

Carrigaline Educate Together NS Parent Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 *Working Together for the Best Interests of our Children* February 2009

'New Beginnings' Party Great Success

Music, food and fun for all at the end of term

On 23rd December the CETNS Parent Association hosted their first event: a party with the theme 'New Beginnings' to celebrate the very first term of our new school.

The party started with a show for the parents, courtesy of the children, with help from Mel and David. They delighted us with two songs and a display of the many world festivals they have learned about this year. They were great!

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Photo courtesy of Vladimir Mihaylova

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 th Feb, 7pm	Enrolment night
14 th &15 th Feb 12-6pm	Bag-packing Fundraiser
18 th Feb, 10:30am-Noon	Coffee Morning
19 th Feb, 8pm	Next PA Meeting
13 th March	Trip to Cork Pops

Let's Raise Some Money!

First PA fundraiser will be bag-packing event

CETNS parents will raise money while helping customers bag their shopping at Dunnes Stores in Carrigaline. The bag pack will run on Saturday and Sunday, 14th & 15th February from 12-6pm.

There will be two shifts each day, 12-3pm and 3-6pm. We need four or five parents for each shift in order to cover all the tills so please plan to give a few hours of your time and help make our fundraiser a success!

What is the Money for?

Proceeds from bag-pack to be spent three ways

In consultation with the Board of Management and the Principal, the PA has decided that the proceeds from the bag-pack, which are expected to come to roughly €900, will be divided between three areas.

First, the PA needs to cover our own start-up costs of €240, which include National Parents' Council membership, insurance and PA training. We will also keep an additional €200 for other expenses that may come up in the year, with any extra to be put towards next year's costs.

Secondly, the school trip to the Cork Pops' annual Concert for Schools will cost €306. *See page 2*

Finally, another 20% of the money raised will go towards our long-range goal of a new photocopier for the school. Any additional money will be allocated in consultation with the Board and Principal.

A full account of the money raised and how it was spent will be given to all parents after the bag-pack.

Many thanks to all CETNS parents for your support!

Contact the PA Committee: pa@carrigalineeducatetogether.ie or 087 268 5124

- Mary O'Mahony, Chairman
- Val Davin, Secretary
- Donal O'Driscoll & John McGinley, Joint Treasurers
- Sue Fiessler & Toufik Messabih, Board of Management Parent Representatives

See our school website: www.carrigalineeducatetogether.ie for up-to-date school news, photographs and student artwork

PA Fact Spot - Did you know? Parent associations represent the views of parents to the Principal and Board ☺

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Val Davin very kindly entertained us all with her famous 'Mini-Music' activity. The children had a fantastic time dancing and singing a variety of wintery songs while the parents watched and sometimes even joined in the fun!

After that everyone was ready for something to eat. The parents provided delicious food and drink, including German pancakes, French orange cake, real Italian pizza, banana bread, brownies and much, much more.

Even while they enjoyed their treats, the children's eyes were on the lucky dip - the best kept for last, of course! Each child brought a gift to put in the bag and then got to pick one out to take home, which was a nice way to demonstrate how we give and receive gifts from each other.

Many thanks go to all the parents who brought food and drink, donated presents to the lucky dip, took photographs, organised, decorated, entertained, and helped to make the day special in so many ways. Great work everyone! ☺

Workshops for Parents

Do you understand the Irish school system?

If you have questions about the way Irish schools work, you're not alone. Many of us are unfamiliar with the Irish school system so the PA is currently arranging with Mel to provide workshops for parents to answer their questions. Look out for them!

If there is anything in particular that you would like these workshops to cover, please contact the PA

Software 4 Students

Save money on software

CETNS is now registered with Software 4 Students, a company that sells software packages at up to an 85% discount to students and their parents.

After the first €1500 of sales our school will get a small rebate from the company. Log on to www.software4students.ie for more information, and be sure to cite our school when registering.

Enrolment Night

New junior infants on the way!

Parents of Junior Infants starting in 2009 will enrol their children on Thursday 5th February at 7pm in the prefab. The new parents will have a chance to meet Mel and Christine as well as members of the Board and Parent Association.

Our school is growing fast! The PA is happy to welcome in a new class of children and parents. If you would like to join us on Thursday evening and meet next year's new parents, please do.

Fun Concert for Children!

PA to sponsor outing to the Cork Pops

Our children and their teachers will go to see the Cork Pops perform their annual Concert for Schools at 10am on Friday, 13th March. This is a fun and educational event which will entertain and benefit the children.

The Cork Pops is a community orchestra directed by Evelyn Grant, who is well-known for her work in children's music education. For more info see www.corkpops.ie

The cost per child is €13, including coach hire, but thanks to the bag-packing fundraiser coming up in February, the PA plans to donate €11 of the cost for each child. Parents will only have to pay €2 per child for a great musical experience – terrific value!

There is also room on the bus for 5 parents, but you must pay €8 for the concert ticket and €5 for the bus. If you would like to go along, please let Val Davin know as soon as possible as the booking must be made before the end of February.



Contact List on the Way

Need a phone number?

A new, updated parents' contact list is being made up. The list is only for the use of parents in the school. Many parents find it is handy to have at those times when you need to contact other parents, for example to arrange a birthday party or check to see if you've understood the homework.

If you haven't already put your name on the list and you would like to be included, contact the Parent Association as soon as possible.

Text and Email Updates

Check your inbox!

The Parent Association has begun a new text and email update service to keep parents informed about upcoming news and events. This will supplement those notes in the schoolbag that we all know and love!

Extra-Curricular Activities

What kinds of classes would you like to have?

Many schools offer classes and activities for children in the afternoons after school, for example, Speech & Drama, Art & Music or Foreign Languages. We are hoping to do the same. If you know of a class or activity that you would like to see offered in our school please tell us!