

Robertstown National School Parent Association

Newsletter

Winter 2015 Issue 11

In this issue

- Your Committee 2015/2016
- Parent Association AGM
- Christmas Plays
- Christmas Bake Sale
- Calendar
- Halloween Walk
- Word From The Principal



Email your Association
rnsparentsassociation@gmail.com

Merry Christmas from Your Parent Association.

Christmas Holidays

ALL children will be going home @ 12pm on Tuesday, 22nd December 2015 for the holidays. The school will re-open on Wednesday, 6th January 2016.

Christmas Plays

The Christmas plays were held on Thursday the 17th December. The Junior Infants performed "The Sleepy Shepherd" and Second Class put on "Hansel and Gretel".

The children enjoyed performing and as usual this event made for a wonderful start to the Festive Season for parents and children alike.

Many thanks to the teachers and parents for all their hard work rehearsing and getting costumes prepared.

Christmas Bake Sale

The Parent Association held its annual Bake Sale and Raffle on Friday the 18th December.



Thank you to all who donated raffle prizes, baked delicious treats, and supported the raffle and bake sale. Thanks to you we have raised €860.



Bake Competition

Once again the children have impressed the judges with their incredible baking and cake decorating skills. It was a difficult job to decide the winners.

Junior Bakers Best in Show

Zach Donnelly (2nd Class)
Ailish Sexton (2nd Class)
Ruby Noone (3rd Class)

Senior Bakers Best Bakes

John Gray (4th Class)
Kyle Kennedy (5th Class)
Hannah Murphy (6th Class)

Highly Commended

Grace Roche (Junior Infants)
Luella (Junior Infants)
Danny McGrath (1st Class)
Samuel Watson (5th Class)
Katie Fitzgerald (6th Class)

Commended

Tara Cassidy (6 th)	Aoife & Ellen (1 st)
Aoife & Molly (6 th)	Tighe Keatley (JI)
Tara Whyte (5 th)	Annaliza (1 st)
Lucy O'Brien (6 th)	Hannah Prior (JI)
James McGrath (4 th)	Tristan Barbour (2 nd)
Luke Roche (3 rd)	

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 2015/2016

December 2015

Wednesday December 23rd -
Wednesday January 6th
Christmas Holidays
(School finishes at 12pm on Tuesday
December 22nd)

January 2016

February 2016

Tuesday February 9th
Pancake Tuesday
Thursday Feb. 18th - Friday Feb. 19th
Mid-Term/School Closure

March 2016

(Date to be confirmed)
St Patrick's Day WOW
Tuesday March 17th – April 1st
Easter Break/ School Closure

April 2016

Saturday 9th April 2.30pm
Confirmation

May 2016

Monday May 2nd
School Closure
Saturday May 21st 11am
First Holy Communion

June 2016

Monday June 6th- Tuesday June 7th
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

School contact details

Phone: (045)860021

Email: robertstownns@gmail.com

Emergency phone: 087 6357856

Raffle Winners

Thank you for supporting the raffle and congratulations to all the winners.

Prize	Winner
Peter Mark Cloud	Max (1 st Class)
Nine Waving Wand	
Christmas Cake by Frantastic Cakes	Ruth Fitzgerald
DecoBake €50 Voucher	Holly Owen (5 th)
DecoBake €50 Voucher	Sarah O'Reilly
Vichy Cosmetic Gift Set	Ross Watson (5 th)
Kildare Maze Family Ticket	Claire (3 rd)
Kildare Maze Family Ticket	Aoife McMullen (2 nd)
Marrons Gift Box	Annie Cross (5 th)
Lullymore Family Pass	Niamh Lenihan
Shark Mania	Sean Hutchinson
Mr. Creepy Magic Set	Sadie Bohane
Bottle Red wine	Linda c/o Tracey Hanlon
Bottle White wine	Emma Cross
Milk Tray chocolates	Christian Mulvaney
Milk Tray chocolates	Suzanne Carew (6 th)

Parent Association AGM

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

Adeline Barbour, presented the Treasurer's report for 2014-2015. Nearly €3900 was raised during the year. Thanks to the support of parents throughout the year the PA were able to contribute toward the purchase of an accelerated reading programme as well as sports equipment.

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.



Big Congratulations to 2nd Class who won the bucket of sweets for having the most parents attend the AGM. Thank you to *The Little Closet* for sponsoring this prize.



Your new Committee

The 2014-2015 PA Committee resigned at the AGM. Elections took place and the new 2015-2016 committee was elected as follows:

Suzanne Dodson as Chairperson
Jean Noone as Secretary
Adeline Barbour as Treasurer
Delia Lynch for Communication

The Committee is happy to welcome Hannah Teague and Jean Noone. Caroline Whyte and Isobelle Howard were also re-elected to the committee.

We would also like to thank Sharon Kelly, Eileen Smal and Mary O'Mahony for their time and dedication. It is greatly appreciated.

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.



School Updates

The new accelerated reading programme Scholastic Reading Pro will commence in the school in January. We will have more details about this in the next newsletter.

The school build will continue in the New Year. Please exercise caution around the entrance to the site and remind younger children to be careful at all times.

To ensure the safety of the children, the school are asking parents not to enter the school without an appointment. If anyone has an urgent message they should contact the office.

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.

Ms. Dillon



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.

Homework

Did you know that the school homework policy is on the website www.robertstownns.ie under the Parents tab? It outlines what the aims of homework are, what is expected of your children at each age, how long they should be spending and how parents can help. It also suggests when you should contact the teacher.

Parents have an important role to play in homework. While each family situation is different, it is important that children have regular routines. A regular time for homework is important as is a quiet and comfortable location where distractions can be kept to a minimum.

Help should be given as appropriate and the policy will help parents understand the best way to help. Homework should be signed as required and any queries contact the teacher through the homework journal or on the class email.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We would like to thank all the teachers, children and parents for their support throughout the year and hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas. We have it on good authority that all our children made it onto the Nice List this year. Well done and keep up the good work!



We hope the New Year brings everyone health, happiness and prosperity and look forward to seeing you all when school comes back on Wednesday the 6th January 2014.

From your Parents Association Committee

Suzanne Dodson, Adeline Barbour, Delia Lynch, Caroline Whyte, Isobelle Howard, Hannah Teague and Jean Noone.

In our next Newsletter:

- School Build Update
- All about the new reading programme - Scholastic Reading Pro
- Answers to Parent Questions from the AGM
- Community News