

Robertstown National School Parent Association

Newsletter

Spring 2015 Issue 9

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Email your Association
rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com

Happy Easter from your Parent Association.

Easter Bake Sale

The Parents Association are holding a bake sale on Thursday 26th March from 11am until 3pm.

Your donations of delicious baked goods can be left in the hall from 9am on the day. Please remember to collect your dishes at the end of the day.

All bakers will be entered into a raffle for an Easter egg. There will also be special prizes for creative bakers, including prizes for best junior bakers, most colourful cupcake, best homemade cake, and most interesting creation. Make sure you put your name on your entry.



Read-A-Thon

The school will be holding a Read-A-Thon fundraiser, from Thursday 26th March until Thursday, 30th April from Senior Infants to Sixth Class.

The Read-A-Thon is a sponsored read and the children will have until the end of April to gather as many sponsors as they can, and of course, to read as many books as possible. There will be a prize for one child in each class who reads the most books!

One of the recurring suggestions in the children's suggestion box in each classroom is a request for more reading material in the school. As a result, the staff have decided to use the funds raised in this event to buy a reading programme.

The "Accelerated Reader" reading scheme is a superb resource that will provide the children in every class with a levelled and extensive reading structure for years to come.

10 WAYS TO BECOME A BETTER READER:

1. READ
2. Read
3. Read
4. Read
5. READ
6. Read
7. read
8. Read
9. Read
10. Read

The sponsorship cards will be given out to the children this Thursday so please encourage the children to read as many books as they can and to collect as much sponsorship as possible for this wonderful cause! Many thanks for your continued support.

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

March 2015

Tuesday March 17th

St. Patrick's Day/School Closure

Thursday March 26th

Easter Bake Sale

April 2015

Monday March 30th - Friday April 10th

Easter Break/ School Closure

Thursday April 23rd

Staff Meeting

(school finishes at 1.35pm for all)

May 2015

May (Date to be confirmed)

Jersey Day

Friday May 1st

Confirmation

Monday May 4th

School Closure

Saturday May 16th

First Communion

Friday May 22nd

School Closure (election)

June 2015

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

August 2015

Monday August 31st

Mid-Term/School Closure

School contact details

Phone: (045)860021

Email: robertstownns@gmail.com

Emergency phone: 085 2326941

Pancake Day

There was great excitement for this year's Pancake Day and despite a slight delay due to school closures every child got to enjoy a delicious pancake with a great choice of yummy toppings.



As usual the teachers were very competitive for the pancake flipping competition.



All the children were so proud of their teachers' efforts and shouted and cheered them to record breaking numbers of pancake flips.

Despite some creative techniques from all of the teachers, Ms Poole was the winner with some fast flipping and nothing to scrape off the carpet.



4th Class were delighted with her win and even more delighted with their homework pass. As you can see from the photo she was so fast she was literally a blur.



Grandparents Mass

On Friday 20th March, the grandparents of our Junior Infants were invited to visit the school and be a special part of a Mass held in their honour.

Fr. Willie led the school community in a celebration of the important role our grandparents have in our lives.

Some of the older students gave the readings and the prayers of the faithful. After Mass, Ms Magrane and the Junior Infants escorted the grandparents to their classroom for a special surprise. Afterwards, there was tea and delicious cake made by Frances Whelan of Frantastic Cakes.



Leah's Friendship Bench

After the Grandparents Mass, there was a ceremony to commemorate Princess Leah. Her brother Jordan Taafe, along with Fr. Willie cut the ribbon on a special friendship bench inside the living willow dome.



Seachtain Na Gaeilge & St Patrick's Day Celebrations



Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) is an international Irish language festival and one of the biggest celebrations of our native language and culture that takes place each year in Ireland and in many other countries.

This year the school invited Carmel, an Irish dance teacher, to come in to the school on Wednesday 11th March and take each class for a 30 minute dance workshop. The children were also able to wear their green for the day.



On Thursday, 3rd Class and upwards held a quiz in Irish, the Trath Na gCeist. Teams of four were made up of a student from each participating class.

There was a concert held on the Friday where each class performed either a song or dance celebrating the Irish language.

World Book Day



Once again there was a great effort made by all the parents and children for World Book Day. There were wonderful costumes and the number of different books showed how much our children love to read.



It really is a wonderful sight to see the children walking down from the hotel to the school. There seemed to be some strong themes for the children's reading choices. There were lots of fairies, pirates and super heroes in the younger classes while there were lots of David Walliams and Roald Dahl characters in the upper classes.

The costumes were so good they were featured in The Irish Daily Star and on the RTE Today Show.

Easter Mid-Term Break

The school will break up for the Easter mid-term break on Friday 27th March and returning on Monday 13th April.

Message from the Principal

New School Build

The school has been granted on extra classroom and resource rooms to provide facilities for children enrolled in the school. Patrick Gilsean has been appointed as our architect for this extension. Patrick was part of the team involved in the previous "new builds" and we are delighted he will be involved with us once again.

Grandparents Day

We were delighted to welcome the grandparents of Junior Infants to our school on Friday, 20th March 2015. The children were so excited to show off their school, classroom and their talents to their enthralled grandparents.

Thank you to all the staff especially Ms. Magrane for helping to make the day such a success. Many thanks also to Ms. Ennis and the choir, Mona for all the organising and to John, Sandra and Adrian McNamee for their help. Francis Whelan's "Grandparents Day" cake was a delight to behold and was possibly the tastiest cake in the world!

Leah's Friendship Bench

After our Grandparents Day mass the children from 2nd and 6th class joined Princess Leah's family to formally open her Friendship Bench.

Thanks to Ms. Murphy for organising this event. John Mc did a splendid job on the new little path. Also thank you to Suzanne Dodson and Caroline Whyte for their help with the teas afterwards. They were greatly aided by our Students Council and some of the sixth class students.

School Calendar

Please note that the school will close on Friday, 27th March @ 12pm for the Easter Holidays and also on Tuesday, 30th June @ 12pm for the Summer Holidays. The school will re-open after the summer holidays on Monday, 31st August 2015 @ 8:55am.

There will be a termly staff meeting on Thursday, 23rd April @ 1:35pm. All children will be going home at this time. We also expect the school to be closed on Friday, 22nd May for elections.

Ms. Dillon



Communion and Confirmation

The parents, teachers and children of 2nd Class and 6th Class are approaching the end of their First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

Congratulations to the 2nd Class children who made their First Confession last week.

They will be making their First Holy Communion at 2pm on the 16th May in Allen Church.

6th Class will be choosing their names, making their pledges and preparing for their Confirmation which is to be held in Allenwood Church at 2pm on the 1st May.

This is a special year for them as they will be confirmed by Bishop Denis Nulty and they will be sharing their day with the 6th Class students from Allenwood.

Congratulations and blessings to all of the children receiving their sacraments.

June Fun Day

Remember the school's annual Fun Day is coming up in June. If you have anything you might like to donate or would like to volunteer to organize or help on the day please contact us by email at rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com.



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 also hoping to create a directory of local groups, clubs and businesses. Please email us on rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com with your suggestions.

Robertstown GFC

Underage GFC training started back last Friday night, 22nd March from 7pm until 8pm.

All children aged between 6 and 12 are welcome. All standards from absolute beginners through to experienced footballers catered for.

Boys and girls should bring gum shields and a drink to training.

If anyone has boots that no longer fit bring them along and we will try and find them a new home.

REMINDER: Book your place on the Easter Camp. Monday 30th March until Thursday 2nd April. Places are strictly limited. Call 0851739672 to book.



Your questions answered

We have had quite a few questions to the committee in the past few months.

A lot of these are related to **safety concerns** at drop off and pick up time. Concerns include parking, path gritting, and heavy vehicles and trucks adding to congestion at busy times. The school contacted Mark Stafford and Martin Heydon to find out what can be done and the PA have followed up with letters on behalf of the parent body. While supportive of our concerns the response from KCC has been unsatisfactory. The PA intends to keep up the pressure until progress is made.

We also received concerns from parents about difficulties in **accessing the school** at certain times since recent changes to the office hours. As a result, the school has implemented an emergency telephone number for parents.

Parents raised issues regarding the **school uniform**. Parents were consulted through the newsletter and by email and only minor changes to the footwear, and increased options for the girls uniform were made. There have also been a number of complaints about the quality of the O'Neills tracksuit. The supplier is looking into this and Kidstuff will continue to supply the original tracksuit.

Parents also raised concerns that some school **toilet doors** do not have locks on the doors. Children do not want to use the toilet as there is no privacy. The school has checked all the toilets and repaired a damaged lock.

There was also a great suggestion from a parent about providing **shelter** from the weather at the entrance gate. The school has agreed to include this request to the architect who will design the new classroom extension.

Parents have also asked about how the **new building work** might affect existing traffic problems. Ms Dillon would like to let parents know that the existing pupils in the school will benefit from the new classroom, resource rooms and new teacher just sanctioned. School numbers are capped for now and the Department of Education has based their decision on existing numbers and not projected numbers.

Parking Reminder

When dropping and collecting your children please make way for other parents as soon as your children are safely on the school premises.

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 without stepping out into the road. Please do not double park.