

Board of Management Meeting

23rd January 2024

Report to the School Community

The members of the new Board of Management are as follows:

Patron's Nominee	Catriona Purcell (Chairperson)
Patron's Nominee	Sr. Anne Murphy
Principal	Ann Murphy
Teachers' Nominee	Evania Holian
Parents' Nominee	Áine Keane Conway
Parents' Nominee	Paddy Dandy
Community Nominee	Niamh Farrell
Community Nominee	Neill Reilly (Treasurer)

Report from the Meeting:

Building Update

Our Building Project is going well and we are delighted to see such great progress! The ground floor precast floors are in place and drainage work is complete. It is hoped that brick work and steel work will be up to first floor level by the middle of February. The procurement procedure for furniture and IT equipment for the new extension has begun.

Attendance:

We have the second of our Focus on Attendance Weeks this week. There are draws each day for spot prizes, and raffles at the end of the week. All pupils who have attended for five out of five days this week will be included in both a class raffle and a school raffle. We encourage all of our pupils to be **Attendance HEROS** (Here, Every day, Ready for school, On time). Our Statement of Strategy for Attendance was ratified at the meeting and this will be published shortly on the school website.

Catholic Schools Week is being celebrated in the school this week (22nd – 26th January). Fr. Noel opened Catholic Schools Week with a short prayer service over the intercom. This year's theme is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Service'.

First Penance will be celebrated on Tuesday, 7th February in St. Mary's Church at 7.30pm. 33 pupils from Second Classes will receive the sacrament of penance on that evening.

Fr. Noel Weir, as our chaplain, is a regular visitor to sacramental classes and other classes and we appreciate the time he gives us in St. Joseph's.

Retreat for Sacramental Classes:

Sr. Kelly Francis from Drogheda will facilitate short retreats for second and sixth classes on Tuesday, 13th February. The retreats will take place in St. Anne's Resource Centre and St. Anne's Chapel. The pupils will be introduced to teenagers in Sr. Kelly Francis' youth group from Drogheda. Fifth classes will also attend for a short session.

Lenten Class Masses are usually celebrated in the assembly hall. As the hall is unavailable to us at the moment, Fr. Noel will celebrate one Mass for children from second to sixth classes on Wednesday, 6th March at 11.30am. If there is a funeral Mass on that day, our Mass will be moved to Thursday, 7th March at 11.30am.

Sports:

The boys' team, winners of the shield in the Cumann na mBunscoil tournament were presented with their medals in O'Mahonys on 13th December 2023. The boys were delighted to be addressed by Stephen Bray, Adam O'Neill and Cillian O'Sullivan. Ms. Hogan organised the ceremony and a presentation was given to Mr. Paul Brennan as the coach of the boys' team.

The fifth and sixth classes completed their six swimming lessons before Christmas. Third and Fourth Classes will begin their lessons in Aura, Navan, on 5th March. The Parents' Association will again cover the cost of transport to and from the swimming pool.

Music:

80 pupils took part in the choir for the Navan Silver Band Concert in the Newgrange Hotel on Sunday, 10th December. This event was greatly supported by parents and families. Many staff members also helped out on the night.

Say Yes to Languages

We were awarded €1,600 to run the 'Say Yes to Languages' Programme again this year. The Board of Management agreed to match this funding so that a total of 8 classes would benefit from the programme. Ms. Camelia Hangan will teach Romanian to four classes and Ms. Marina Mangan will teach Spanish to four classes. The aim of the programme is to expose children to the language of their peers and to create a more inclusive environment for all pupils.

12th January commencement of Romanian classes (rooms 10, 13, 24, 30)

15th January commencement of Spanish classes (rooms 9, 21, 29, 35)

The Stay Safe Programme is being taught in all classes in the school during this term from the Christmas holidays to the Easter holidays. A letter was sent to all parents on 10th January 2024 to inform them of the commencement of the teaching of the programme.

Meath Enterprise:

Lena Shaw (Local Enterprise Officer) will facilitate enterprise workshops for the three sixth classes on Wednesday, 7th February.

Technology:

Fifth Class, room 21 are taking part in a 12-week technology programme in conjunction with the Navan School Completion Programme and St. Joseph's Mercy Secondary School. The first six weeks will involve technology and construction, the following six weeks will be coding.

Chess: Sixth Class, room 29 will travel to Clonmellon with Mr. Olan Lynch on Thursday, 29th February for a Féile Fichille.

Parents' Association:

- The Christmas Raffle raised €987.85. €300 was spent on prizes, leaving a profit of €687.85 for the Parents' Association fund.
- The Parents' Association has submitted a proposed schedule of events. There will be a non-uniform day on Wednesday, 14th February as a fundraiser for the Parents' Association fund.
- The Parents' Association will run an Easter raffle.
- The Parents' Association is looking into a suitable venue for the First Holy Communion Party and Graduation Party as the school hall is currently unavailable due to the Building Project.
- The Parents' Association has looked into changes in our uniform tracksuit. The colours will remain the same but the material will change. There is no significant change in price. There will be a phasing out of the old tracksuit. Children will be allowed to wear the old tracksuit until they have grown out of it. We will be going with navy uniform shorts for children to wear in May / June or to sports events. The cost of the uniform shorts will be €15.95.
- The Parents' Association funded the cost of transport to swimming lessons for 5th and 6th classes and will fund the cost of transport to swimming lessons for 3rd and 4th classes.

The Chairperson recorded her thanks to the Parents' Association for their sponsorship of the transport to swimming lessons.

The Chairperson recorded her thanks to all of the staff of St. Joseph's for all of the work and activities which are on-going in the school.

Our next Board of Management meeting will take place on Tuesday, 5th March.