter

A Note from the acting principal Ms O.Doherty

WOW, another school year is already coming to an end already. It is hard to believe how fast the year has gone. It has been an exceptionally busy and eventful year with the changeover to the ETB this year as our patron. Next year we will see the official start-up of our **new Board of Management**. This is a long awaited step in the managing of our school. **Congratulations** again to all those who have been elected.

Our Parents Association Committee have been as busy as ever this year and deserve our gratitude for all their hard work which has created many memorable and fun events as well as raising thousands of euros again to purchase school resources for all your children. **A Big Thank you** to all our volunteers who help at events and

keep our much needed Set-down system running.

The school staff grew again this year with a number of new teachers, including our new caretaker (**Mick**). All our staff have worked tirelessly this year. Being a member of a developing school is exciting as well as hard work! **Well done & thanks to all of you!**

There have been many compliments given to the school this year by new and old parents and visitors. The staff along with you the parents have helped create what is a wonderful welcoming atmosphere and a fun learning environment.

Last but not least, the children. Boys and girls, you have completed another year of hard work. Most importantly I have seen countless occasions where you have been kind, gentle and fair. You have been looking after other

children and including others in your games and activities. Your level of respect for each other is growing by the day. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and spend a lots of time outdoors. Have fun reading and being creative. We all look forward to seeing you back in school at the end of August, refreshed and excited about what new things you will learn.

Many thanks to everybody for supporting the school throughout the year. It is truly appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

A Word from PA Committee Chairperson A.Carter

Hi Parents,

Well, who can believe this is our last newsletter before the summer break! I'm sure you are all looking forward to the summer holidays and hopefully we will get some nice weather this year so we can get out and enjoy some sunshine. We have had a

great few months with some fantastic results from recent fundraising events. Our last recycle collection was the best ever!! We have our **Family Fun Day** to look forward to before school finishes and it promises to be a great day. **Look forward to seeing you all there.**



Treasurers Highlights by Paula Moyles

Since the last Newsletter edition, the Parents Association Committee, Parents and Students have been working hard together in raising funds. As mentioned before in previous editions of this newsletter, the funds raised this academic year will be used to purchase extra equipment.

The Parents Association Committee has been working tirelessly in organising events that have raised a considerable amount of funds. The latest events we have held in the last few months are:

- ♥ THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT—€ 860.00
- ♥ RECYCLING COLLECTION—€ 520.00
- ♥ NON UNIFORM DAY/RAFFLE—€267.00

We still have the **SPONSORED WALK** and **COIN COLLECTION** events to come. We will have an update in the Autumn edition in September.

The Parents Association Committee will like to extend its gratitude to all helpers, parents and pupils who have contributed to make this year a successful one. Enjoy your summer holidays!



The school is an organization that learns from itself. The school principal needs to work with partners, participate in meetings, establish contacts, provide new opportunities for their teachers, and take effective economic and financial leadership. To realize this, one needs a strong, modern management team to delegate. The deputy is equally a vital cog in the mechanism as the principal. It was a pleasure interviewing **Ms Amy Looney** who is the current acting deputy principal.

What inspired you to be a teacher?

I grew up as the eldest of my cousins on my mother's side, all of whom lived very close-by. My youngest cousin just recently turned four so you can imagine the range of ages! As a teenager, I loved spending time with children and spent a lot of time babysitting my cousins and neighbours. I adore children's sense of curiosity and their excitement. I have very fond memories of my time in primary school and enjoyed everything from maths to art to PE and Gaelige. When considering my options in the Leaving Cert year, the variety of a primary school day appealed to me. You could be putting on a drama as Gaelige in the morning, sculpting a vase between breaks and experimenting in science in the afternoon. I knew I would never get bored!

Did you want this career as a child? What were your childhood dreams?

When I was in primary school, I definitely wanted to be a teacher! I looked up to my teachers and distinctly remember one, Mrs. Harrington, who I wanted to be like when I grew up. Thinking back now, I was definitely influenced by my Mom who is a secondary school teacher and my Dad who had a carpentry and construction business. I enjoyed looking at Dad's plans and imagining the buildings. I sometimes persuaded my Dad to let me go to work with him on a Saturday! I loved nothing more than climbing around building sites and up on the scaffolding while Dad wasn't looking (that was all before SafePass was introduced!).

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

Yes, by the time I got to secondary school teaching was a little bit down my list of career choices. I thought I would like to work with maths or science, maybe with some sort of artistic element as these

were the subjects I enjoyed most. Architecture majorly appealed to me (possible influence by growing up with Dad's plans around the house) and still does. I went to an all-girls secondary school which didn't facilitate practical subjects or tech graph. I think I would have loved these and had I done them, it might have been enough to push me to pursue architecture or engineering. As the CAO deadline loomed however, I knew I would definitely enjoy the variety of teaching, spending time with children and the work-life balance that it offered.



Do you feel that you have had an impact on the students that you've taught?

I hope so! Teaching Junior Infants for my first two years in Citywest & Saggart CNS was such an experience. I think, as Junior Infant teacher you are such an important person in a small child's life as they begin their educational journey. I hope I have provided them a safe, friendly and supportive environment to begin to build their education. It was lovely to teach some of those children again this year, now in 2nd Class to see how they've grown and matured. Even in 2nd Class I still get pictures drawn and cards made for me which is so lovely and I guess means I must be doing something right in their eyes.

What do you hope to achieve by being a teacher? Are you happy so far with what you have achieved as being a teacher?

What I love about a primary school in particular is the community it creates. I come from a small but very strong community in mid-Cork where everybody knows each other's name and looks out for each other. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. I love that a school can create that beautiful community closeness where it otherwise may not happen. I am delighted to be a part of the lovely community that I can see building here in Citywest, which is a collective achievement of all of us staff, parents, children and other community members.

Tell us about the three people who have most influenced your own educa-

tion and educational career.

I couldn't pick three people, so I've given you three groups:

- (1) My mother, as a teacher herself, and my father have had a huge influence on my education. They provided me with every possible educational opportunity as I grew up. As well as the opportunities, they also provided guidance. I wasn't always the most dedicated student and often found much better ways to spend my time than doing my homework or studying! I am grateful now that Mom and Dad knew better and made sure I did it anyway.
- (2) I am very lucky to have grown up with a very close extended family. They were always there to offer encouragement and congratulations as I progressed through my education. More than once, I knocked on an aunt or uncle's door with my laptop and books looking for a quiet space to work.
- (3) I have been extremely fortunate in my educational career so far. We work very hard developing our school each year but being part of such a young staff has provided me with lots of opportunities to take responsibility for and introduce new different initiatives and innovations. The support and trust of Séamus should you use Mr Conboy or is first names grand? and Orla has allowed me to progress my educational career in a way that I had never imagined.

Tell us about a golden teaching moment?

Realising at Christmas time in Junior Infants that the children were now beginning to read and write sentences, something that they couldn't do in September was magical! I don't think much can beat teaching a child to read and write.

What is the best and the worst part about your job?

Best - great people, children and friends on staff. Worst - paperwork!! I'd love to just teach all day!

Teaching can be a stressful job. What do you do outside of school to relax?

I try to keep active as much as I can in the evenings and at the weekends. This could take the form of cycling, swimming, hill walking, tag rugby, going to the gym, basically anything that gets me moving. I usually need a goal to motivate myself to be consistent though so at the moment I'm training for a half-marathon and then I've an aquathlon coming up in the summer (I wanted to brush up on my swimming before going on holidays!). I also enjoy cooking and baking, trying out new recipes both healthy and deliciously unhealthy.

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:

Human Rights Poster Competition:

During Human Rights Week, the school held a Poster Competition where the students were asked to design a poster based on the Human Rights Theme that their year was studying. The winners were as follow:

Junior Infants: **Lydia Zmuda**, Room 1

Senior Infants: **Mikolaj Januszewski**, Room 4

1st Class: **Aaron Doyle**, Room 8

2nd Class: **Reece Harman**, Room 11

3rd Class: **Zofia Kopiczynska**, Room 6

Overall School Winner: **Leona O'Loughlin**, Room 10.

Ballet:

The **Junior Infant** class from *Citywest Ballet Studio* were awarded their **Twinklesteps Level 1** Certificates and Medals! Very well done to Sarah Maher, Kara Bayle, Lidia Zmuda, Ceila Boylan, Abigail Quinn, Holly Boyle, Anais-Tiana

Bakala, Sofia Morgan, Zoe Fitzpatrick, Sara Delagic Grbic, Rebecca Carter, Izabella Mlodzik, Emma and Meeyah.

The **Senior Infant** class from *Citywest Ballet Studio* were awarded their **Twinklesteps Level 2** Certificates and Medals! Very well done to Grace Hannigan, Rada Sazenova, Mariami Aptsiauri, Amelia Pilarska, Emma Murphy, Holly Glanville, Aleksandra Mezecka, Chloe Williams, Ava Dunne and Mia Bayle. This class also took their first Ballet Exam and were awarded their **Pre-liminary 1** Certificates and Medals from the **Irish Board of Dance Performance (IBDP)**.

1st and 2nd class students from *Citywest Ballet Studio* were all awarded their **Pre-liminary 2** Certificates and Medals from **The Irish Board of Dance Performance (IBDP)**. Congratulations to Alannah Cheetham, Grace Kelly, Lucie Reilly, Teagan Doyle, Nina Skorupska, Nicole



Danisz, Tegan Delaney, Ruby Maher, Emma Cuffe, Jack Macdonald Kelly, Rebecca Curran, Leona O'Loughlin and Idalia Janowska.

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



First Holy Communion

by Eliza-Jane Branning

On **Sunday 28th May 2017**, thirsty nine (39) children from 2nd Class made their **Holy Communion** in St Mary's Parish Saggart at the 11:30am mass.

The day was beautiful, we were so lucky there was no rain and even the sun came out for them. All the children were looking their best! All the children participated in the ceremony by doing readings, carrying up gifts and symbols, which represented the school. They were a credit to the school and their parents.

The parents of 2nd Class would like to say a **big Thank you** to **Ms Whyte**

for all the organization and preparation for the children on this very important day.

We would also like to thank their class teachers, **Ms Looney** and **Ms O'Driscoll** for supporting them through the year and preparing them for the big day.

Thank you to the parents from 1st class who helped with putting the lovely spread and party together at the school after the ceremony.



Highlights of summer events by Alison Bannister

THE BIG QUIZ

We held this event on Friday 5th May 2017 in the main hall of St Mary's GAA club. Although it was a smaller turnout than previous years, it was a good fun night enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The highlight round had to be the Arts and Crafts, it never ceases to entertain! We had fantastic raffle prizes as usual and the DJ afterwards was great.

This year we raised just over **€1000** so thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets and took part in the quiz.

MAY RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

This was the largest recycling collection so far. It seems that May is a good month as everyone loves a good clear out before the summer starts. In total we had 1040Kg of recyclables which generated a whopping **€520**, the most raised yet.

Thanks to everyone who dropped off their bags full of unwanted clothes and textiles. We will be holding another collection in the Autumn.

SPONSORED WALK

The annual sponsored walk was held in the morning of Friday the 16th May as part of Active Week. The children, teachers and parent volunteers walked from the school as far as Carrigmore Park and back again.

Thank you to all the parents, family and friends who sponsored the children.

All the funds raised in these events purchases extra educational equipment for our children and would not be possible without the support of all the parents, so thank you for your continued support.



Summer Camps 2017

by Melissa Harman

It's that time of year again....The nine week summer holiday is upon us!

Please see the flyers for information on Summer Camps run in our school by Mr Kinsella, Ms Looney, Ms Whyte and Ms Larkin. We are very fortunate as a school community to have these excellent camps provided by staff members we know and trust.

You may also be interested in the following camps:

The Jungle Den playcentre

in Naas run a fantastic camp throughout July and August from 9.30am till 2pm Monday-Friday. Children from the age of 4 can attend and it is fully supervised. Activities include baking, arts and crafts, disco, treasure hunts, painting, clay

modeling, pot planting, bouncy castle and of course playtime in the frame!

Contact: 045 834100

Cost: €80 per child. Sibling discounts available.

Tallaght Leisure Centre

run two separate camps throughout July and August. The Little Adventurers Splash Camp for children aged 3-5 years runs from 9.30am till 12.30pm. The Splash Camp for children aged 6-12 years from 9.30 till 2pm. Both camps offer a range of age appropriate sporting activities. The older children swim everyday and the younger children swim on the Friday of each week.

Contact: 01 452 3300

Cost: Splash Camp — €69, Little

Adventurers €43.

Sibling discounts available.

Includes a t-shirt and bag for every child.

The Civic Theatre

in Tallaght are running a musical theatre camp from July 24th - 11th August. The children perform in 'Hairspray' on stage at The Civic at the end of the camp! The Tots camp is suitable for children aged 3-5 years and runs from 10am-1pm. The Main camp is for children aged 6 - 18 years and runs from 10am-4pm. Older children are split into three different age groups.

Contact: 01 4627477

Cost: Main Camp €85 per week, Tots Camp €55 per week.



Happy Campers
Now with added football!!

When:
Monday 3rd to Friday
7th July 2017
9:30am to 1:30pm

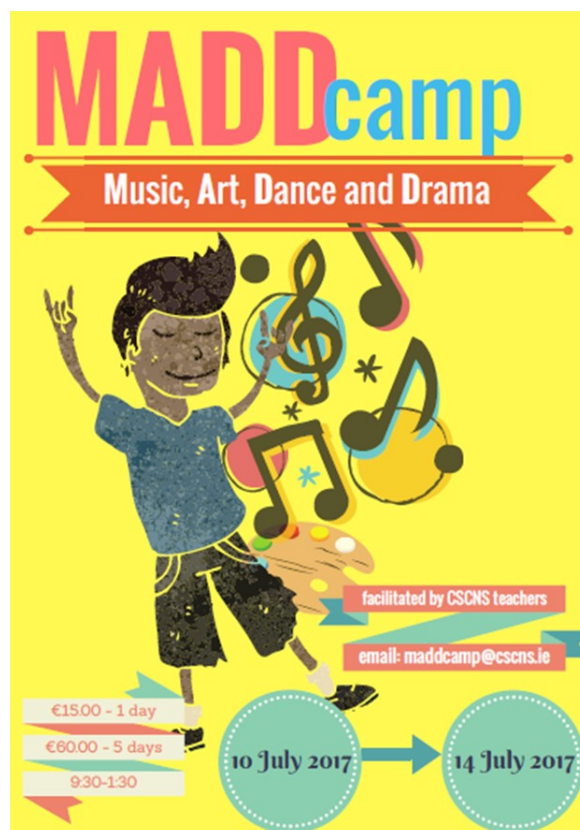
Where:
Summer Camp in
Citywest and Saggart
CNS

What:
Multi-Activity Camp,
including sports, games,
football, arts and crafts
and lots more!

***** Price *****
€65 per child
€50 for each additional sibling

Who:
Ms Looney and Mr. Kinsella

Enrol now at
www.happycamperscscns.weebly.com



MADDcamp
Music, Art, Dance and Drama

facilitated by CSCNS teachers
email: maddcamp@cscns.ie

€1500 - 1 day
€60.00 - 5 days
9:30-1:30

10 July 2017 → 14 July 2017

Business Directory

Electrician

Eddie Harman, ph: 087 936 7342

KB Painting & Decorating Service

Karl Breslin, ph: 086 898 9179

kbpaintingdecoratingservice@gmail.com or Facebook

Magician, Kids Magician, Children's Party Entertainers

Denzil, ph: 086 1002556

denzilthemagician.com or Facebook

Plastering contractors

Ben Griffin, bgplasterers@gmail.com

SportZone—Multi Sport Activity Camps

Ph: 083 422 9833

Email: sportzoneactivitycamps@gmail.com

Facebook: [sportzonecamps](https://www.facebook.com/sportzonecamps) Twitter: [@sportzonecamps](https://twitter.com/sportzonecamps)



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 cscnspa@gmail.com