

## **PA NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2023**

Greetings to all parents! This newsletter is to update parents on the Parents' Association and what has been going on in recent months. We hereby admit that communication has been thin on the ground since Covid, but we can assure you that activity has been ongoing!

### **CURRENT OFFICERS:**

#### **The Parents Association Committee for 2022/2023:**

**Chairperson:** Ciaran McCauley (Child in 4<sup>th</sup> Class)

**Secretary:** Rosaria Kunda Marron (Child in 1<sup>st</sup> Class)

**Treasurer:** Jessie Smith McKenna (Children in 4<sup>th</sup> and Seniors)

#### **Committee Members:**

- Pamela McDaid (Children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Class)
- Jaime O'Dwyer (Children in Seniors and Juniors)
- Claire Matthews (Children 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Seniors)
- Colin O'Hare (Child in Juniors)
- Keith Moran (Children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class)
- Lorraine Roe (Child in 1st Class and 3 past pupils)
- Laura McHugh (Children in 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class)
- Niamh O'Sullivan (Child in 4<sup>th</sup> class)

### **CONTACT WITH PA**

Contact with the Parents' Association can be made by the PA WhatsApp group or by email to [pastrandhill@gmail.com](mailto:pastrandhill@gmail.com) or by rocking up to one of the committee members at the school gate. If you are not on the WhatsApp group and would like to be added, please email us to let us know.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

Below is a list of the current subcommittees and a brief look at what they do. If any parent is interested in getting involved, please let us know through the contact channels above.

- **Fundraising Subcommittee**

Members include: Jaime O'Dwyer, Gemma Smyth

Plans for a series of fundraising activities is underway. A Table Quiz and Music Night on March 4<sup>th</sup> in the Golf Club. Details have been shared on the PA group and with class groups. Ideas for a spring/summer fundraiser involving the children are being gathered and if anyone would like to contribute or get involved in fundraising, please contact us on one of the channels above. The more, the merrier!

- **Neurodiversity Subcommittee**

Members include: Claire Matthews, Pamela McDaid

The neurodiversity group are a group of parents with a special interest in neurodiversity. This interest stems from our experiences with our children who may be neuro minorities or from our experiences

of working with neuro diverse people in our professional careers. Neurodiversity is an umbrella term used to advocate for a number of neuro minorities. These include but are not limited to autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, tourettes, dysgraphia, sensory processing difficulties, language difficulties or social and emotional challenges. Neurodiversity recognises the uniqueness of each human mind. In this group we support each other by sharing our own experiences and knowledge. We also explore ways in which we could use this knowledge to support all the children in our school to be happy, comfortable and engaged throughout their primary school years. We are a new group having met for the first time in October 2022. We plan to meet once a term to continue to share ideas on how we can achieve our aims of raising awareness, knowledge sharing and supporting each other. We currently have a group of 10 parents and are open to any parents who would like to join us. Contact can be made directly with members of the group or through the channels above.

- **Action on Homework Subcommittee**

Members include: Niamh O'Sullivan, Rosaria Kunda Marron, Ciarán McCauley

This group was formed in the wake of a parents' survey on homeschooling during Covid which revealed that many parents saw great value in the homework free weeks during the kids' return to school. The intention was to gather the views of teachers, parents and children on this important issue. Progress had stalled, but renewed energy has come to the group in recent times. If any parents would like to be involved, please contact the PA on one of the channels above or contact one of the group members directly.

#### **"LET'S TALK" GROUP**

A group of parents with children in Strandhill National School who are not of the Roman Catholic faith came together in 2019 to begin to work collaboratively with the school on a statement of practice on Religious Education. The group has a WhatsApp group and continues to share ideas and support on related matters. If parents are interested in getting more information or joining the group, please email the PA on [pastrandhill@gmail.com](mailto:pastrandhill@gmail.com)

#### **FUNDRAISING TARGET 2022/2023**

The school has requested fundraising support from the PA to help develop a second hard-court play area at the school. We are hoping to raise €10,000 towards the overall cost (which is around €45,000 for the court, drainage, fencing, and lining) and are planning a series of fundraising activities over the coming months. So far, we have €1,000 from the Hallowe'en Disco (with €1000 already given to the school to support Music Generation 22/23) and the next event is the Table Quiz and Music Night on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MEETINGS**

Committee meetings are held throughout the year. All parents are welcome to attend the AGM held in September and another general meeting in late spring. Notifications of meetings are sent out through the PA WhatsApp group and shared on class groups and in the school newsletter. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION PAGE ON WEBSITE**

Minutes from the meetings and are available on the PA page of the school website and a link to these will be sent out on the PA WhatsApp group soon thereafter. **Please note that the webpage is not yet up to date but will be following the next committee meeting.**