



Parteen National School

Parteen

Co. Clare

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Principal: Gerard Ruane

Deputy Principal: Mairéad Guckian

School Community Newsletter January 2020

A New Year

We wish our school community a Happy New Year. Welcome to Ms. McNamara who is replacing Ms. Cuddy for her maternity leave and Ms. Gallagher who is replacing Ms. Curtin. We congratulate Ms. Curtin on the recent birth of her baby boy!

Reminders

It is a good time of year to look over the 'Reminders 2019-2020' available here:

<https://parteenschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Reminders-for-Parents-2019-2020.pdf>

Enrolment

The closing date for enrolment applications in February 3rd. Enrolment application forms and the enrolment policy are available from the office.

Classroom Assistants

We welcome five classroom assistants, Eve, Emma, Derbhla, David and Kevin, who will be with us until the end of June on placement from the University of Limerick. They are primarily assisting in the larger classes but are timetabled to help in all classes at various stages during the week. Thank you to Ms. Carey for organising this and to Ms. O' Keeffe who assisted with interviews.

Book Fair

We received €2467 worth of books as commission from the book fair. Thank you to all who purchased books, to all teachers for running it with their class and Ms. Carey for organising it.

Bake Sale

€910 was raised from the Christmas bake sale. Thank you to all who contributed and purchased goods and to the Parents Association for running it. This money is going towards the Outdoor Project.

Christmas

Sincere thanks to staff in JI-2nd who put huge work into the Christmas performances. It is greatly appreciated by everybody. Thank you to Ms. Guckian and Fr. Tom for organising the Christmas Mass.

Attendance

November: Girls 93.9% Boys 97%

December: Girls 92.2% Boys 92%

Outdoor Project

The last part of the Outdoor Project to be completed is the pond. Thank you to Mr. Crowe who will be finishing this in the coming weeks. The sensory room is in constant use, all children are timetabled for the playground and all classes will be planting in the vegetable garden in spring time.

First Aid

There will be First Aid classes taking place for sixth class students from Monday 3rd February 2019 from 2.40pm-4pm. If your child is interested please let Ms. Quilty know. Thank you to Ms. Quilty for offering this.

Relax Kids Club

Thank you to Ms Barry and Laura Corcoran who will run Relax Kids Club for children in 3rd and 4th class, starting on Tuesday 14th January. The club will run for a 6 week block and will take place on Tuesdays from 2.40-3.45pm. Miss Barry will be sending out information letters to interested children this week.

Chess Club

The chess club will resume on Tuesday 21st of January from 2.40pm-3.40pm. This club is open to all children in 5th and 6th classes. New members and children of all ability levels are welcome. The club will run most Tuesdays until Easter. Dates will be confirmed at the first session. Please let Ms. Needham know if your child is interested in joining this year. Thank you to Ms. Needham for offering this.

Singing Lessons

Singing classes begin on Tuesday 7th January and Friday 10th January for 3rd to 6th class. Lessons are from 2.45pm to 4.00pm in Ms. Sheahan's classroom and children must be collected promptly. Both Tuesday and Friday classes are full - a waiting list will be created for any other students wishing to join.

Choir

The school choir will be busy over the next two months preparing for the Limerick Choral Festival which takes place on Friday February 28th in the Redemptorist Church, Henry St. Thank you to Ms. Parkinson and Ms. O' Keeffe for their ongoing work.

School Photographs

Eamon Andrews will be here on Thursday, January 16th to take photographs. Information will be sent home with the children.

School Building

We have applied for an extension to our school hall. When building the last extension, we allowed space for the hall to be doubled in size. We have made several applications for this extension and as of yet the Department have not had funding available.

Board of Management

The following are the members of our Board of Management 2019-2023:

Seamus Gallagher: Patron Nominee (Chairperson)

Deirdre Goode: Patron Nominee

Gerard Ruane: Secretary of the Board of Management

Olivia Parkinson: Teacher Nominee

Jan O'Sullivan: Community nominee

Siobhán Hickey: Community nominee

Mike Quaid: Parent Nominee

Emma Hogan. Parent Nominee

Thank you to our outgoing teacher nominee, Cathal Crowe, for his work and commitment.

You will find all BOM Agreed Reports here: <https://parteenschool.ie/bom/>

Information on Boards of Management

Boards of Management are in-charge of the school. They appoint a Principal to run the school on their behalf. Here is some guidance, from the Catholic Primary School Management Association Newsletter 57/2019, which Boards of Management must follow:

Board members should be advised that they are not delegates of those who have elected them. They should not report back to or take instructions from them in relation to Board matters. Parents are elected to bring a parents perspective to Board matters. Teachers are elected to bring a teachers perspective to matters arising at Board meetings and community nominees bring the wider community perspective to the Board.

Board members should be advised that the Board operates as a corporate unit and that decisions are arrived at by consensus or by vote. Discussions at Board meetings are confidential and members of the Board cannot publicly criticise or make negative comments about Board decisions, irrespective of their own personal views on any particular issue.

At the end of each Board meeting, the Board should prepare an agreed report of the meeting for circulation. This will support good communication to parents, staff and the wider school community. This report will not include details of any issues which must remain confidential to Board members.

Parent/ Guardian Communication

Parent/ Guardian 'WhatsApp' groups have become increasingly popular in recent years. Similarly many parents/ guardians are on social media sites and communicate with each other regarding their children - this can be great for birthday invitations, play dates etc. We remind parents/ guardians that if they have a complaint/ issue they should call the office to make an appointment and follow the Parental Complaints Policy on our website. We also remind parents/ guardians that information/ photos about children should not be shared on any social media. Thankfully we don't have any issues at the moment and we want to keep it this way.

Kind regards,

Gerard Ruane

Mairéad Guckian