



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ST. MOCHTA'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Who we are

"The Parent Association is the structure through which parents/guardians in a school can work together for the best possible education for their children".

National Parents Council

As we are parents of children in this school ourselves we, as the Parents' Association Committee, represent each of you and are a support for parents in the school.

We believe that you all have a fundamental part to play in your child's education and we work with the Principal, staff and the Board of Management to help build this effective partnership of home and school.

The Education Act, 1998 sets down the role of the Parent Association in which, the Parent's Association can advise the Principal and Board of Management on policy issues and incidents that may require a review of school policy, e.g. bullying, safety, homework, enrolment, behaviour problems etc.

We can suggest and organise extra-curricular activities and invite speakers to address the parents on issues which are topical or relevant.

The Parents' Association's aims for our children are:

- To widen their experience.
- To give children opportunities for social development.
- To enrich our children's learning.
- To share ideas and make plans that will benefit our children.

Your Committee members

Caroline Billings, Keith Byrne,
Sharon Campbell Shaw, Anna Doyle,
Helen Duffy, Jennifer Fagan,
Valerie Haslam (*Chairperson*),
Martina Kane (*Vice Chairperson*),
Brenda Mullins, Aine Ryan, Sandra Smith
& Dympna Cunningham (*Joint Secretaries*),
Marguerite Thompson (*Treasurer*).

Board of Management Parent Nominees:
Dermot Casey and Samantha Reilly.

What we do

The Parents' Association Committee and all the volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that our children get the best possible support and facilities in an ever demanding school environment.

As a committee we are continuously looking for ways to work with the school on your behalf in issues affecting the children and parents alike. With the help of all the generous volunteers:

- We provided the funding to purchase Literacy Resource Equipment in 2014 and Maths Resource Equipment in 2013 along with Mini White Boards to make sure each child has access to one.
- We organise clothing collections which will be a biannual event to be held again in October.
- We co-ordinated the Christmas Fair in December 2013, a great day for all the children and their families.
- We organised the book fair in March with the help and support of the parents and teachers we generated €7,100 worth of books for the class libraries.
- We setup the Ready Set Go maths equipment for the Senior Infants to use in 2013/2014.
- We oversee the ordering and delivery of the school books from the supplier.
- In 2013 we setup and currently manage the new school book rental system for all English books from 3rd to 6th class. We hope to expand this in the coming years.
- We supported the production of Annie in the Draíocht this year with funding.
- Our Mums on the Move entered the Women's Mini Marathon in June 2013 and raised €1,800. Best of luck to all who entered again this year.
- We facilitate courses, for example the Internet Safety evening for parents.
- We petitioned and met with Fingal County Council to make the pedestrian crossings and footpaths safer for our children. We have been promised changes from the Council.
- We organise functions to celebrate the Communion, Confirmation and Graduation ceremonies.
- We supported the organisation and purchase of a defibrillator for the school.
- We advise on the selection of suppliers for school photographs and books to make sure you are getting the best possible value for money.
- We designed and organised the production of the Christmas Calendars.
- We organised the orders and liaised with the printer for the Children's Christmas Cards.
- We organised Santa's Visit to the junior children and supplied board games for all classes to use on wet days when they are inside for their breaks.
- We consulted with the web design team on the creation of a new school website.

What we raise funds for

For example, the money that was fund raised in the past was spent funding:

- Maths resource equipment for each year group was funded in 2013.
- Literacy resource equipment for each year group will be funded in 2014.
- Upgrade of technology in order for our children to have access to relevant educational applications on a convenient and regular basis.
- Wet day games for each class.
- Mini white boards, markers and erasers were supplied so every class would have a set in 2013 and to all resource staff in 2014.
- The interactive white boards and technology for the new prefab classes.
- Gaeilge Readers for second to sixth class.
- Jolly Phonics up to first class.
- Playground markings and benches.
- The birthday cards and pencils for every child in the school.

The success of the Christmas Fair last year has been put into upgrading the IT equipment, which will improve and help develop essential technology skills in all of our children.

Our children deserve the best! Only with your help and support can our events be a success.

Please add your name to our volunteers list by emailing parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie

But we are not just about fund raising!

How we represent you

We are here to support and empower parents to be active in the best interests of their children's educational lives.

The Parents' Association will actively support the involvement of parents by:

- Arranging opportunities for parents to meet informally and to network.
- Consult with the Principal and Board of Management on school policies.
- Running a social event for parents.
- Having a parents' page on the school website with current news.
- Preparing a newsletter and contributing to the weekly school newsletter.
- Welcoming new parents.
- Finding out what information parents would like or need.
- Providing access for parents to leaflets and books on topics of interest.
- Providing information for parents about how to help their children.
- Inviting speakers to address parents on issues which are topical or relevant.

We can organise educational courses and training programmes on:

- Relationship and sexual development.
- How to manage conflict.
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary.
- A follow up on how to protect your children online.

Thank you

We would like to thank our Principal, Ms Maria Farrell and Deputy Principal, Mrs Margaret O'Boyce along with the Board of Management and all the teaching and school staff for their continued support in all our endeavours. Thank you to the committee members and all our volunteers – without whom we would not be such a success.

Communion and Confirmation

The children of second classes have been preparing for their big days in May. Parents of children from first classes have been asked to help setup the Parish hall and serve refreshments after the Communion ceremonies on 24th and 31st May. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered, we are looking forward to two great mornings.

The Confirmation ceremony was on 13th May and a great day for all. Thank you to the parents from fifth classes who volunteered to help the committee, without your help we would not have been able to do this.

Please remember it will be your childs' day next year so please help make these days special.

Gifts for teachers

As parents, we appreciate the time and effort put into educating our children. While it is important to acknowledge teachers vital contribution to our children's lives, it is not necessary to give gifts. The Parents' Association and Teaching Staff would encourage that parents and children show their appreciation this year with thank you cards only.

We need you

Your opinion and experience is invaluable and an essential resource for our school. Our committee is always striving for diversity and completeness so we hope you will consider joining our committee.

We meet monthly to discuss issues that have arisen and to plan up-coming events. So please come along and be part of this exciting group of parent volunteers!

If you can not join but would still like to help out, please send us your details to add to our Volunteers Database and we can notify you of upcoming events.

Your contribution however small can make all the difference!

In order for our Committee to continue, we need you to join us!

Please speak with any member of the Committee or contact us by email parentsassociation@stmochtas.ie or by phone or text **086 233 6622**