



CETNS NEWSLETTER

April 2018 | Issue 13

HOME/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Hi all, firstly, we'd like to thank everyone who turned out for the St Patrick's Day Parade, despite the cold weather! It was great to see such a large response at short notice. Considering it was our first year in the parade, we feel we did the school proud. Thank you also to the families who couldn't participate but still came out to support us; the children loved to see so many familiar faces as we walked.

Our last coffee morning was so successful that we would like to make this a monthly event. Our next coffee morning will be on Friday, April 13th in Cuppa Joe's opposite the school, just after morning drop off. Please feel free to drop by for a chat and a cuppa while getting to know each other in an informal setting.

We'd also like to invite you all to our first official Home/School Association meeting. We plan to hold this in the school on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be emailed to all parents who have given permission to be contacted by the HSA prior to the meeting.

If you haven't given permission and would like to be included in our mailing list, or you would like to join our private Facebook group, please email us directly at homeschoolassociation@castlebaretns.ie. This is the easiest way to keep up to date with all things to do with the Home/School Association.

Finally, thank you all for everything so far, we're off to a flying start.

The CETNS Home/School Association Committee.

PARENT'S WHAT'S APP/FACEBOOK GROUP

Thank you to everyone who has shared their details with the Home/School Association. The aim of this group is to facilitate communication between parents and to get more immediate responses. Like our Facebook page there are warnings associated with school communities engaging in social media in this way. Our Facebook page is such a success that I'm sure these groups will be too. Before any issues arise can I just remind everyone that the purpose of the Home/School association is to compliment work in the school. It is not involved in the running of the school. If you have an issue with some element of how the school is run (you don't like the school start time for example) this is an issue for the Board of Management. You speak to the secretary of the BOM (Principal) about this. If you have an issue with something in your child's class you must speak to the class teacher in the first instance. It is strongly emphasised that these groups will not be used as a forum for complaints or generating support for your concerns. We have a fantastic parent body and a dedicated staff. We want to keep this buzz and enthusiasm going and ensure our school is a happy place of learning for the children. Thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

HALF STREAM ENROLMENT

We received email correspondence from the Department of Education and Skills at 5pm on Friday March 22nd. The DES have said that they are "willing to look at facilitating the school's expansion to an eight-classroom school, subject to the availability of a suitable school building arising from the reconfiguration of existing schools in the area". This means that we can go ahead and enrol a full stream class but we will have accommodation issues for September 2019. The reconfiguration of two schools would mean two existing schools join together. This is not planned in Castlebar in the foreseeable future so we will need to again look at local buildings/premises which might facilitate our growth. We are relieved with this good news for now but we will have further problems in the coming years. Difficult journeys lead to beautiful destinations, however so we remain positive and thank you to all parents and community members who lobbied on our behalf.

ETHICAL EDUCATION THEMES FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD

- 9th April – Earth Day
(Ethics and Environment)
- 16th April – Believe in yourself / growth
mind set (Moral and Spiritual)
- 23rd April – The rights of the child
(Equality and Justice)

ATTENDANCE

Here is an update of our record of attendance for the year so far:

- September – 95.6%
- October – 91.7%
- November – 92.6%
- December – 82.1%
- January – 90.7%
- February – 88%
- March – 92.4%

Remember every day counts!

SCHOOL PHOTOS

April 19th is the date for school photos. This is a completely optional service. The school earns 20% commission but there is no pressure from us to purchase the photographs. We will get a photo of each class grouping to have a nice keepsake.

POLICIES TO REVIEW

As you can imagine the half stream enrolment issue has taken up a lot of Board of Management time. Some of our policies are due to be renewed but we've had to push this back to deal with more pressing issues. You will notice in the coming weeks that we will be circulating policies for your consideration. Firstly we have drafted a Homework Policy and we would like to hear your feedback. It is rare to find a teacher or parent who likes homework as it takes so long to prepare, correct and to do! We will try to strike a balance and as the school grows and the children get older we will review the emphasis we place on Homework. At the junior end of the school it's a lovely way to hear about what goes on in school and to connect with the learning. All comments appreciated.

2018/2019 ENROLMENT

We have started to offer places for Junior Infants 2018/2019. Currently we have 14 children enrolled. Sarah will be the Junior Infant teacher again next year and Miriam will be the senior infant teacher. The new teacher will teach first class. This all depends on numbers enrolled. We need approximately 55 children in total to be able to employ a third mainstream class teacher. If we think we will have the numbers a teaching position will be offered on a temporary basis until numbers are confirmed on September 30th. There is an Educate Together re-deployment panel that we will be engaging with and any positions will be advertised on www.educationposts.ie. We had over 100 applications last year and we expect the same this year. If friends or family are interested please remind them that canvassing will disqualify and they should not contact the school seeking additional information.

SCHOOL PUNCTUALITY AND SIGN IN BOOKS

In line with our attendance strategy we ask that parents sign in their child if they arrive late to school (the rest of the class are settled into their classroom)

LINENHALL SHOW / GMIT PUPPET SHOW

On Friday April 20th we will be going to a show in the Linenhall. Please send in €5 if you haven't already done so. On Tuesday April 24th GMIT students will come to our school and put on a shadow puppet show for us. There is no charge for this show.

SHINING STARS AND GAEILGEOIRÍ NA SEACHTAINE

Here are the winners from Assembly for March:

HANDWRITING OF THE WEEK

Date	Class	Name
09/03/2018	J1	Mia
	S1	Joshua
16/03/2018	J1	Pakie
	S1	Clodagh
23/03/2018	J1	Ula
	S1	Marek

GAEILGEOIRÍ NA SEACHTAINE

Date	Class	Name
09/03/2018	J1	Liam
	S1	Layla C
16/03/2018	J1	Eoin
	S1	Brooke
23/03/2018	J1	Luke
	S1	Emily

SPONSORED WALK

This year the school purchased €4195.25 worth of reading books. These books were used by senior infants for January, February and March and their reading fluency has really improved. To help pay for these books and allow us to add to our collection we will be having a sponsored walk on the 20th of May at 3pm. Each child will be given a sponsorship card and we will try to raise as much money as possible. Last year we had only 12 pupils, we raised €647 so the aim is to raise twice as much this

BATTERY RECYCLING

WEEE Ireland will be in our area this week collecting waste batteries. You can gather up all the waste batteries at homes and bring them in to the school for recycling.

