



Parent's Association

Parent's Association Meeting - Date: 10/11/09

Present: Catherine Matthews, Garrett Phelan, Sara Fontannaz, Lee Bonass, Emma Smith, Patrick Cusack, Ramona Parkes.

Apologies: Sarah Kernaghan, Norma Prowse-Brewer, Evan Furlong

Minutes:

Items for Discussion:

Executed by: Outcome:

Date: (Supply date/ details)

Item 1: Feedback on the meeting with Principal Catherine: Japanese Festival 'Shichi-Go-San'. Catherine is teaching about this and would like to follow up with a small celebration at the end of the day.

'Shichi-Go-San' will be celebrated at the school on Monday 16th November, as the event is usually held on a weekend. It is proposed that at both early and late pick-ups, children will be offered a special candy known as 'Chitose Ame' which is traditional in this celebration. This will be under parents' supervision. Principal Catherine suggested that it's possible that something similar to this candy may be substituted.

Item 2: Gardening and Green-Schools Project. Sara (Green schools rep) to initiate lines of communication with the Gaelscoil rep regarding this.

It was discussed at the meeting with Principal Catherine that the idea of children and parents planting bulbs together and doing some general maintenance gardening be put into action. This project would be working alongside the Green-schools project job-list. Suggested areas to work on are the grassy verges by the bike shelters, and determining whether they are plant-able areas. There could be a collaborative effort between the Gaelscoil and GET to organise two separate events of similar focus. Sara Fontonnaz is going to link up with the Green-Schools rep of the Gaelscoil, while possibly working with Emmet and Stephen to discuss the planting. Last month's idea of tree planting still applies and getting Coillte involved was brought up also.

Item 3: Text alerts

It was decided by those present at the meeting that text alerts(sent by Catherine M) to remind members of the Committee about upcoming meetings was acceptable.

Item 4: School Library: Feedback from meeting with Principal Catherine.

The school library should be ready to be organized in two weeks. (End November) . Books to fill the library have been bought and donated.

Parental input would be appreciated regarding what the gaps in content are in the new library – what do parents think are books and topics that our children need or would like? Also, some parents to move furniture around are needed, and to help organize the books.

Item 5: Moving furniture task.

Two strong volunteers are needed (probably two dads) to move furniture from the Gaelscoil building to GET one day soon at 14.30pm. Volunteers need to liase with Principal Catherine directly.

Item 6: Extra-curricular activities in the school.

It was decided that before trying to establish any activity plan that canvassing parental opinion is important. Emma Smith is drawing up a survey for parents, so we can determine what kind of extra-curricular activities our children will be interested in and benefit from. Main things suggested: Sport, Art, Craft, and Languages. Extra curricular activities are not subsidised.

Item 7: Parents notice-board.

Feedback from meeting with principal Catherine: she requests a named parent to keep the current parents' notice-board tidy and up to date.

Proposal: A Perspex/glass notice-board outside the school building for notices. This may be easier for parents at pick-ups who don't enter the school, and drop-offs in the mornings when there are queues. Garrett to look into this possibility.

Item 8: Schedule of Events

It is to be discussed with Principal Catherine if a schedule of the events will be taught around 'Christmas', and how they are prioritised, can be viewed prior to the events. E.g. Christmas, Hanukkah, etc

Item 9:

Book fair: Proposed date: 13th December.

Divisions of event:

Book swap

2nd hand book stand

Storyteller

Face Painter

The B.O.M. has given the go ahead for GET Bookfair/book-swap. The idea for this event, in addition to being a fundraiser, is to encourage a love of books and promote literacy. Committee seeking to find out dates of other bookfairs/markets in the month of

Café/lounge
Various kids' activities.

December to avoid clashing with other events.
Independent book seller/sellers yet to be chosen. Percentage of their sale goes to fundraiser.

Storyteller: (a parent, possibly Emma)
Facepainter: Norma to oblige
Possible Santa (needs further discussion)
Café/lounge area: attendees can buy tea, coffee and cakes here.
Various kids' activities may include a poetry competition, words games.
Parents and friends to donate 2nd hand books, cakes and their time.

Item 10: Fundraising

Well done at the Tesco bag-pack. We raised 1919 euro for the library and 288 euro for the PA.
The PA thanks Norma Prause-Brewer in particular and all who participated in raising these funds for the school library.

AOB:

Can we get a sign at the bottom of school hill from the government – alerting drivers to a school ahead and children crossing.

PA Agenda

Maybe some Gardai or safety officer come in to the school at some point and conduct an educational slot in the school day or simply committee members organize reflective disks to hang from childrens' coats, if necessary.

School Bus

Jessica on the task of organizing a school bus for those children living more than 3 kms from the school living in the same area.

Treasurer role:

Emma Smith appointed treasurer to work with Ramona.

Next PA Meeting

ALL

Wednesday 16/12/09 at 7.30pm