

Kilcolgan Educate Together

February 2011

Gung Hey Fat Choi



We are currently celebrating Chinese New Year which began on 3rd February and continues for fifteen days. All classes are looking at the way this festival is celebrated and also at lots of Chinese customs, traditions, art etc. On Friday Ruijun Hu, a Chinese flautist came to our school and played some beautiful Chinese music on a selection of bamboo flutes. The children played some Irish music for him. Dorothy visited Eimear and Anna's rooms and made lanterns with the children. She also kindly shared her resources with us. Junior infants and 1st and 2nd class made a big dragon and senior infants made a dragon each with chopsticks to hold them by and fans in their middle. *Gung hey fat choi!*



Calendar



Parent-Teacher Meetings 14th-17th February.

Mid-term break Mon 21st to Friday 25th February

Staff meeting Friday 4th Mar... 12.00 closing.

Whole School Meeting Wed 9th Mar @ 6.00p.m. (all welcome)

School closed Thur 17th & Fri 18th March.

School will close on 7th June to facilitate a planning day.

Parent/Teacher Meetings



We will be holding parent-teacher meetings from Mon 14th -Thurs 17th February. If you haven't already arranged a time with your child's teacher please phone or call in to organise a time. These meetings provide a good opportunity to discuss childrens' progress and any questions parents may have.

Enrolment

We are currently enrolling for September 2011. If you are aware of anyone who would like to enrol a child for next year please have them contact the school.

February Birthdays

Rasmus 4th	Antoine 14th Feb
Colm 10th	Aibhlin 16th
Rory 10th	John (4th) 29th



Whole School Meeting



Anna and Melinda will host a whole school meeting at 6.00pm on Wednesday 9th March. These meetings provide an important opportunity for everyone involved with school to meet and discuss how everything is going. It would be great to see a good turnout on the evening. Childcare is available on the evening.



Many thanks to Sonja for coming in to talk about E3. The symbol of a person in a wheelchair with the wheels in the shape of a heart serves to remind us all of the need to Embrace, Empower and Educate ourselves and others in relation to disability. The children celebrated difference and disability and looked at the story of Helen Keller in all classes. The senses were also explored. Find out more at 3Elove.com.

Parking



A reminder to everyone about safe parking and the one way system in operation outside our school. Please take the utmost care when parking, ensuring that you are aware at all times of the possibility of children walking near the parking area. Please also bear in mind that we would like cars to enter at Rafferty's Rest and exit at O' Donoghues pub. We would be very grateful if everyone could keep to this one way system. It has been put in place with the children's safety in mind. Please do not park along the wall as it obstructs traffic

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is one of the key principles underpinning the ethos of Educate Together. We would like to broadly thank all those parents who are helping in the classrooms (and otherwise). It greatly enriches the educational experience for the children. If there is any area you would like to be involved in or you would simply like to be an extra pair of hands in a classroom please speak to a teacher.

Voluntary Contributions.

A quick reminder to parents of voluntary contributions which were agreed at our A.G.M. earlier this year. This was set at €100 and we would be very appreciative of any outstanding contributions.

Teddy Bears' Hospital



On Friday 28th January junior and senior infants had a great trip to the teddy bears'hospital in NUIG. Our teddies all had a full consultation and were sent on for the appropriate treatment which ranged from x-rays to visits to the pharmacy. All of our teddies were feeling much better on the bus on the way home and we have had good reports of full recoveries. Thanks to Aongus for organising the outing.

News from the Board

Firstly let us apologise for not updating everyone sooner this term is already escaping us.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Fionnuala for covering Anna's maternity leave so well.

Finance has been approved for the purchase of books for senior infants and PE equipment for use by the whole school.

A question for everyone is the plans for a new school, that application is taking longer than expected and currently there has been one objection to the plans and the council are looking for further information in relation to the plans sent in. In approximately four weeks we expect to have the council's decision, and then there is a time for appeals of four weeks, we are now in a waiting time, but are very hopeful. Any lobbying of politicians will help, and currently they are not hard to find so ask the questions when they knock at the door. Unlike at the AGM there is some planning for a plan B in place and an advert for a site has gone into the papers.

There is some interest already, we will try to keep you posted but anyone with questions or ideas please do contact us.

Fundraising: Bag pack in Supervalu in Gort is taking place on Fri/Sat 20/21st of May. Volunteers will be needed. In relation to fundraising can anyone with ideas or plans please go through the fundraising committee or the board to ok plans for fundraising, it prevents us having crossovers on dates or approaching businesses. Thanks for all the support given in the past number of months by helping out or attending, it all helps to raise the funds necessary to resource the school. Thanks also to the parents who have given a the voluntary contribution of 100 euro it reduces the need for fundraising a little.

Ratification of Policies: Both the Attendance policy and Fundraising policy were ratified by the board. It is the policy of the board to see the policies as working documents so there is a constant updating or reviewing of these parents can feel free to feed back to the school their comments on any policies.

There is a lot of work being put into the ethos development by the staff and board in recent months, thank you to those who have raised ideas and concerns which continue to inform the planning and work of the school.

This terms whole school meeting will take place on

Due to popular demand the coffee mornings will be resurrected once a month at drop off time on a Monday (the first Monday of the month) expect to find board members and pa members and parents/carers for informal chat or information.