

Citywest & Saggart Community National School

# Parents Association NEWSLETTER

December 2016 (7)





## A WELCOME FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL MRS O.DOHERTY



Wow! Term 1 is coming already to an end. Time flies when you're having fun. All the children have been working so hard this term and it is great to see how much they have achieved in such a short space of time. It is so wonderful to see all the smiling faces bouncing into the yard in the morning and seeing them busy in their classes throughout the day.

Some highlights this term includes the birth of our six baby chicks, who are now running around their home in Nore Valley Park. Celebrating the joining of our fabulous new Junior Infant children and their families in their Welcoming Ceremonies. Another set of exciting Science workshops with Aaron & Zoe's dad Dave. Our first and very successful incidental inspection from the Department of Education. The fun introduction of Golden Time and playground games. The final transfer of our school

under the patronage of DDLETB. Not forgetting the granting of planning permission for our new school building. The DDLETB informed me today that they are hopeful for a January 2018 opening. Let's keep those fingers crossed!

The hard work of the Parents Association does not go unnoticed. If it wasn't for their commitment we would not have had our wonderful 'Design a Card' morning, the incredibly successful and delicious cake sale, the recycling event that helped us all clear out our closets, and our first ever fun-filled Family Bingo Night. And that's only a few of the things! I think I can speak for the whole school community when I tell them congratulations on achieving such success and a massive thank you for an astounding fundraising total of over €8000 since last November! Other schools are in awe of our PA.

Next term we will look forward to a momentous occasion in our school – the establishment of our first Board of Management! We will be looking for parent nominations for which all the parents in the school will be given the opportunity to vote in two members. We will also be looking for your input into new policies in the school and introducing a new book loan library system for our older classes.

I regret to inform those that did not hear the news at the PA, AGM or elsewhere that John our very accommodating and hard-working care-taker will finish up with us at the end of this month. We will luckily still get to see him around campus as he is taking up a fulltime role in Citywest Educate Together. We wish him the best of luck in this role and hope our new caretaker, to be confirmed, can take up their role as successfully!

## A WELCOME FROM THE PA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MRS A.CARTER

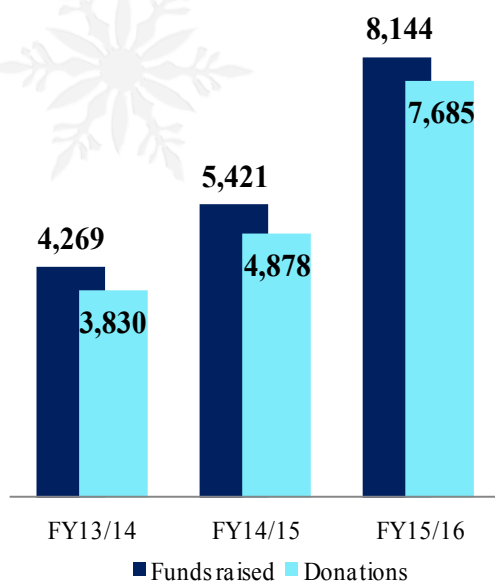


Hi Parents!!! Welcome to our final Newsletter of 2016. I think we will all agree that the first term has been a great one and has passed by within a blink of an eye! We've had some great events over the last few months and our inaugural Bingo Fundraiser was a special night. I can say for sure that all the children who attended enjoyed it thoroughly! I personally was de-

lighted to be interviewed by the children of 1<sup>st</sup> class about my role as Chairperson of the Parents Association and I was delighted to see how really interested they were in what we do.

I would like to wish you all a very relaxing and peaceful winter break and a very Happy Christmas to those celebrating. **See you in the New Year!**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FUNDRAISING by Paula Moyles



2015/2016 was another great year for the Parents Association in terms of fundraising. Last December our treasurer **Anthony Dunne** set a target to

raise **€7,000**. Well, due to the commitment and hard work of our fundraisers, we exceeded the target and made a total of **€8,144** (50% increase from last year). The Parents Association donated **€7,685** to the school (57% increase from last year). With this money the Parents Association funded the purchase of a **new defibrillator**. The Parents Association has also allocated funds to purchase the **new iPads**. Thank you to all the parents for your generosity through the year. We look forward to counting on your contributions for the coming year. As we exceeded our target for this year, we hope to emulate that level of success. At this point the Parents Association will like to wish all its members a merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year!



### FEBRUARY 2017

3rd February—Recycling Collection

17th February—Valentine's Disco

### MARCH

TBC—Movie Night

### MAY

5th May—Quiz Night

26th May—Recycling Collection

by Paula Moyles







## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR AUTUMN EVENTS



### RECYCLING COLLECTION

by Allison Carter

We held yet another recycling event in October this year and are delighted to announce that it was our most successful to date. We managed to raise a whopping **€420!** Obviously, we are thrilled with this result. Further to feedback from some parents we have decided to hold these events on a more regular basis. The next collection will be on **Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and then we will have another one on **Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**. We will write to you in the new year with a reminder and to let you know what items are accepted.

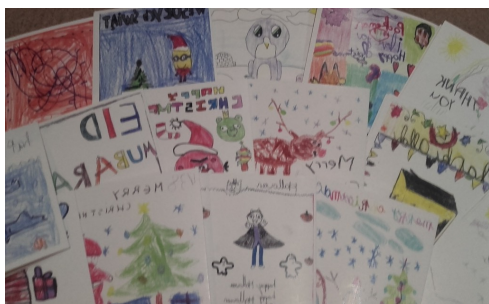


### DESIGN A CARD by Melissa Harman

In October we started our 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 that caters for children of all faiths and non, 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 who came into school and helped with the card designs. The majority of cards were designed with Christmas drawings and greetings but Birthdays, Thank yous, Easter, Holy Communion, Halloween, Eid, Happy New Year and Abstract art was also represented.

We were delighted with the response. Out of 270 children, 167 orders were placed raising a total of **€712** 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.**



### BAKE SALE by Alison Bannister

This year's Bake Sale was the best bake sale so far. This year surpassed previous years. We received a high level of contributions from our parents.

Commencing at 12:30 we had a passing trade from parents collecting from Care & Cuddles preschool to our teachers. The builders from Educate Together even stopped by and bought some of the delicious cakes.

It was all hands on deck as the Junior & Senior Infant classes & their parents stopped by. Once the rush had passed it was time to restock for First, Second and Third classes and their parents. If we thought we were busy at 1.30pm, well, 2.30pm brought it to a completely different level!

On the day we were also selling raffle tickets for our beautiful Halloween themed cake for some lucky family to win. The winning family this year were the Brannings. Well done to **Eliza, Matt, Tyler, Maddie and Sophie.**

Thanks to all who volunteered to help set up and sell cakes throughout the day and thank you to everyone who donated and bought goodies on the day. We raised a massive **€1050**. Any leftover cakes (not that there was very much left) were donated to VISIT a local volunteer outreach service based in Tallaght.



### BINGO NIGHT by Adele West-Curran

This year we held our inaugural benefit night. Each year we would like to run this charitable event in aid of a chosen charity / benefit. This year our bereaved families benefited from the proceeds of this night which amounted to **1200euro.**

It was a super fun night which was enjoyed thoroughly by parents & children alike. We would like to thank St Mary's GAA for their sponsorship of the facilities & the DJ and all parents & families who donated spot prizes.

**Roll on next year!**

### SHOE BOX APPEAL

by Adele West-Curran

As part of our ongoing charitable school events we are currently running a Christmas Shoe box appeal for the homeless. Every donation however little or great is fully appreciated. There are a number of empty shoe boxes still left in the reception and you are invited to fill one with essentials - hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries and treats. If you cannot fill a box you are free to put a donation of any of the above items into the bigger box in reception and we will fill boxes with the proceeds. I'm sure you will all agree that giving a little to people who don't have a lot is a wonderful thing to do at this time of year and really encompasses the ethos of our school.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by Allison Carter

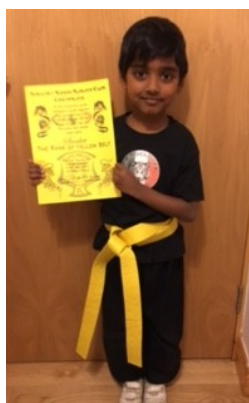
The AGM of the CSCNS Parents Association was held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November last in the school at 7.30pm. It was a very informative evening. We were thrilled to have **Shane Kavanagh** from the Order of Malta as our guest speaker. He gave a training session on Adult and Child CPR as well as a demonstration on how to use the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) which the PA purchased for the school this year. Everyone present thought his presentation was excellent and said they learned a lot. We were delighted to present our **principal Ms Doherty** with a cheque for **€7685**, 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, once again however, disappointed that there were not more parents there on the night.** Out of just over 200 families in our school there were only approximately 30 families represented which is a shame. The Committee of the Parents Association and our helpers work very hard during the school year to organise events that parents and children alike will enjoy. Thanks to our efforts we will be purchasing iPads for the school shortly. We hope to see more of you at our AGM next year so you can hear more about what we do!



## STUDENTS AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS by Melissa Harman



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



**Karate:** Sanket Sridhar from room 9 trains at Saggart Kenpo Karate club at St Mary's GAA. He was awarded his Yellow Belt in the recent club Gradings.

**Ballet:** Leona O'Loughlin, Selina Prah, Pola Nowicka, Rebecca Curran,

Toshia Deptula, Idalia Janowska and Olivia Lukasik-Bramore were awarded their Pre-Primary Classical Ballet certificate in May through the Imperial Society examinations board. They were the first group of children from Citywest Ballet Studio to take a Ballet exam.

**Swimming:** Noah Quinn and Emma Cuffe from room 8 both take swimming lessons at Tallaght Leisure Centre. They have just been awarded their certificates for graduating from the Improvers level to the Swimmers level.

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](mailto:melharman78@gmail.com)

### Valentines Disco

Our annual Valentines Disco will be our next event in the new term. This is a great event for all the children to celebrate Valentines day and get to have a great time with their friends!! It is organized and supervised by the Parent Association members and will be held in the school PE Hall after school!

### St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's day is a great day to celebrate living in such a great country Ireland. We are famous for our shamrock plant and again this year, the PA Committee will be



arranging to order the fabulous Shamrock lapels and pots for those who wish to purchase. It's a great little momentum to have for the occasion and all the children love having their own

lapels to wear watching the parades and celebrating with their friends!!


### Quiz Night

We won't see the time flying in before our BIG Quiz night comes around again! This event has been run for the last 2 years and has been a great fundraiser and fun night

out for the parents and their families and friends! It is a fantastic night of fun and games, quiz based on all topics, general knowledge, sport, countries, movies and music and lots more so good for all families and nationalities!! We also have a very entertaining Arts and Crafts section which is always brings a lot of fun and comedy!! We are hoping to see as many families at the night as possible and looking forward to getting to know all the new faces to the school this year!!

by Eliza-Jane Branning



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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2016/17



From left to right: Treasurer Anthony Dunne, Mára Prah, Chairperson Allison Carter, Bronagh Cheetham, Alison Bannister, assistant treasurer Paula Moyles, Isabella Gaballo, Rosie McGovern, Gillian Doyle, Melissa Harman and Secretary Eliza-Jane Branning.

