

Kilcolgan Educate Together

SEACHTAIN NA
GAEILGE 2014
1-17 MÁRTA

February 2014



Seachtain na Gaeilge will be celebrated at KETNS during the week of March 10th. The children will participate in Irish dancing and singing and are encouraged to speak Irish as much as possible. We ask parents to encourage the children to speak the 'cupla focail' at home!

Welcome Back

We welcome back Anna and Kate from maternity leave. Thanks to Fionnuala for doing a fine job of covering for Anna while she was away. Thanks to Irina to covering for Kate.

Thanks to Val

A huge thank you to Val, outgoing Chairperson of the PA. Val has done a tremendous job at the helm of the PA. Thanks for your time and dedication Val.

Big Bad Dads

Thank you to the Big Bad Dads for putting on a great concert on Feb 26th. A great evening of music and song was had by all. Go raibh mile maith agaibh!

Calendar

National Tree Week: 2-8th March
World Book Day: 6th March
International Women's Day: 8th March
Galway Educate Together
2nd Level Start Up Group meeting: 8pm,
10th March, Galway Ed Tog, Newcastle
St Patrick's Day: 17th March
Holi (Hinduism): 17/18th March
Spring Equinox: 20th March
International Day for the Elimination
of Racial Discrimination: 21st March
World Water Day: 22nd March
Student Led Conferences: 8th-10th April

Contact Details: Tel: 091-

776595 / 086- 8186289



Birthdays



James (JI) - 1st Feb
Aeneva (Sen Infs) - 1st Feb
Jamie (Sen Infs) - 1st Feb
Eoin Van de B (3rd) - 1st Feb
Dara O'B B (1st) - 4th Feb
Lucy (1st) - 9th Feb
Colm (6th) - 10th Feb
Rory (6th) - 10th Feb
Nell (1st) - 11th Feb
Lauren (JI) - 16th Feb
Aibhlin (4th) - 16th Feb
Liadh (Sen Infs) - 20th Feb
Jordan (6th) - 23rd Feb
Ewan (1st) - 24th Feb
Sadhbh (4th) - 26th Feb

Website: www.kilcolganetns.com

One Way Traffic System

Enter at Raftery's Rest and exit at O'Donoghue's



Despite numerous requests asking the school community to comply with the one way traffic system we still have some people who are not complying. Please, please follow the one way system when approaching and leaving school. Your compliance with this system is crucial to the children's safety.

- Please follow the one way system when approaching and leaving school. Enter at Raftery's Rest and exit at O'Donoghue's Pub. The success of this one way system is crucial to the children's safety.
- The area in front of the school gates must be kept clear at all times for school bus pick up and drop off. Space must be left clear to allow cars to pass while buses are waiting to collect or drop off the children
- Parking in front of O'Donoghue's should only be for the purposes of dropping off and collecting children. If you need to park for more than a short length of time, e.g, if you are coming in to school, please do not park in front of O'Donoghue's - park further down the road towards Raftery's Rest.
- If parking at O'Donoghue's, please reverse into the space to ensure a safe exit.
- Do not pick up, drop off, or park, at the back of O'Donoghue's. Avoid dropping children off on the main N18 as it is extremely dangerous for them to walk past cars and buses to get to the school.

Thank you for reading this important traffic information and please pass it on to anyone who may be collecting your children from school.

Skipathon Fundraiser

On Thursday 25th February, all classes took part in a skipathon as part of the KETNS contribution to One Day Together - the national fundraising day for Educate Together. The older boys and girls showed and helped the younger children how to skip and played games such as Squiggly Snake and Walk the Tightrope with them! The big skipping ropes were kept going for two hours and we all had great fun and raised over €205.



Student Led Conferences

Conference dates are as follows: **Tuesday, April 8th: Junior and Senior Infants, 2nd Class** (note: 2nd Class conferences will begin from 11:15),

Wednesday, April 9th: 1st and 3rd class

Thursday, April 10th: 4th, 5th and 6th class

Nearer to the date you will invited to indicate a time slot that will suit you.



Talk on Cyberbullying and Over 18's Games



This talk, given by Brendan Smith of the INSIGHT Web Research Centre at NUI Galway, will focus on the modern phenomena of cyberbullying, from mobile phone texting to gaming to online social media services, such as, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Ask.fm. Brendan will give a brief history of the development of communication technologies, the laws governing harassment by electronic devices and guidelines on internet safety. He will also talk about why some games are labelled over 18's and how interactive online games can allow bullying within a game environment. Talk will take place at school on **Wednesday, April 9th, 7:30PM. Open to all parents.**



Green Schools and New Meeting Plan



The committee will meet again next Thursday 13th. We will meet every **second** week from here on as our meeting day clashes with football. This will enable children to attend football on alternate weeks. We spontaneously held a no energy half day before midterm as we had no electricity in the school. This was good preparation for our next no energy action day. We will also be participating in the National Spring Clean. We successfully held this event last year but we would like to involve parents and the community this year. The date has yet to be confirmed. Your support would be greatly appreciated. **Top tip: Turn down the thermostat now that spring has arrived.**



World Book Day



A big thank you to Patsy, from Tara Books, who gave every child in the school a book for World Book Day. Patsy is an invaluable support to the school when it comes to choosing literature for our many readers and parents can also draw on her advice by phoning her on 087 2220611

Board News

The school store of PE equipment has been increased and approximately €2,500 has been spent in recent weeks.

There have been some queries in relation to safety on the buses in the recent bad weather. This is not a school staff call as the travel to and from school or events is the parents responsibility and in the case of bus travel, Bus Eireann provides the transport, organised directly with the parent. Any parent is of course entitled to ring the school with concerns and make alternative arrangements for their child. In the case of Bus Eireann cancelling the bus, the school would look after children until parents could be contacted, as has happened in the past. The issue of safety in the school relates to ensuring safety on the premises.

In relation to the green envelopes thank you to those who contributed, it is very helpful for the school to get back the envelopes even if you chose not to contribute.

A query has come as to whether or not the children could fundraise for the school. The current policy does not allow for it. The decision is based on the children's right to their education free from the concern of paying for it and the schools ethos is to invite children to engage in fundraising as part of a civic responsibility, therefore in classrooms they get an opportunity to plan fundraising and decide where that money goes. In past years they have given to the Red Cross, Simon, Dogs Trust, GOAL, to name a few.

A huge thank you needs to be given to the Big Bad Dads who gave a fantastic concert. It turned out to be a real treat on a Wednesday night. It was a real gift to the school both in terms of much needed fundraising and in terms of a lovely social night out.

Work on Premises for next year is ongoing and very sensitive at this stage, we will give an update as soon as is possible.

Policies currently being updated are the Medical Policy, the Enrolment Policy, the Anti Bullying Policy and the Substance Misuse Policy. Two new policies, in the draft stage, are the Critical Incident Policy and the Spelling Policy, if anyone has a particular interest in these we invite you to let us know or review the policy and let your comments inform the new policies.

Mike Kerrigan has resigned from the board due to other commitments, he has been a huge friend to the school and has worked with us since 2008, when the school opened. The board will be recruiting a new community representative in the coming weeks.

Thank you Joanne (teacher's rep on the board) for all the work put into the BoM over the past few months. Joanne is stepping down as Anna returns as Principal. Finally, I would like to welcome Anna back as Principal and thank Fionnuala for the huge dedication and hard work she has put into the school this year. As a growing school there is an effort over and above any Principal's job, and thank you again for stepping into that role.

Melinda Hughes, Chairperson

On behalf of the BoM