

Newsletter

From the Parents Association of Ballinamere National School November/December 2014

Following the Parents Association AGM held on 22nd October, the first meeting was held on Wednesday 12th November which saw the following officers elected:

Chairperson: Mary C McDonald, **Assistant Chairperson:** Esther Corble, **Secretary:** Emer Molloy, **Assistant Secretary:** Sinead Wyer, **PRO:** Sarah Guinan, **Treasurers:** Eimear Garvey and Tricia Shaw.

The following is the first Newsletter from our new committee and the last one for 2014.

Healthy Eating Policy

As parents are aware, Ballinamere National School (BNS) operates a Healthy Eating Policy. The aim of this policy is to ensure children eat a healthy, well-balanced lunch, thus promoting a healthy lifestyle. Nuts and food containing nuts are also banned as a number of students have serious nut allergies.

A copy of the BNS Healthy Eating Policy is available from the school upon request.

Labelling of School Uniforms

Parents are reminded that all jumpers, footwear and tracksuits should be clearly labelled.

Christmas Gifts

The teachers and staff of BNS understand that Christmas is a busy and expensive time for all families. While they wish to express their appreciation of the kindness and generosity of parents, they also wish to assure parents that there is no expectation of gifts at Christmas time or end of school year.

Basketball

Well done to the boys and girls in 5th and 6th class who travelled to Clonaslee, on Tuesday 2nd December, to participate in 3 versus 3 basketball. Not only did they play very well but were highly commended for their good behavior - a credit to their parents and our school. Thanks to Julie Slattery, Vanessa Fennelly and Yvonne Tierney who accompanied the children.

Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We had a huge response and we sent off over 150 shoeboxes to needy children in Africa and Eastern Europe.

School Christmas Plays

Junior Infants are very busy rehearsing for their Nativity play which takes place in the gym on Tuesday 16th at 1.15pm.

Also Third Class preparing "Do the Christmas Rock" which takes place on Wednesday, 17th December at 7.15pm.

All welcome.

Special Olympics

Congratulations to the Schools Special Olympics team who amassed 21 gold, 12 silver and 3 bronze medals in the recent Leinster region swimming gala in the Curragh. There is also a great two page profile of the Club in this year's Lions Club Annual.

FíS Film Awards

Congratulations to Emer, Shaun and Deirdre's classes who, with a little help from sixth class, made the film "Be Careful What You Wish For"! The film was chosen, from over a hundred entries, to take part in the National FíS Film Awards in the Helix in Dublin on the 4th of November. Log onto <http://www.fisfilmproject.ie/film-archive> to see the film. The three ASD classes and sixth class travelled to the Helix where they scooped the award for 'Outstanding Achievement in film making for Original Storytelling'. Well done to all involved.

Green Schools

Thanks to everyone who sent in green plastic bottles. Emer and the Green Squad have created a fabulous Christmas tree from them, which is on display in the school foyer.

Rugby Visit

On Wednesday 3rd December, Marty Moore and Dominic Ryan from Leinster Rugby, visited the school to present Daniel Dunne with his gear for his role as team mascot in the European Cup match v Harlequins. The match will take place in the Aviva on Saturday 13th December. Good luck Daniel. We'll be watching!!!

Retirement Function

The Parents Association wishes to thank all the parents who helped and attended the retirement function in October. Thank you also to the school staff and members of the Board of Management. A lovely night was had by all. A special thank you to the musicians (past and present pupils) for adding to the function. All left over food went to Tullamore Simon Community.

Reminder

Christmas holidays start on Friday 19th at 12pm. School reopens on Monday 5th January.

The Staff and Parents Association would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their continued support and wish all a peaceful Christmas.

If you have any information for future newsletters, please contact Sarah on sarahguinan@gmail.com.