

Kilcolgan Educate Together.

April 2010



Bag Packs



A huge thank you to all those who helped out at our recent bag pack in Kinvara. Special thanks to Pauline and Maeve for organising the event. €1,040 was raised on the day which was a fantastic total. Our next bag pack takes place this weekend in Supervalu in Gort. We raised approx €2,500 at this bag pack last year and it was also a valuable chance to promote our school. We are anxious to repeat this success this year. To date we have only filled 14 of the 32 slots required to run this event so we are appealing to parents not already on the roster to please try to free up at least two hours this weekend. Bag packs require the least amount of effort and are our most lucrative fundraising events. They are also quite difficult to secure as there is a lot of competition for days. If you can help please call into us or phone the school to put your name in a slot.

Thanking you in advance.



Calendar

Bag Pack in Gort Fri 30th
April & Sat 1st May
Bag Pack in Oranmore Fri 4th
and Sat 5th June
Summer fair meeting Wed 5th
May 8.30 p.m.
Staff Meeting Fri 7th May...12
o'clock finish for children.



April Birthdays

1st Apr ~ Jake
13th Apr ~ Amber F
15th Apr ~ Connor
23rd Apr ~ Abigail
29th Apr ~ Megan

Summer Fair

Volunteers are still needed to help run the summer fair. If you are interested in becoming involved there will be a meeting in the school on Wednesday 5th May at 8.30. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to help out please contact Maeve on 0871206524.

School Website www.kilcolganetns.com



Booklists



As discussed at the recent meeting with parents and published in the last newsletter, the school will not be issuing booklists for next year. Rather parents will be asked to pay book money directly to the school and the school will purchase books suitable for your child's needs. Previous booklists amounted to over €100 per child which included a €70 contribution for sundries. We are asking parents for the next school year to pay €100 per child or €200 per family. This will include books, copies, pupils personal accident insurance, journals, contribution towards art and craft materials, contribution towards photocopying costs and contribution to classroom resources. We would appreciate if this could be paid before close of school in June. However we understand that the current economic climate puts many pressures on parents and that we have recently asked you to pay for swimming and are also asking you to pay for the school tour. Therefore parents also have the option of paying €50 per child before the break and €50 per child in September. For anyone who is not in a position to do this, please speak in confidence to your child's teacher.

See You Later Anna!



School Tour

Anna will be going on maternity leave on the 14th May. Fionnuala will be taking over the role of principal in her absence and Sarah Murray will be teaching Anna's class. We would like to welcome Sarah onto the staff and look forward to having her back with us. Anna will be back to school after the Christmas holidays.

We will be going on our school tour on Thursday 10th June. This year we are going to the Let's Go activity day in UCHG. The cost of the trip including bus is €25 but a small surplus from swimming money reduces this cost to €20 per child.

Nursing Home Visit

On 19th March we visited Kilcolgan Nursing Home to entertain the residents. They sang and played music. Congratulations to the children for their fantastic effort and behaviour on the trip. They were a credit to themselves and we were very proud of them. Well done everyone.

Lá na gClub

Children and their families are invited to a fun sports day at Ballinderreen pitch on May 9th at 2pm. There will be a bouncing castle and some skills activities. It is being organised by Ballinderreen community.



Sun Safety

As we have been enjoying the fine weather lately may we remind parents of the importance of appropriate dress and protection against the sun. Do feel free to leave some sunscreen in your child's bag and remind them to use it if it is sunny outside. Hats are also an excellent means of shielding the face from the sun. Also please take care that footwear is appropriate for stairs and yard at all times. Sandals must close at the back (so no flip-flops please) and crocs are not ideal footwear for playing in the yard as they easily fall off.

Parent Association

The Parent Association will be issuing their own newsletter to inform parents of decisions made and events upcoming. They have set their AGM for May 18th from 8pm until 9pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be available afterwards.

A Quick Check

Please check your child's hair as a case of headlice has recently been reported in school. It has been cleared but it is important to keep a constant check for this problem.

School Calendar

At the request of parents the school has created a laminated calendar with school closures and events marked in. This is available for purchase from the school at €5 per calendar. Included with this is a pen that will write on the laminate but can be easily wiped off with a damp cloth. It will not rub off with a dry rub (fingers etc). To avoid unnecessary printing and laminating costs we would ask people to order and pay for their calendars in advance. This way you will also have them before September. Closing date for orders is Friday May 7th. Calendar may be viewed on notice board at top of stairs.

Visitors Galore

The children have been enjoying visitors to the school lately. Many thanks to John Conneely for entertaining the children with his guitar, Peter Lochmann for talking to the children about dental hygiene and Applied Optics who spoke to Eimear's class about light and sight.



News from the Board of Management

The bag pack in Kinvara raised over €1000. A huge thank you to all the family members who volunteered. Especially to Pauline Harkin for getting us into Londis in Kinvara and Maeve for organising the roster. Everybody who volunteered had a great day.

The next fundraising event is on the May bank holiday weekend.

The board have ratified the History Plan for the school.

The board agreed additional resource money for classrooms to allow the purchase of reading material.

Work on a new premises is ongoing.



Science & Maths



An application has been submitted for an Award of Science and Maths Excellence. This is part of the Discover Science programme. Much work went into it and it documents the science and maths journey undertaken by the children during the year including the building of lighthouses, a study on geology, dissection of eyes, signs of spring, planting and growing, materials, and water to name but some of the activities. We are still wondering how to make this log accessible to parents and will let you know as soon we work something out. Thanks are due to Mary and Anna for co-ordinating the initiative. To find out more about the programme visit www.primaryscience.ie



Green School Tip



Now that the weather has improved check timers on heating and water boilers to ensure they will only come on when necessary.