

# PTA News – June 2014

We had a very successful year again this year and a big Thank You to everyone who supported and helped out. A special thanks to our committee: Margaret O'Donovan, Jacinta Hayes, Barbara Morrell (Afterschool Activities), Olive Doherty (Treasurer), Carol Ruth (PRO/Afterschool), Raymond Swan, Niamh Murphy, Sarah Anderson, Anne Synnott (Parent Rep Coordinator) and Tracy Smith (Secretary/Board of Management Rep). Tracy, Sarah, Niamh and Jacinta stepped down this year after a combined 20 years' service! Many thanks for your commitment. If anyone is interested in getting involved, don't hesitate to contact a committee member or contact us through Gorey Educate Together PTA on Facebook.

Siobhan Smyth, Chairperson

## Parent Class Representatives

As you know, each class in the school has a parent class representative whose role is to assist in promoting parental participation in the school. Anne Synnott is the Parent Class Rep Coordinator and meetings are held once a month. Many thanks to all the current reps for their hard work. There are a number of vacancies for class reps at the moment. If you are interested in finding out more information or being a class rep for your class, please contact Anne on 086 3340691

## Sponsored Walk

The sponsored walk took place in Courtown Woods again this year but with a special twist – A Gruffalo Hunt. We successfully hunted down the Gruffalo with the help of the fox, the mouse and the snake. A great day was had by all and many thanks to Marie, Claire, Rachel, Niamh and John for organising this event.

## Winter Fair

Trojan work was done by the Class Reps and parents in organising a wonderful Winter Fair in December. From reindeer dust to fairy wands, handmade cards to Lego picture frames, we had it all! Tasty treats were available for parents and friends to enjoy while the children took part in activities such as Befriend a Bear. Raffle prizes were plentiful and entertainment was provided by the choir and an up and coming young band. Plans are already under way for December 2014 for what will be another wonderful event.

## Craft Workshops

Following on from the success of the Winter Fair, some money raised was used to run craft workshops for parents. The aim was to teach a skill to parents who could in turn teach that to our pupils. Starting on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 8 parents attended a 6 week long crochet course run by Michelle Phelan. Classes were held on a Tuesday morning. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, these parents started teaching crochet to 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils. This continues every Thursday until 26<sup>th</sup> June and plans are under way to continue this next year. On 27<sup>th</sup> May, a wet felt workshop was facilitated by Sarah Rubin. 10 parents took part in this and made felt bowls, flowers and other items. It is hoped to bring these skills into the classroom at a later date.

## Afterschool Activities

The afterschool activities for 2013-2014 were a great success. We began with Zumba last October with Shelley Askins, we had 13 junior and senior infants taking part, and 8 from the older classes participating. The activity ran for 8 weeks finishing up in December. All our Zumba kids had tremendous fun!!

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In February we shook, rattled and rolled with Graham Carey's percussion class, 13 junior/senior infants and 9 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class children took part, creating amazing new rhythms that echoed throughout the school, and if that wasn't enough we were also cooking up a storm with Wendy Kavanagh in the kitchen of the PTA room. Wendy ran two baking classes on Monday and Thursday for 23 children from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class. Our little bakers produced breads, cakes, pizzas and much more.

In May we chilled things down with Janette McDonald and Orlagh Prendergast. Janette had 7 children from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class learning breathing techniques and yoga positions. The children had so much fun standing like flamingos, snapping like crocodiles and howling like dogs. Orlagh had 15 junior/senior infants who through her creative dance class had the opportunity to develop self-esteem and body awareness through mindful exercises and movement.

Over the years the PTA have successfully provided eight-week afterschool programmes for the students such as arts/crafts, hip hop, drama, etc. For the next school year we hope to provide more exciting and fun activities. We are in discussions with a group to provide a junior science activity, which will appeal to all ages. As a parent of the school if you have a skill or a second language you would like to share with the students the PTA would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact Barbara Morrell on 087-9339807

## School Discos

With the help of the School Council, 2 themed discos were held in October and February. Thanks to everyone who helped run the tuck shop and supervise at these enjoyable events.

## Internet Safety

In January the PTA hosted a talk on Internet Safety by Internet Safety Consultant John Murray. 20 parents attended this interesting talk.

## Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings continued on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month from September to April. From then on, coffee mornings were held once a month, on the First Friday. Baked treats are always available thanks to the class reps. Come along and have a cuppa and a chat. There will be a coffee morning on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August to welcome all new and returning parents. For September only, there will be a coffee morning each Friday. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## Fundraising

Details of how monies raised from various events appear regularly in the School newsletters. In addition to supporting school activities, monies raised have been used to cover our running costs such as insurance, membership of National Parents' Council and to fit a new storage unit in the PTA room.

## Upcoming Events

We are very busy preparing for the Evening Event in honour of 6<sup>th</sup> Class which will take place this Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June. The Bag Pack in Tesco is on this Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June. Volunteers still needed, please contact Carol on 087 2117250.

Have a great summer. From Your PTA.

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