

# **ST. COLMCILLE'S PARENTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013**

## **PARENTS COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

The AGM of the Parents Council was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Many thanks to the parents who attended. The new Parents Council was elected as follows:  
Chairperson: Aoife O'Reilly  
Vice Chairperson:  
Secretary: Valerie Treleaven  
Vice Secretary:  
Treasurer: Carol Thornton  
Vice Treasurer:  
Members: Tina Kennedy, Barbara O'Neill, Lorraine Smith, Caroline Clarke, Mairead Fitzgerald, Susan Finlay

If you have any queries you feel the Committee could help with, please feel free to contact us via the link on the school website [www.colmcilles.com](http://www.colmcilles.com).

## **NON-UNIFORM DAY – OCTOBER 2013**

Many thanks to all the boys who contributed to the non-uniform day just before halloween break. A terrific amount of €490.00 was raised.

## **WHERE FUNDS ARE USED:**

Each year the Parents Council ask what we can do for our boys? All money raised during the year is used to finance some projects in the school that will benefit the children. This year some of the projects the Parents Council are assisting with are:

**New Comprehension Initiative** – Following on from the success of the Steps to Literacy programme, the school has decided to focus on comprehension as part of the School Self Evaluation Process. The initiative will include every class from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and cover such skills as visualisation, predicting, making connections, summarising, inference & synthesis – strategies to help them understand what they are reading. This will be a huge help to them as they advance through their education. A different set of books will be used to model and teach each skill. A focus group of parents will be set up later in the year to offer feedback on the initiative. (The Parents Council are contributing €1,000 towards the cost of the books.)

**Earphones** – The Parents Council have contributed €1,000 towards the cost of purchasing earphones for each child in the school. This will

enable the children to get the full benefit from the software installed in the computer room.

**Dingo Lingo CDs** – The Parents Council donated towards the purchasing of CDs which teach Irish vocabulary in a fun way to junior classes.

Other projects including help with costs of bus hire for school teams who have to travel to represent the school, birdseed for the school garden and an additional bicycle rack will be considered at future Parents Council meetings.

## **MATHS / IRISH CLASSES FOR PARENTS**

It is hoped to hold Maths and Irish classes for parents in the new year. These classes have proved to be a great success with the parents in helping them assist their children with homework. These classes are funded by the Parents Council and are free to parents. We will let you know when we have further information available.

## **SCHOOL PATRONAGE**

In 2011, the Minister for Education and Skills set up an expert group to consult with people and make recommendations about how

primary schools can become more inclusive of different traditions, religions and beliefs. The report of this expert group is available on the Dept of Education website at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). It is called *Report of the Advisory Group to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector*. If you would like to submit your views you can send by post to Central Policy Unit, Dept. Of Education and Skills, Block 2, Floor 1, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 or by email to [cpu@education.gov.ie](mailto:cpu@education.gov.ie). Please send your views by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

School closes for Christmas holidays on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and will re-open Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

## **CONTACT US:**

vis school website:  
[www.colmcilles.com](http://www.colmcilles.com) and go to Parents Council page.

*Wishing you all a very happy  
Christmas.*