

Robertstown National School

Parent Association

Newsletter

Winter 2014 Issue 8

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Email your Association
rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com

Merry Christmas from Your Parent Association.



Christmas Plays

The Christmas plays will be held on Thursday the 18th December.

The Junior Infants are performing Whoops-a-Daisy Angel and will begin at 1pm. First Class are doing "The Nativity" and will start at 5pm sharp. Second Class are doing "Baubles" and will follow after a short break at 5:40pm. Sixth Class are performing "The Peace Child" which will start at 6:15pm.

Please leave seats free at the front of the hall for parents of the First Class children. These parents are asked to leave at the end of the First Class concert, freeing up seats for the next concert. Sixth Class parents are asked to wait until the first 2 plays are finished before taking their seats.

There will be parking available at the back of the school. Please take extra care when parking as there will be a lot of children around during this time.

Bring a Bauble

This Friday, 5th December the children can come to school dressed in a Christmas jumper or Santa Hat.

Each child is also being asked to bring in a bauble for the school Christmas tree. The bauble will be sent home with the children on Friday 19th December when they break up for the holidays.

To raise funds for the Village Crib and the cost of sound and light for the Christmas Plays, the school is asking for a donation of €2 per child.

Christmas Raffle

The Parent Association will be holding a Christmas raffle again this year. Tickets will be available at the Christmas plays and can also be purchased from the school from Monday 15th December.

The raffle will be drawn on the evening of December 18th and if you are not attending the Christmas plays you can collect your prize from the school on the 19th before the holidays.

We are looking for donations of items which can be used as raffle prizes. Last year we had some great prizes including vouchers, hamper goodies, bottles of wine, and other gift items.

If you can help, please contact one of the committee in person or by email. You could also drop items into the school office by Friday 12th.

RNS Parent Association committee mission

In line with the education act 1998 the Robertstown N.S. Parent 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 2014/2015

December 2013

Friday December 5th

Bring a Bauble

Sunday December 7th

Christmas Lights

Thursday December 18th

Christmas plays

Friday December 19th - Friday January 2nd

Christmas Holidays

January 2014

February 2014

Tuesday February 17th

Pancake Tuesday

Thursday Feb. 19th - Friday Feb. 20th

Mid-Term/School Closure

March 2014

Thursday March 26th

Easter Bake Sale

Tuesday March 17th

St. Patrick's Day/School Closure

April 2014

Monday March 30th - Friday April 10th

Easter Break/ School Closure

May 2014

Monday May 4th

School Closure

May (Date to be confirmed)

Jersey Day

May (Date to be confirmed)

Confirmation

June 2014

Monday June 1st - Friday June 5th

Mid-Term/School Closure

June (Date to be confirmed)

School Fun Day

June (Date to be confirmed)

Induction Day and Uniform Shop

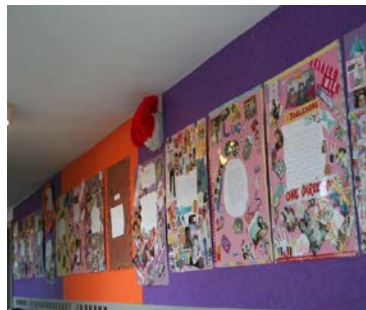
June (Date to be confirmed)

Graduation Day

Parent Association AGM

At the Parent Association Annual General Meeting on Sept 25th, parents received a detailed Chairperson's report from Adeline Barbour, in which she laid out the PA Committee achievements for the past academic year.

Sharon Kelly, presented the Treasurer's report for 2013-2014. Nearly €4500 was raised during the year. Thanks to the support of parents throughout the year the PA were able to contribute to the purchase of new notice boards to display the children's work.



The Principal, Mary Dillon, attended the AGM and spoke with parents about the school's plans for the upcoming academic year and how important parents are in the life of the school.

Parents who could not make the AGM are very welcome to view a copy of meeting minutes, Chair's and Treasurer's reports in Mona's office at the school.

Committee Meetings

The Committee meets on a regular monthly basis. If any parents would like to join us for these meetings, please do drop us an email and we will let you know about our next meeting.

Also, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please send them into your Committee at rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com Other parents may have similar questions and it will be helpful to share.

Your new Committee

The 2013-2014 PA Committee resigned at the AGM. Elections took place and the new committee was elected as follows:

Adeline Barbour as Chairperson (rotating with Suzanne Dodson)
Suzanne Dodson as Secretary
Adeline Barbour as Treasurer
Delia Lynch for Communication

The Committee is happy to welcome Isobelle Howard, Eileen Smal and Mary O'Mahony. Caroline Whyte and Sharon Kelly were also re-elected to the committee.

We would also like to thank Frances Whelan for her time and dedication, not to mention wonderful baking. It is greatly appreciated.



School Photos

Due to issues with suppliers for last year's photos and the amount of time required by the committee to process these orders we have decided that only Class photos will be taken this year.

We hope to organize these to be taken early in the New Year and will keep you all updated closer to the date.

Parking Reminder

As the days get darker and colder there is always an increased level of traffic at the school. When dropping and collecting your children please make way for other parents as soon as your children are safely on the school premises.

Did you know that more children are hit by vehicles near schools than at any other location. Be extra vigilant when parking and backing away from the school as small children are harder to see when there is poor visibility and are not always thinking about the rules of the road.

Make sure that you leave plenty of room in front of your car so that people can pass safely and without stepping out into the road. Please do not double park as this blocks other vehicles from exiting to make way for more vehicles.

Remember to use dipped beams during the winter months and keep a safe speed and distance from other cars.



For children walking to school it might be time to dig out the high vis vests to wear over their coats. This means that cars will be able to see them much earlier, particularly on the path between the hotel and the school.

Halloween Walk



Thank you to all the parents and children for making such a special effort to dress up for the Halloween Walk. Once again the costumes were fantastic and the children enjoyed getting into the spooky season.



Special mention must also go to the teachers who outdid themselves again this year with their costumes. They were truly scary.



Book and Bake Sale

The PA Committee would also like to say a big thank you to all the parents and children who baked up a storm, donated books and came to support our Halloween Book and Bake Sale.



Thanks to you we raised €737.62. Because of your generous support we will be able to get someone to come and paint in the school with all the wonderful Dulux paint we won last year.

We would also like to say thank you to Liam Murphy who has used some of the white paint we won to repaint the class bathrooms. This freshen up was much needed and we are truly grateful.

Our Community

Do you belong to a local community group or club that other parents might like to hear about or get involved with?

We are going to devote a regular column in the newsletter to our community and would love your input. We are also hoping to create a directory of local groups, clubs and businesses. Please email us on rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com with your suggestions.



Turning on the Christmas Lights

The lighting of the Village Christmas Tree will take place on Sunday the 7th December.

Children who are in the school choir are asked to be at the stage in the village at 5pm. They should be dressed for the cold and can wear a Santa Hat or festive dress.

The lighting of the Village Christmas Tree will take place @ 5:30pm and Santa will arrive at 6pm. Children can visit him for free in Weld's Pub. There is also a tractor run starting at 12 noon.

This is a family event and all are invited to come and support our school choir and enjoy some festive spirit. Proceeds are going to Friends of St. Brigid's Hospice.

Getting To Know Our Teachers



Ms. Conroy teaches First Class and is so delighted that every morning when she sees them she jumps for joy. Her favourite things are:

Film: The Mission

Book: Bridge Across Forever by Richard Bach

Food: Paella

Holiday: Camping in Renvyle, Connemara.

Sport: Hurling and Gaelic Football

Excursions: A day at the races



Mr. Brennan is a Resource Teacher and works with most of the classes. His favourite things are:

Film: The Mission

Books: Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts and Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernières.

Food: Seafood, although it's hard to argue with a good steak too!

Holiday: backpacking in Central and South America.

Sport: Anything and everything ...especially rugby.

Excursions: Going to watch Leinster or Ireland in the rugby.

P.S. He was an extra in a Columbian TV show while travelling in South America.



Mr. Eyres teaches Senior Infants and is the newest member of teaching staff in the school. We have also been told that he is pretty handy at building igloos. His favourite things are:

Film: Saving Private Ryan

Book: A Time to Kill by John Grisham or The Last King of Scotland by Giles Foden.

Music: Planxty, Luke Kelly or anything Motown.

Food: Tayto and ham sandwich, shepherd's pie.

Sport: Gaelic football, closely followed by Curling.

Holiday: Toronto, Canada in 2006.

Message from the Principal

As school principal I am honoured and fortunate to be part of such an amazing close knit school community. I would like to thank our students for their outstanding behaviour which make our school such a vibrant and energetic place to be.

I am so grateful to our staff, students and parents for creating the warm, welcoming and caring environment which exists in our school.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and hope you all have a very well deserved break and look forward to welcoming you all back fully refreshed and ready for a new term filled with fun and learning in January.

