

News from the Board of Management

The BoM would like to acknowledge and thank Mary Brosnan for organising CASE training for the teachers. The BoM would also like to acknowledge and thank Caroline Farrell for her hard work and support over the past two years and wishes her well in Canada.

€35 received from Clarinbridge Garden Centre from their Christmas tree promotion.

€5,500 donation from Andrew Downes. Andrew also hopes to take photographs of the children this term which parents can then purchase (as last year). More information will follow shortly.

The school calendar has been ratified by the BoM for next year and will be available to parents in due course.

Next meeting to take place March 9th.



Bus Routes

We are currently in the process of updating our application for the bus. As you know, there is already one established route, passing through Andrahan and Kinvara areas. We are also looking at the possibility of a new route, possibly from Oranmore. Would parents who are interested in availing of a new service for next year or anyone who has any queries please contact Louise Kinlen on 087 6355677 so that a new and up-to-date submission can be made. Forms will also be available at the school from Anna. Also the bus driver has asked that children travelling on the bus always carry their bus passes with them as there could be an inspection at any time.



Lighthouses

The students in the senior room have just completed a project on lighthouses. They worked in pairs to build simple circuits and fitted them inside model lighthouses which they made from recyclable materials. They assessed their projects using a rubric and several self assessment questions. Self assessment is important in developing reflective learners. The students thoroughly enjoyed the whole process. All are welcome to drop into the senior room to see the lighthouse display.



Green School Tip



Wait for the dishwasher to be full before you switch it on - a half full one uses the same energy as a full one.

Kilcolgan Educate Together.

February 2010



T-shirts

T-shirts with the school logo are now available to purchase. Sample will soon be displayed on notice board. T-shirts cost €15. You can place your order with Fionnuala. Any profits made will go directly to the school.



February Birthdays

1st Feb ~ Eoin V
10th Feb ~ Rory & Colm
12th Feb ~ Philip
16th Feb ~ Aibhlin
29th Feb ~ John Anderson

Parents Meeting

We would like to invite all parents to an informal, open meeting at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd March. There will be a child minding facility available. There is no formal agenda but the meeting provides a forum to give parents the opportunity to discuss matters of interest. If you have a particular topic which you would like discussed please speak to a teacher or Melinda beforehand. The staff would like to speak briefly on booklists for next year and an international day which we are planning in our 3rd term.



Donation



We have received a generous donation, raised through fundraising, from Andrew Downes to the sum of €5,500. This money will go into a savings account that has become a building fund for our new school. Thank you Andrew for your efforts.



Calendar



Mid-term break Mon 15th—Fri 19th Feb inclusive.

Parents Meeting Wed Mar 3rd

Easter holidays Mon 29th Mar—Fri 9th April inclusive.

Bag packs—May and June bank holiday weekends—help will be needed

School Website

www.kilcolganetns.com



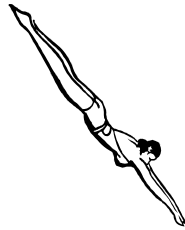
Christmas Photographs

Thanks to those who sent in the photographs of the Christmas concert. There are some lovely pictures. We are considering burning a cd or dvd of many of our nicest pictures which parents may then like to buy to help with fundraising. We will of course include many of the pictures taken in the classrooms also. We would like to know your thoughts on this. If you have strong opinions about it please speak to your child's teacher. Otherwise please cast your vote on the notice board upstairs.



Writing Scheme

As parents will be aware children in our school begin joined, cursive writing in junior infants and continue it throughout the school. With this in mind an information sheet is now available on the formation of letters and is available on the notice board upstairs. Please feel free to take a copy.



Swimming

Swimming will begin on the 14th of April for all children in our school. The cost for swimming this year is €50 per child to cover the pool, instructors and bus to the pool. The bus will leave school at approx 12.45 as swimming classes will begin at 1.00. Classes will finish at 2.00 and we would ask all parents to collect their children at the pool (in Kilcornan). Children who normally take the bus will take the bus from the pool home. Parents please remember that bus children may arrive home slightly early on these days. Please pay Fionnuala for swimming between now and April. Children will need swimming togs (not bikinis) and hats and we recommend that children wear swim shoes for health and safety reasons. The pool does insist that children wear hats.

Car Parking

Thanks to all the parents for respecting our request about parking. Some local residents have complained that the slip road is impassable at drop off and collection times when cars and the bus park side by side. Please continue to display common sense and courtesy when parking to minimise disruption.



Learn Together ~ February Festivals

This February is a busy month for festivals around the world. The 1st began with St. Brigid's Day and is followed by the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day on the 14th. This Chinese New Year is the year of the Tiger. The children learned all about Chinese New year last year and we will only briefly revisit it this year. Shrove Tuesday is on the 16th, the birthday of Prophet Mohammed is on the 26th and Holi is celebrated on the 28th. We have outlined two of these festivals below. Information on all festivals can be easily found on the internet or talk to your child's teacher if you have any particular questions. We do our best to provide balanced and accurate accounts on festivals but if we are leaving out some important information or are incorrect about something, please let us know.

February 1st - **St. Brigid's Day** is celebrated on the 1st February every year. Brigid was Irish and was born into a druid family. St. Brigid set up the first nunnery in Kildare. She was known to be very generous to the needy and kind to animals. Brigid's cloak was known for its miraculous powers. When St. Brigid asked the king of Leinster to grant her land to establish her community, he said she could have as much as her cloak could cover. Brigid removed her cloak and as she laid it on the earth it unrolled and spread until it covered a large part of the area known as the Curragh of Kildare. On this day people make St. Brigid's crosses out of rushes to protect them against various evils. Some of the traditions and stories around St. Brigid stem from Pagan origin.

February 28th - **Holi** is also called the festival of colour, a popular Hindu spring festival. It can last up to sixteen days. The main day is celebrated by people throwing colored powder and colored water at each other and passers by, shouting 'Don't feel offended, it's Holi!' It's a very messy affair but the feeling of goodwill at Holi is reinforced as differences of caste, wealth, gender and age are put aside. Everyone is so colourful that it is difficult to tell who is rich and who is poor. It commemorates the story of Holika, sister of the demon king, who was burned to death in a fire that had been intended to kill the king's son, Prahlad. On the evening before Holi, bonfires are lit in the streets and coconuts are roasted in flames to remember the story. The message of the story is of good winning over evil and of the god Vishnu's protection of those who are faithful to him.