

..Belgrove Junior Girls School Parents Association

NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Happy New Year from the Parents Association

On behalf of the Parents Association (PA) committee, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2012!

At this stage of the year, I thought it would be useful to give you an update as to what we have done since September, together with an outline of what's coming up over the next few months. Our committee this year has lots of new members and I would like to thank all of them together with our Garden Group and occasional helpers for all their work so far this year including helping with the Junior Infants nature walks and Healthy Eating Week. A special thanks to Principal, Patricia O'Donoghue and all the teachers for their continued support of our various work and projects.

Caitriona Casey

Chairperson (086 3800683)

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Christmas Raffle

We received fabulous support for our annual Christmas Raffle, both from local businesses who donated prizes but also from all the parents, families and friends who bought tickets. As a result we were able to fund the Sound & Light System for the Christmas concerts. Specific thanks go to the following for donating prizes: Anne Rossi, Ariel House Lansdowne Road, The Beachcomber, Spar Dublin Airport, Butler's Pantry, Cliste Safety Engineering, Clontarf Castle, Clontarf Florists, D3 Hair & Beauty, DK Hair Design, Donnycarney Community & Youth Centre, Hampers & Co, Fullers Paints, Hair Matters, Lisa Kernan Physiotherapy, Little Sport, McKenna Butchers, Magners Chemist, The Merrion Hotel, Moloughneys, Nolans Supermarket, O'Regans Pharmacy, Razzmataz, Supervalu Killester, The Yard, Tesco Clare Hall, Tibors, Tillies Café, Wendy Kinsella Hair & Beauty, Wongs, The Yacht, Yoga Dance Factory.

Santa's Visit to the School

A huge thanks to Santa for finding the time to come to visit the girls on the 19th December, we were delighted to welcome him. We also need to thank North Strand Fire Service who provided transport to the school for Santa on the day on a fire engine.

One final Christmas thanks goes to all the parents who helped out with the costumes for the Christmas concerts - sales of tinfoil must have been high for those Junior Infants stars!

Tea Towels

As you know, the Parents Association sold tea towels at the Christmas concerts. These were a huge success and sold out during the Friday concert. We will re-order more tea towels but we want to get an idea of how many to order. If you want to buy more tea towels can you please complete the form at the bottom of this newsletter and return to your daughter's teacher? While you are under no obligation to buy them it will help us in managing our order. We will let you know soon when they will be on sale. Please DO NOT return any money at this stage. A very big thanks to Sara Philpott for doing all the work on the tea towels.

Book Fair

At the end of October we had our annual Book Fair in association with Scholastic Publishers. Despite the really awful weather (it was the week of the bad floods) we had a great response and as a result were able to purchase over €400 worth of new books for the school. Thanks to the following parents for helping to sell the books: Cliona, Debbie, Anne, Jane, Eimear, Melissa, Caitriona F, Susan, Barbara and Jennie.

School Garden

We have a terrific group working on the school garden this year ably led by Jane Wilson. As well as helping the girls with planting in Autumn, the group made Christmas wreaths from old coat hangers and bits and pieces from the garden. The wreaths were hanging up in the garden and looked great and lasted (more or less!) through the wind and rain. They have also made a compost box and bird feeders which are hanging on the trees in the garden. Spring planting will shortly be starting with all the classes. A big ongoing thank you to the group, namely Jane, Ann Quigley, Anne Coldrick, Cristina, Maire, Melissa, Svitlana and Vanessa.

If you or someone you know are interested in helping out in the garden, please contact Jane on 086-844 9323.

Road Safety

As you all know the area around the schools gets very congested in the mornings and again at collection times. One of our committee members, Eimear Kilcullen, volunteered to investigate what we can do to help improve the situation / highlight dangers for pedestrians and road users etc. To this end, she has been in touch with local representatives, the Road Safety Authority, Dublin City Council and the local Gardai. All have been helpful and are in ongoing contact. In particular, the community garda Sharon Kavanagh will visit the school on 10th February to talk to the children about road safety and she has ordered high-visibility vests for all the girls. She will also source high-vis vests for younger siblings if you want – please let your daughter's teacher know and we will compile a list.

In addition the gardai will be patrolling outside the schools on the mornings of the 29th Feb and 1st March to both deal with any traffic issues and also answer any queries people may have.

However there is obviously a limit as to what others can do. Can everybody, particularly drivers, please take extra care when travelling in the vicinity of the schools and to avoid potentially dangerous situations such as doing 3-point turns when the paths and roads are so busy. We should also encourage all our children to wear the high-vis vests, particularly when the mornings are still so dark.

Fund Raising

As a result of the Christmas fund raising (the raffle and tea-towels) together with funds raised towards the end of last year at the Art Exhibition, the Parents Association is able to purchase some new equipment for the school. In agreement with Patricia and the teachers, we are delighted to be able to fund the purchase of the following: 2 visualisers (microscopes that link to laptops & interactive whiteboards), PE equipment (mini-tunnels, mats, tag belts etc), a Science show to visit the school, a drama / storytelling visit to the school in Irish for Seachtain na Gaeilge, new paired reading English books for Senior and Junior Infants, balance scales for Maths and garden seeds and equipment.

There is one big outstanding thing for the school that we want to raise money for – an interactive whiteboard for the Learning Support room. This costs in the region of €1,500 so will take a bit of time. The things we have planned for the next few months that will help in fund raising are:

Cake Sale

We are planning a bring-and-buy cake sale for May. We have yet to land on the exact date but we will give you plenty of notice so all the budding Rachel Allens or Nigellas among you can practice in advance!

Copper Hunt

We will be putting 2 large containers in each of the corridors outside the downstairs classrooms to collect any small change you may have. As and when you think of it can you please empty your pockets and help our whiteboard fund? They will be left there for the next few months and we'll put up signs showing ongoing progress against our target to keep us all focussed!

Uniform Sale - Proceeds for Charity

We hope to hold a uniform sale during the last week of June in aid of charity. If you have any school jumpers or tracksuits in good condition that are no longer required, we will collect them close to the date of the sale. We will then sell them to both existing parents and parents of children who will be starting next September. Again, once the final details have been agreed we will let you know.

One final thing... **Bull Island Action Group** have been in touch with us. For a few years now, this group has organised a beach clean-up on the 3rd Saturday of every month. They are now appealing for volunteers to come and help out with this much needed task. They meet at 11am at the beach entrance just past Royal Dublin Golf Club. Litter pickers, gloves and rubbish bags are provided. Upcoming dates for the work are 21st Jan, 18th Feb, 17th Mar and 21st April. If you have any queries please contact Donal McGuirk at 087 6887468 or email bullislandactiongroup@gmail.com

Many thanks again for your ongoing support and if you have any queries or are interested in joining the Parents Association please contact any of the committee below:

Caitriona Casey 086 3800 683, Louise McKenna 086 677 3464, Megan O'Connell 087 218 9978, Sara Philpott 086 814 5347, Susan Geran 086 605 1008, Corrina O'Brien-Daly 086 829 7441, Gwen Hogan 087 131 4290, Clodagh McGowan 087 746 5636, Rachel McGaughey 087 238 0214, Lisa Persse 087 970 2120, Eimear Kilcullen 087 653 5356, Debbie Moynagh 086 383 5636, Cliona Geary 086 881 4545.

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TEA TOWELS

I would like to purchase _____ tea towels at €5.00 each

Child's Name _____ Teacher's Name

Please return this form to your daughter's teacher by Friday of this week. Thank you.

Please DO NOT return any money at this stage - this is to give an idea of order quantities.