



# ST BRIGID'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

On behalf of the Parents' Association, I would like to thank everybody who has helped with activities and fundraising, and contributed to another successful term. The pandemic has obviously impacted how much time we can spend on site in the school working on the various parent supported initiatives, however we were very happy to manage to carry out some hands on activities in addition to the many remote.

I would like to thank everyone who has given up their valuable time and we would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

### Aoife Murray, Chairperson



### PA Committee and Board of Management Parent Representatives

- PA Committee with elected or nominated roles:
  - Chairperson: Aoife Murray
  - Vice Chairperson & Library Coordinator: Elaine Killilea
  - National Parents Council Delegate: Mary Quaid Hartigan
  - National Parents Council Special Educational Needs Delegate & Digital ICT Coordinator: Janet Watters
  - Fundraising Coordinator: Emer Elliott
  - Publications Coordinators: Margie Desmond & Steph Flynn
  - Sports Coordinator: Tina Cavazza
  - Swimming Coordinator: Sally Ann Murray
  - Secretary: Rebecca Gill
- Board of Management Parent Representatives
  - Bronwen Allan
  - Jim Clarken



**Thank you to those who joined us for our first online AGM. Our guest speaker, Amanda Dunne Fulmer, a volunteer and parent in St. Brigid's for over 14 years, offered these inspiring words on "the real gains from a culture of volunteering":**

*"For the kids – the time, energy and expertise that parents or guardians can provide enhances and adds to what they already get in school – it gives them a value added experience'. They actually enjoy seeing their parents in school and it reinforces the value of school in their eyes – if you're willing to give your time and effort, then maybe they should too!*

*For the school – parents who help out often get a better perspective on how busy and challenging school life can be and that can be invaluable in building better home-school relationships. There are a lot of activities that would be much harder to run without the practical help of parents, from sports days to walks to school tours.*

*For you – an understanding of school life, an appreciation of the importance of the educational experience your child is having, a chance to meet other parents and form friendships and support groups and at the risk of sounding a bit cheesy, personal fulfilment!*

*We are very aware that what you are able to do varies at different stages but if you can do a little more, you really do get a lot more out of the 8 years your child will spend in the school. The Irish word for volunteer is 'deonach', which also means agreeable and willing – those are without a doubt the most valuable things you can offer, a positive attitude and enthusiasm!*

*So, I'd ask you to consider – what can you do? What time can you spare? What need can you see? And what might you enjoy getting involved in?"*

### PA MEETINGS 2021 - 2022

- 27th September Parents' Association AGM
- No Meeting in October
- 1st November 2021
- 6th December 2021
- 31st January 2022
- No Meeting in February
- 7th March 2022
- 25th April 2022
- 16th May 2022
- 13th June 2022



# PA NEWS!

This term, parent volunteers and **Student Council** planted over **600 pollinator bulbs**, donated by parents and Greystones Tidy Towns, in the grounds as part of the **Bulbs for Bees** initiative! In addition, parents carried out a clean up of the pollinator bed, adding additional pollinator friendly heather plants and a new holly tree at the entrance in the main yard, as part of Wicklow Co Co's Native Tree planting scheme.

Our wonderful volunteer **Wardens** have been turning up every day at the back gate, helping all the children leave school in safety.

The amazing fundraising teams have been busy despite the many restrictions, raising much needed funds for the school with our **Halloween Dress Up Day** and the beautifully illustrated children's **Christmas cards**.

We are delighted that our first school **Cook Book** has been a great success - with many families already sharing pictures of home bakes from the recipes our children and families shared, we look forward to seeing more!

Many thanks also to those who took part in the **Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box appeal**. These gifts will be delivered to vulnerable children living in poverty across the world.

We are looking forward to our annual **Christmas jumper day this Wednesday 22nd December** in aid of our local **St. Vincent de Paul** group. St. Vincent de Paul provide direct, personal, non-judgemental assistance, based on the specific needs of an individual or family. In addition, they provide a wide range of services for vulnerable people through the local offices, shops, resource centres, housing, daycare and holiday schemes, amongst other things. Many thanks to all for your donations to this very important charity.



If you have any queries or ideas for your Parents' Association Committee, please contact us at [stbrigidsparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:stbrigidsparentsassociation@gmail.com)