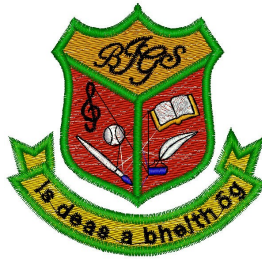


Belgrove Junior Girls' School
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Scoil Eoin Baiste Cailíní Sóisir
Bóthar Ghort na Mara
Cluain Tarbh
Baile Átha Cliath 3

Principal: Patricia O'Donoghue
Deputy Principal: Máire Duffy
Chair, Board of Management: Brendan Smith

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2011

Dear Parents

The countdown to Christmas has finally begun in Belgrove and the children are very excited and busy in school, practising for the Christmas Concert, writing their letters to Santa and decorating the classrooms and cloakrooms with their wonderful Christmas artwork.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is a tradition in Belgrove Junior Girls' School. A lot of preparation goes into the concert on the part of the children, teachers and parents. We think it is worth it! Who knows when a star is born? Maybe some of the children treading the boards this year will entertain us again in the future. The important thing for us is that every child gets a chance to perform and experience working together as a team. We are thoroughly enjoying the preparations and the concerts will be the icing on the cake.

The week beginning 12 December is concert week and the children will entertain the three other schools on the campus on various days. Parents are invited to come to see their children on 15 and 16 December. Due to space restrictions the parents of children in **Rooms 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are invited to attend the concert on Thursday, 15 December at 11.00am**. Parents of children in **Rooms 1, 3, 5 and 9 are invited to attend the concert on Friday, 16 December at 11.00am**. The concert will end with a Grand Finale where the whole school will sing together – please join in. The children will be back in their classrooms at 12.30 approx. and may be collected from there if you want to take them home early that day. **Please do not collect your child before this time as she will be singing in the Grand Finale.** Unfortunately, because of space restrictions buggies and prams cannot be facilitated in the hall. We need to keep the centre aisle clear for the children to enter.

Helix Trip

All the children in the school will go to the Helix on Tuesday, 20 December to see an original play with music "Santa Comes to Heartland", written and directed by Gráinne Jordan. The play will involve lots of singing and audience participation. The show is on during the school day and the children will be available for collection as normal.

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Parent/Teacher Meetings

Many thanks for your co-operation on the parent/teacher meeting days. Parents are always welcome to the school and if you wish to discuss any matter with the class teacher or the Principal, please do not hesitate to make an appointment and we will meet you at a mutually convenient time.

Parents' Association

Members of the Parents' Association are distributing raffle tickets today and this year there are some very exciting prizes! The proceeds of the raffle will go towards the cost of staging the concert and the draw will take place during the concert interval on both days. Donations for the raffle (especially unusual prizes) would be greatly appreciated by the Parents' Association. Extra raffle tickets are available.

New Board of Management

A meeting will take place in the school hall this Wednesday, 30 November at 8.00pm in order to elect two parent representatives to the new Board of Management.

Something Different for Christmas

The local St Vincent de Paul Conference is organising hampers for families in need this Christmas. If you would like to donate any non-perishable items for this worthwhile cause please send them in to the school **by Friday, 16 December**.

Manresa House, Dollymount, is hosting a '*Christmas Preparation for Children*' on Saturday, 17 December from 3.00-5.00pm. All are welcome.

Education Cuts

The preparations for Budget 2012 are underway and as parents with children in the school we are asking you to make your voices heard in demanding of this government that no further increases to class size are made. Irish class sizes are the second biggest in Europe. An increase in class size would make a big difference to what we teach and how we teach it. Class size affects all pupils. It is critical now that we make our views known to all public representatives in order to emphasise the value and importance of education for our children. Education is the key to an inclusive and prosperous future for all the citizens of this island.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday, 15 and Friday, 16 December – Christmas Concert in school hall at 11.00am.

Monday, 19 December – Santa visit organised by Parents' Association.

Tuesday, 20 December – Christmas Play at Helix.

Thursday, 22 December – School closes at **12.00** for Christmas holidays.

Monday, 9 January 2012 – School re-opens.

31 January 2012 – Closing date for enrolment applications for Junior Infants 2012.

PATRICIA O'DONOGHUE
Principal