

ROBERTSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Newsletter SPRING 2014 ISSUE 6

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EMAIL YOUR ASSOCIATION
RNSPARENTSASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM

BE PART OF YOUR PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Your Parent's Association

Parent's opinions matter and your feedback and involvement in your Parent's Association is essential for positive change to take place. Tell us what you would like the Committee and/or the School to focus on, what ideas you have for fundraising, what you would like to see more or less of, how we can work to do things differently. One of the Committee's prime goals is to represent parents' views, opinions and ideas to School Management. It is really important for us to receive feedback, both negative and positive from the general parent body.

It continues to be a challenge for the 6-strong committee members to represent the 400-strong parent body. At our AGM in 2013 at the start of the new school year we had merely 1 parent attend the AGM. It is critical for the committee to have some help from parents if we are to continue organizing events.

The Parent's Association Committee meets every month at the school. Parents can join us at any of these meetings. Approach one of the committee or email rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com for the date of the next meeting. Every parent is automatically a member of the Parent's Association and it is important that every parent feels like they have a voice. You can voice your opinions by attending the Parent's Association Committee meetings.

The National Parent's Council guidelines state the Chairperson's role "may be shared/rotated among the members which allows for committee members to gain experience of different roles and responsibilities" (www.npc.ie). In line with this, and due to personal commitments of Caroline Whyte the Committee commenced rotation of this position among it's members. Suzanne Dodson was Chairperson from mid-November until mid-January 2014. Sharon Kelly will fill the position until mid-March 2014.

Adeline Barbour will then fill the position for the remainder of the year.

2013/14 PA Committee is as follows:
Caroline Whyte as Chairperson 1/9/13-15/11/13

Delia Lynch as Secretary

Sharon Kelly as Treasurer (currently serving as rotating Chairperson)

Frances Whelan as Vice Treasurer

Suzanne Dodson for Communication

Adeline Barbour – Rotating Chairperson

We know how busy parents are and how important your children's education is to each of you. We know it is not always possible for parents to attend meetings or volunteer to help out at events. However, we want to make it easy for parents to feel like they have a say in what happens in the school and to contribute in a way that is convenient for your own personal circumstances.

Please do feel free to get in touch and let us know if there is something you think we can be working on.

RNS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MISSION

In line with the education act 1998 the Robertstown N.S. Parent's Association shall promote the interests of its pupils in co-operation with the board, principal, teachers and students. We will devise a program of activities, which will promote the involvement of parents in the operation of the school, in consultation with the principal. The act states that membership of the association is open to all parents of the students of the school.

Event Calendar 2013/2014

March 2014

Monday March 17th

Tuesday March 18th

Wednesday March 19th

St. Patrick's Day-School Closure

April 2014

Friday April 11th

Half Day (before Easter Break)

Monday April 14th - Friday April 25th

Easter Break

May 2014

Monday, May 5th

May Bank Holiday – School Closure

Saturday, May 10th

1st Holy Communion – 2pm Allen Church

Wednesday May 21st

Confirmation 2:30 – Allen Church

Thursday May 22nd

Scholastic Book Fair

(For One Week)

June 2014

Monday June 2nd

June Bank Holiday – School Closure

June (Date to be confirmed)

School Fun Day

Monday June 30th

Half Day for Summer Holidays

August 2014

Thursday August 28th

Return to school after Summer Holidays

Important Safety Issues

As you are aware there have been safety issues arising from parents parking in front of the teacher's carpark gate and the school wall. We urge parents to be mindful of the safety of our children. It is not possible to walk safely along the front of the school, and children & parents have had to walk out onto the road to pass parked cars.

Treasurers Highlight

Sharon Kelly, our Treasurer maintains a set of accounts for the Parent's Association. An updated set is available to view (including meeting minutes) in the school office.

The PA were able to make a donation of euro 1,700 towards the purchase of 2 white board projectors for the school. Further spending included the purchase of selection boxes for the children at Christmas, school photos and Halloween Walk treats. The Parent's Association income came from the Halloween Walk, School Photos, November Coppers and the Christmas Raffle. Please see below for a summary of accounts for 2012/13 and 2013/14

2013/14 School Year	
Accounts Highlights	€
Halloween Walk	177.80
School Photos	898.00
Christmas Raffle	317.00
November Coppers	443.99
Total Income	1,836.79
Expenses	(729.00)
Net Profit	1,107.79

2012/13 School Year	
Accounts Highlights	€
Pancake Day	379.10
Green Day	135.30
Cake Sale	359.43
Class Photos	735.00
Xilinx company contribution	199.00
Jersey Day	137.50
Fun Day	1,653.46
Total Income	3,598.79
Expenses	(1,273.23)
Net Profit	2,325.56

What do we plan spending funds on from 2013/14 calendar year?

Christmas selection boxes	300
Fun Day (Proposed)	350
School Maintenance /Notice Board	2,000

Where did your money get spent 2012/13 fundraising?

Easter Treats to Children	236
Fun Day	386
Purchase 2 school projectors	1,700

School Photos

School photos were delivered in late January. Again we would like to apologise for the delay. The committee had problems with the printing company. We will plan to factor in these problems in the future and try our best to avoid them.

We would however like to hear some feedback from parents on the photo sets ordered. For example would parents prefer to be able to order one or two sizes, like the large 8x10 and a couple of 6x4, rather than the small passport size ones? We found this year the photo quality was a little reduced in the small prints.

School Sponsorship

Don't forget Mr. O Donoghue will be representing the school in the "Cube Challenge" in The Hamlet in Johnstownbridge, on Saturday 29th March.

Thank you to Welds (Larry), Dowlings (Gabrielle), Robert Downey of Scaffold Elevation and Daybreak (Liam) for their very generous donations which helped RNS raise the sponsorship needed. RNS would be grateful for any sponsorship, no matter how small, to help reach their target. Please contact Ms. Dillon for more information. It promises to be a great night!

Athletics In Robertstown

The Robertstown & Allen Athletics Club is a locally based club who train twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.45pm until 7.45pm), currently at the GAA grounds. Children aged 6 years and upwards can join. There is a small annual fee which covers juvenile membership to Athletics Ireland, covering insurance and allowing the children to train and compete. In addition, there are weekly subs of €2 per family, per week which helps to pay club costs, including hire of the GAA pitch, lighting etc.

Parents can contact the club via their Facebook page **Robertstown & Allen Parish Athletics Club**. Alternatively, they can come down to the GAA pitch on a Tuesday or Thursday night and chat to any member of the Coaching Group. Coaches are parents who volunteer and the club is always looking for more volunteers.

Are you involved in a local community or sporting group, which you think other parents would be interested in learning about? Contact us by email or grab one of us at the school and we can include a description and contact details in future newsletters.

National Parents Council (NPC)

Please be reminded of the very useful NPC website where parents can access information leaflets such as "Getting Involved In Your Child's Education", "Supporting your child's move from Primary to Post Primary School", "Bullying" and "Homework". All available at www.npc.ie/publications

Student Council Bake Sale

Well done! to the Students Council, Ms. Poole and all of their helpers big & small. They all worked so hard at putting together a great cake sale and raised so much money for playground resources. The children are so looking forward to the new school-yard games & toys.

Getting To Know Our Teachers

We've been getting to know our wonderful teachers a little better by asking them some fun and interesting questions:



Ms. Stynes teaches Senior Infants

Q. What is your favourite colour?

A. Red

Q. What is your favorite hobby?

A. Walking with my dog Henry

Q. What is your favourite place?

A. San Diego, California



Ms. Poole teaches 4th class

Q. What is your favourite food?

A. Coq Au Vin

Q. What is your favourite colour?

A. Purple

Q. What is your favourite hobby?

A. Running



Mr. Donovan teaches 5th & 6th Class

Q. What is your favourite hobby?

A. Soccer & Rugby

Q. What food do you like best?

A. Pizza

Q. What is your favourite song?

A. "Happy" by Pharrell

Word From BOM

It is hard to believe how quickly the year has gone. The children have been working so hard and all the classrooms have been "hives of activity" and I am not surprised the school received an excellent review from the Department of Education and Skills' inspectors during their last visit. Next term promises to be a very busy time for us all, both in and outside of the classroom, and I would like to wish all the children well in the various competitions that are coming up. We have high hopes of bringing some silverware back to the school this year!

A number of issues in relation to the All Weather Pitch are currently being clarified with the installers. We have now passed this on to our insurance company and we hope to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. In the meantime, access is restricted to days that are dry.

We would like to wish a fond farewell to Mr. Brouder who has taken up a position abroad. He will be missed by us all!!! Ms. O'Sullivan will return from her career break next year and we look forward having her back on staff. Children will return to school on Thursday, August 28th after their summer holidays.

The Board of Management will be sending out a draft of the new Anti-Bullying Policy for you to look at before it is ratified. We hope to finalise this at our next meeting.

The Board of Management wish our chairman Aidan Watson a full and speedy recovery. We also would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter.

Mary Dillon
Principal

We Are Writers

The book company Scholastic will host a book fair in the school from Thursday 22nd May for one week. As part of the book fair the children have been asked to put pen to paper (or finger to keyboards) to write a story or a poem etc. Scholastic will then publish our children's work as a book and sell it for Euro 8 at the book Fair.