

New Whiteboard

Eimear's class are delighted with their new interactive (or 'intergalactic') whiteboard. The board was donated to the school by a private donor.

Premises Committee

We would like to open the premises committee to any interested parents. The role of the committee is to look after the physical environment of the school: security, safety, maintenance, upgrade, etc. We would like to welcome any volunteers with time, idea or experience to join us.

Most of the work involves regular DIY, painting, replacing light bulbs, salting the yard by time of frost, etc. We believe there is always a better way and would welcome any suggestions to continue improving the existing facilities. While there is little ongoing during the school year, more will be required during the summer holidays such as repainting the walls, moving furniture, etc. . There is also some work to ensure compliance with the Health & Safety policy (checks of lights, sockets, fire drill, water filters, etc) and the eventual update of the H&S policy. For any query contact Benjamin on 087 99 57 010. We would like to invite all interested parents to a meeting in the school on Tuesday 23rd at 8pm.

Secondary School

At the recent parents evening some questions were raised in relation to the future of an Educate Together Second Level school in Galway. Educate Together are currently campaigning for such a school, though the first school is unlikely to open in Galway. The Educate Together website www.educatetogether.ie has lots of information about the campaign, with slides of presentations given, a downloadable version of the Blueprint for ET second level schools etc. If parents are genuinely interested in becoming involved in second level education it would be advisable to work together as a group. Elaine Molloy has kindly volunteered to assist in the formation of such a group and can be contacted on 086 1203592.



Green School Tip



Check your tyre pressure- a car with correctly inflated tyres is more fuel efficient.

Kilcolgan Educate Together.

March Birthdays



March 2010



Calendar

2nd Indira 23rd Mia
14thth Fern 23rd Cónal
13th Darragh

Premises Committee meeting
Tues 23rd March 8 p.m.
Easter holidays Mon 29th Mar—
Fri 9th April inclusive.



Summer Fair

The Summer Fair has been set for June 13th. Volunteers are urgently needed. Anyone with ideas and time to spare please contact Maeve on

Help Needed

We are currently clearing some of the left over bric-a-brac from the Christmas fair. We would be very grateful if you could take a box to a charity shop. All boxes are in the right hand corner of the room upstairs.



Fundraising



The fundraising committee are looking for new members to come and join us in our activities. So far this year we have organised the Christmas fair and a Table quiz. We are currently organising the summer fair which is to take place on Sunday June 13, and was great fun last year. Let's hope we get good weather. We would be delighted if parents would volunteer to run and organise a stand at the fair. This could be anything from a cake stall, jewellery stand to mini make overs.

We have also been given 3 shops to hold bag packs in. These are Londis in Kinvara, Supervalu in Oranmore and Supervalu in Gort. A schedule will be put on the notice board in the next days and we would ask that parents fill in the time that suits best to volunteer. Bag packs are the quickest and easiest way to fundraise for the school, and a great way to get our name out there. Our target this year is €10,000. So far this year we have raised €3,000 Please contact Maeve on 087 1206524 if you are able to help out or would like to join the committee.

School Website

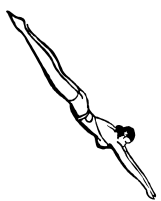
www.kilcolganetns.com

Communication

The school uses many methods of communication with parents. We aim to foster responsibility and independence as part of the learning process, so occasionally we expect children to relay certain messages at home without sending this information in written format. When children are asked to bring a message home (such as that they may need to organise a costume/bring in a photograph etc), the school holds the children responsible for this message. This means if the child comes to school without the costume, the issue is with the teacher and the child. Also for older children extra-curricular activities may be offered without notes home with a view to promoting independent learning. Parents can help their children by encouraging responsibility for these messages. If you find that your child has problems remembering verbal messages from school please speak to the teacher.

Shopping Tokens

Tesco and Supervalu will soon be running their school promotions again whereby schools can 'purchase' equipment in exchange for tokens collected by parents. If parents are shopping at these supermarkets we would be delighted to receive any tokens, however we are not asking parents to change their shopping habits.



Swimming

A reminder that swimming classes will begin on 14th April. Children will be brought to the pool by bus and parents are asked to collect them from the pool in Kilcornan 2 p.m. Classes cost €50 which pays for use of the pool, swimming teachers and the bus to the pool. Please pay Fionnuala before the holidays if possible.

Booklists



Following discussion at the recent parents evening (please see minutes) it was agreed that parents would not be asked to buy books, but rather contribute the book money to the school and that teachers would purchase books that would be more specifically tailored to the children's needs. If any parent has concerns in relation to this please speak to Anna or one of the teachers.



Illness

We would ask parents to keep their children at home if they are sick. This aids speedy recovery and prevents germs spreading to others. If in doubt it is better to keep your child out for a day than to risk their illness getting worse while they are in school and possibly passing it on to others.

Clarinbridge Community Games

Gerry Tighe, the new Chairman of Clarinbridge Community Games Committee would like to offer the children of Kilcolgan Educate Together a chance to participate in the Community Games activities. The Community Games provides opportunities for children and young people (aged 6-15) to experience a wide range of sporting and cultural activities to help them to grow and develop in a positive and healthy way.

In a recent email to the school he wrote '*I have recently taken over as Chairman of the Clarinbridge Community Games Committee and until now your School has not been included in our events. I would like to change this by offering as many children as possible the opportunity to participate in as many activities as possible in the Community Games. The Clarinbridge area lapsed for several years in providing an opportunity for children to participate. Three years ago a new Committee was formed and we are steadily growing our number of events offered to children. I wish to expand this as far as possible by ultimately offering the children in our community every possible opportunity that the Community Games can afford them.*' It is an independent voluntary organisation operating through local communities with over 500,000 participants, 20,000 volunteers and over 1.3 million supporters nationwide.

The Community Games operates at 4 levels: Area, County, Provincial and National. Clarinbridge Community Games are affiliated to Galway Community Games at County Level and are part of the Connaught organisation. Gerry is looking for the support of Teachers, Parents & Individuals by taking on the task of running & assisting in the running of Community Games Competitions. He is looking at ways to include as many children as possible in Community Games.

For more information see www.clarinbridgecommunitygames.com



First Aid Course



A certified first aid course will be run in the school before the end of the year. The cost will be €90 per person. If you are interested in such a course please leave your name with a teacher. It will be run either over two days (e.g. Friday afternoon and Saturday/ two Saturdays) or over 6 evenings. More information will follow in due course.