

## **MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **SCOIL BHRIDE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

#### **Chairperson's Welcome Address**

The Chairperson (Mandy Connolly) welcomed everyone to the AGM. The minutes of the AGM of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were taken as read and were proposed for adoption by Siobhán O'Brien and seconded by Maureen Lynch. All reports from that AGM can be accessed through the PA section on the school website. The main objectives of the Parents' Association were advised to the congregated parents, as outlined in our Constitution. A copy of the constitution is available on the school website.

It was explained that the purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the PA Committee and that existing committee members step down. Special tribute was paid to 2 outgoing committee members – Colette Hawkins and Liz Dagg - their valuable contribution was appreciated.

Special thanks was also given to Sinead Barrett, the Teachers' Representative, who is stepping down after 2 years. The new Teacher's Representative will be Eileen Glennon

It was noted that the PA committee had a good year and met all of the agreed goals.

#### **Secretary's Address**

The Parents' Association committee had a very busy year -- we held our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month here in Scoil Bhríde and various events were organised throughout the year with funding provided when necessary by the Parents' Association.

We had great support throughout the year from everyone on the Committee, including new members who joined this time last year. It was great to see such a big turnout each month at the meetings.

I would also like to acknowledge all the people on our 'PA Helper's list' who were a great support at our various events throughout the year. - a big thank you to everyone for all their hard work.

If you would like to help at PA events throughout the year please put your name on the list before you leave, even if you have put it down in previous years please do so again.

#### **Fundraising:**

Our fundraising events this year were:

3 used clothing collections in October, February and May.

(Reminder: our next Clothing Collection, our first for this year will be held on Wednesday 17th October so please keep this in mind if doing your summer wardrobe clear-out!) And as always, the school will be opened on Tuesday evening from 6 – 9 to facilitate drop off.

2 'no uniform' days December and February.

Our main annual fundraiser - the sponsored walk, was again held in Donadea Forest in April. Our walk this year was very successful and seems to be going from strength to strength every year so a sincere thanks to everyone who supported these events and a special thank you to all the local businesses for their very generous donations to our sponsored walk raffle. A list of those local business who very kindly supported us this year is on our Website.

### **Various events:**

As always, the PA committee organise various other events during the year which benefit all the girls in the school:

In December we organised Christmas entertainment for all the classes. A special thanks to Mrs. Claus and Santa who paid a visit to the school and entertained the girls with stories and songs.

Each class teacher was asked for a wish list of items they would like for their class and they chose games, the Committee organised the purchase and wrapping of beautiful hampers of these presents along with an individual tube of sweets for all the girls. Santa presented these hampers to each class teacher during his visit.

Christmas to May is a busy period as we plan for our annual sponsored walk and the Confirmation and First Communions ceremonies.

In relation to Confirmation and First Communion Ceremonies the flowers in the church for both these ceremonies were funded by the Parents Associations of both Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Phádraig and we hosted a lovely party for the First communion children and their parents here in Scoil Bhríde on the first week of Communions, with Scoil Phádraig hosting the party the second week.

In June we ran a uniform exchange day alongside the School Booksale. For parents not familiar with this, we ask parents for donations of good quality school uniform items that they are finished with and on the day, parents looking for uniform items are free to browse the table take what they need and leave a small donation if they wish. It is a great way to recycle uniforms which are still in very good condition. We also help with the school sports/fun day and the Parents Association fund the first aid cover on that day.

A staff appreciation lunch is organised towards the end of June and thanks to all those committee members and helpers who prepare a great selection of food for the staff to enjoy.

The 6th class graduation ceremony takes place towards the end of June to mark the end of 8 years in primary school. This is a fabulous evening the girls and their parents are treated to a Graduation party after the celebration Mass in the school. We also produce a yearbook for the occasion, which is presented to each girl and is a lovely keepsake of their time in Scoil Bhríde.

The school website aims to update parents on various issues such as, dates of school holidays, various pa activities, children's achievements, school policies, school photographs, school events, National parent council events etc.

Also, Marina uploads the school newsletter each term. A huge thank you to Marina for all her hard work, on keeping the website up to date, she does an immense amount of work on it, keeping us all well informed on all school info and activities.

So please check it out.

### **Treasurers Address**

The Treasurer provided the meeting with an income and expenditure statement for the year. This will be posted on the School Website.

### **Election of Officers**

The meeting was advised that, according to our constitution, the committee can have a maximum of 22 elected members. There are currently 22 people who have expressed an interest in joining the committee. The following new committee members were proposed for election by Siobhán O'Brien and were seconded by Melissa Kirby.

1. Mandy Connolly
2. Ciara Early
3. Marina Jordan
4. Rita Mackey
5. Kathleen Massey
6. Jenny Mousley
7. Siobhan O'Brien
8. Colette O'Byrne
9. Sharon O'Rourke
10. Eileen O'Sullivan
11. Sylvia Waters
12. Noel Delaney
13. Caoimhe Gaine
14. Ciara Carroll
15. Ronan Lowry
16. Dervilla Callan
17. Avril Dixon
18. Sarah Jackson
19. Cara Ronan
20. Niamh Doolan
21. Eimear Kelly
22. Tess Cullen

## Principal's Address

The Principal, Ms Eimear Hennessy, welcome everyone to the annual Parents' Association A.G.M.; It is lovely that you can be here with us tonight. A warm welcome to our new parents and a word of thanks to all the familiar faces.

We are blessed here in Scoil Bhríde with our great Parents' Association. You are a great support to the school and you help to enrich the children's experience of school life. The girls have so many good memories of happy days, First Communion Parties, Sponsored Walks in Donadea, the ice cream van, Christmas Presents for the class and Graduation to name but a few. We, the staff have not been forgotten either. Every year, for the past few years, we have been treated to a beautiful Staff Appreciation Lunch. There is a lovely relationship between the school and the P.A.

On behalf of all the pupils, the staff, the Board of Management and myself I want to formally thank you for all your time, energies, help and support. We never take your help for granted. It is always appreciated.

I hope the new school year will be a positive one for your Association and for the school. I look forward to working with you all again this year.

A word to our new parents, please feel welcome to get involved with the Association. It is a great way to get to know people and to be involved in your child's school.

## School News.

1. Library – A big thank you to the Parents Association who fundraised over €7500 towards the cost of the new school library. The library cost €11,500 and was fitted in August. It is now a lovely place for the children to relax and read.
2. Sacraments  
First Communion:  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 9 30pm and 11 30 pm Masses.  
The party in Scoil Bhríde will be held on the Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May. This year the children will make their communion with their class rather than being split into two groups. This is to accommodate the fact that we have three classes for communion for the first time.  
Confirmation will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. This Bishop will be officiating this year.
3. Christmas Concert.  
Scoil Bhríde will be staging the Concert this year. Last year Scoil Phádraig were hosting the concerts. The dates have not been finalised yet but just to let you know that:  
Junior and Senior Infants will perform in the Afternoon.  
1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will perform in the evening.
4. Sport  
The Gaelic football u11 team are already in action. They played a match against Scoil Uí

Riada and are due to play Kill shortly.

Basketball will be starting for 6<sup>th</sup> from October to December and for 5<sup>th</sup> in January and February.

Hockey will take place in February and March

Camogie will take place in April to June.

I would like to thank the teachers for giving their time to coach the teams.

5. Peace Proms

The 5<sup>th</sup> classes will be participating in the Peace Proms choir in February. Mrs. Darcy, Ms. Stafford and Ms. Gately will work with the girls.

6. Aladdin ePayments

Setting this up to help with payments to make life easier for parents. There has been very positive feedback to date. It will take a few weeks to get it set up properly.

7. Newsletters – I try to send one a month. I'm hoping from November on to just send them via email as there is a lot of paper wasted and it is a time-consuming exercise for the secretaries photocopying the newsletter and sending it around to all the classes.

8. There are a number of weeks that come into the school. This year we have decided to focus on:

- Anti bullying week
- Catholic Schools week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Active school week.

There is nearly a week for everything in a school calendar and we can't do them all especially the year we hope to do a Christmas Concert.

9. Well Being is a big focus for us this year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class children will be participating in a programme called Weaving Well Being.

Ms. O Shaughnessy and Ms Young are also attending training this Friday in Dublin West Education Centre on 'Zippy Friends' an emotional resilience programme for 5 – 7 year olds. It is a 24 week programme based on stories from picture books to teach children resilience and how to deal with their emotions.

10. Funathon

We will be holding our annual dress up day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October this year as we have no school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> with the presidential election. Again there will be no prize for the best dressed, it is just for Fun!

11. Another focus for us this year with the school self-evaluation process will be spoken Irish. We will be putting a big effort on this during assemblies etc.

12. Special thanks for Mandy Connolly as the Chairperson on the Parent's Association, we have a very close working relationship, meeting before and after the monthly meetings and regularly throughout the year as required.

**Any Other business**

A question was asked by a parent in relation to the Christmas activities in the school; would it be possible for the Santa that visits Scoil Phadraig by helicopter to also visit Scoil Bhríde? The parent who organises it would be willing to do so.

The Chairperson addressed this first and indicated that this topic had been discussed at the first Parent's Association meeting of the year and it was agreed that Scoil Bhríde would continue with their traditional Christmas activities and not cause confusion with 2 Santa visits.

The Principal responded and confirmed that the proposal had also been discussed at the Board of Management (BOM) meeting earlier in the evening. The BOM decided not to participate in the Santa visit by Helicopter.

There being no further business to attend to, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attention and closed the meeting.