



Greystones Educate Together Parents' Association Committee meeting,

1st June, 2011

Attended by: Principal Catherine, Tanya Cawley Leahy, Pat Cusack, Garrett Phelan, Katarzyna Nikonowicz, Lynnea Connolly, Aran McMahon, Barbara Campbell & Evan Furlong

Apologies: Niamh Collins & Dave Malone

Chaired by: Pat Cusack

Minutes: E Furlong

Agenda:

- Meeting our principal
- Parents' Survey & Parental involvement
- ECA for Sept
- Teddy Bear's picnic

Meeting our principal

The following items were discussed with Principal Catherine:

BoM have decided that the swimming lessons for junior infants will continue next term. Geraldine reported back from a recent conference that none of the 400+ delegates there were in favour of swimming lessons before 1st class.

It was agreed that the school will draft guidelines for all swimming volunteers to follow, which will be ready in advance of the lessons starting and will be distributed to all swimming volunteers. Parents will be advised of swimming lessons in good time, in order to arrange the volunteers needed.

School's sport day will take place on 22nd June and the Rugby Club has been booked. The event will take place from 1pm onwards.

There's been a suggestion of having the sport's day together with the Food Market fundraiser for the school as most parents will be participating. Principal will seek permission from the Rugby Club and Lynnea will double check with Jessica re school's healthy eating policy on this.

The school play will take place at the Greystones Theatre on 28/29th & 30th June.

The play on 28th is Goldilocks for the older classes. Mary Poppins will be lead by Aoife's class and include younger classes- it will be split between two days on 29th and 30th. This is a free event to the parents and school is seeking prizes donation for the raffles which will towards the funding of this play. Barbara has offered a prize for each night.

The school is going ahead with purchasing school books in bulk (coordinated by teachers Conor and Emmett), discount and free covering are still under negotiation. Details will be sent to all parents before the end of this term.

The anti-bullying policy has been signed off on by the Board and read by the PA. Lynnea has agreed to proof read it.

PA is fundraising for the school dish washer from the Food Market if it goes ahead (Food Market sale funds will be ring-fenced for PA general purposes e.g. txt system, stationery. Also the school dish washer will be provided out of these funds if possible).

The school photo day is still at the sourcing stage but hopefully will be taking place by the end of term.

17th June is the swimming gala in Shoreline Greystones, older children who can swim at the deep end are invited.

PA has requested to be notified at least a month in advance before the school culture events so that the PA can seek extra help from parents. It was suggested that the school announce the upcoming events in the school term newsletter and ask any interested parents to come forward.

Food Dudes was a great success and all hope the An Bord Bia will continue this programme in the future.

It was agreed that the school website needs to be worked on and Katarzyna has volunteered to help the staff (Conor) to kick it off.

Parents' Survey & Parental involvement

The school is in favour of surveying parents re what they want from the PA and other issues, and development of a parental involvement policy. The survey will include what social

events parents would like to part in (following poor attendance at past events). Parental involvement with a commitment of a fixed number or hours of volunteering time per school year and 15 minutes of reading etc have been suggested. Principal Catherine and the staff will gather feedback as to what areas they would like parents to help with.

ECA for Sept

The draft version of the ECA plan for the next school year was discussed.

Katarzyna has kindly volunteered and worked on an ECA plan to be implemented, including an ECA survey for parents as well as bag notes that will hopefully be sent to all parents once the PA committee and the school have agreed on the terms. The outstanding issues to be agreed are: who is responsible in case of an emergency or cancellation, who is in place to supervise activities and who has overall responsibility of running the ECA. It was agreed that Principal Catherine and the PA would find out how these issues are managed in other schools and feed back by Wed 8th June.

Teddy Bear's picnic

Different groups of parents recently raised the issue of running of the Teddy Bear's Picnic this year (the PA had previously decided not to run this event). With help from Jessica Bird to chair and drive the TBP committee, the PA are happy to proceed and we will help out individually and as a group wherever we can.

The date has yet to be confirmed and the same venue (shoreline sport ground) has been booked for 7th or 14th Aug.

AOB

The PA will work over email to compile the BoM list (to be sent in advance of their next meeting for inclusion in their agenda).

Outstanding Matters

Garrett will re-visit the cost of getting the outdoor parent's Notice board.

PA will help in clearing the (Wicklow) room out and making it available for Sept.

Next meetings (summer)

6th July and 3rd Aug. 2011

@ 19.45 - Subject to change – please refer to website for any updates.