

**Parents Association  
St. Mary's National School,  
Ballygunner.**

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**Newsletter**  
**Issue 42 – Halloween, 2015.**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the Halloween mid-term break I wish to update you on important school news. This year our Parents Association AGM took place on Wednesday 7th October. There was a good attendance and current issues were discussed. On behalf of the Board of Management I wish to express sincere thanks to all committee members who stepped down after their three year term. I look forward to working with the new committee for 2015/16 school year.

Our school website is [www.ballygunner.ie](http://www.ballygunner.ie) On it you will find general information about our school and it is a convenient reference for school calendar, policies and procedures. Also, we are on twitter @BallygunnerNS, please follow us to keep up to date on school news.

The Board of Management has completed and ratified the annual review checklists for our Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Policies. The Board is extremely satisfied with the extensive work completed to produce a School Self-Evaluation Report 2014/15 and a School Improvement Plan 2015/16. We will continue to focus on areas of literacy (writing), numeracy (problem solving) and a new subject for this year is Science. These

reports will be available to view on [www.ballygunner.ie](http://www.ballygunner.ie) after Halloween.

The Department of Education and Skills Minor Works Grant Scheme 2015 along with monies from Christmas raffle 2014 allowed our Board of Management to fund the painting of our sports hall, all corridors and junior classrooms toilet areas. We also replaced carpet with marmoleum flooring in our three senior infant classrooms. School signage project is now complete. These improvements will further enhance the learning environment for all.

I wish to acknowledge our pupils excellent attendance rate of 96.5%. It highlights the importance families place on education here at St. Mary's N.S. as we all continue to work collectively to give our pupils every opportunity to reach their full potential.

On the sports fields our pupils continue to excel. Our gaelic football teams Girls, Under 10 Boys, Under 13 Boys played in the Allianz Cumann an mBunscol Eastern Finals last week. Huge congratulations to all concerned with the 'treble' achieved!

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October was a memorable school day. The Irish Army visited us as part of *The National Flag for Primary Schools Initiative 2016*. We look forward to playing our part when the centenary celebrations begin.

I wish to extend a special welcome to all new families who have joined us in St. Mary's N.S. I hope all pupils have settled in and please remember that class teachers are available by appointment to discuss your child's progress. This year our parent teacher meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Finally, I wish to inform you the four year term of our Board of Management comes to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Information on election of parent nominees to new Board of Management will be circulated this week.

Enjoy the mid-term

Killian O'Reilly  
Principal Teacher

## Ballygunner Parents Association:

The Parents Association AGM took place at the school on 7th October last. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairperson: Adrienne Walshe  
Secretary: Deirdre Spillane  
Treasurer: Joanne Crowley  
Teachers Rep: Mary Cantwell

The New Constitution was voted on and formally adopted by the Parents Association.

A huge thank you to our outgoing committee members who have now retired from the association, in particular last year's Chairperson Catherine Rogers and Sandra Rellis our teachers Rep.

## Dates for your Diary

Christmas fair and fashion show school fundraiser to be held in Woodlands Hotel on Sunday November 22nd from 2pm to 5pm. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AND FAB FASHION WILL BE ON SHOW

Traders wishing to showcase at the Christmas event, please contact Adrienne Walshe on 087 2417156. Book early to avoid disappointment!

We are presently seeking volunteers to join the Parents Association Committee. There is also a helpers committee for the people that are unable to commit, but may be available from time to time, we would love to hear from you .

We are also seeking all types of spot prizes for our Christmas events and if you can oblige it would be very much appreciated

Thanks

Adrienne Walshe



## More dates for your Diary:

**Fri Oct 23** School closes from 12.00pm – 12.30pm for Mid Term Break.

**Mon 2 Nov** School reopens at 9.00am

**Sun 22 Nov** School Fashion Show

**Nov** Parent/Teacher Meetings

**Tue 22 Dec** School closes for Christmas holidays

**Wed 6 Jan** School reopens for start of New Term

## Sports News



### Girls Gaelic Football

Huge congratulations to the girl's football team who won the Roinn A Eastern Final of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol League. They played Our Lady of Mercy SNS on Wednesday in Walsh Park. Having been beaten last year the girls knew they had a tough task on their hands. They played with passion and skill and displayed tremendous team work throughout the game earning them a fantastic victory of 3-8 to 1-1. Captain Dara Fitzgerald gave a lovely speech as she was presented the cup for the first time in 13 years! What a memorable day for the whole panel of 24 girls from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class! A huge thank you and congratulations to Miss. Rellis and Miss. Tallon for their dedication and commitment in leading the girls to this great victory!

### Boys U13 Football

Ballygunner 4-04 St. Declan's 0-07  
The Under-13 boys earned a hard-fought victory against St. Declan's in the A final in Walsh Park last Thursday. St. Declan's made a strong start and were 3 points up before Conor Goff punched the first goal of the game. This settled down the Ballygunner team who dominated the remainder of the first half with points from Tommy Phelan, Patrick Fitzgerald and Eoin MacSweeney, who also scored a fantastic solo goal. The second half was a tough battle and the Ballygunner defence, under massive pressure, cleared ball after ball. It took a Tony Ebonouye goal on the turn to settle the nerves with 10 minutes to go. Tommy Phelan got his second point of the game before victory was wrapped up with a stunning long range goal from Ross Delahunty. Daniel

Kiely, who was colossus at centre-back, received the cup as captain of the victorious team.

### U10 Football Blitz:

Our U10 football team enjoyed great success this year claiming the division 1 football league title for 2015. The boys played extremely well in all 6 matches on both days. In the A finals we had hard fought wins over Scoil Lorcán, St. Declans and Portlaw. There were some excellent performances from all the boys and in particular in the backline in the game against St. Declans in the second half. Congratulations to all involved!! Also, well done to the boys who took part in the first blitz of the year that took place in Walsh Park in September.

### Waterford schools Cross Country

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Waterford Primary Schools cross-country event took place at the RSC playing pitches. St Mary's had boys and girls from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class competing.

Our school received 2 shields – the Boys 2<sup>nd</sup> and the girls 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in addition to most children going home with a medal.

It was a very enjoyable and memorable day out. The children in our school made us proud not only by how well they competed but how well they behaved.

A huge thanks to parents Ray Leahy, Mary Power, Deirdre Flynn, Jill Williams and Mr O'Neill for your great assistance on the day. There were many other volunteers who offered their assistance that we would also like to thank.

The next athletics competition for Primary schools will take place in April 2014 for sprints, long race and relays. We will be holding trials after Easter for places on the teams.

Ms N Hayes

## Green Schools Initiative



### Green Schools

A big welcome to the pupil reps from all the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes who have joined our new Green Schools committee. Over the next two years we will be working on a new theme to win our 6<sup>th</sup> Green Flag. The theme is **Global Citizenship re. Litter and Waste** – sounds mind-boggling but it's actually really interesting!! We will be learning how we are connected to different communities all over the world every day – the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the products we use, where packaging comes from and where all our litter, electronic waste, compostables, and recyclables go to. It's great to see another enthusiastic committee ready to take on this new challenge – well done everyone!

### Keep Up the Great Work!

A big thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who continuously promote the Green Schools themes of litter and waste management, water and energy conservation, sustainable travel and biodiversity. Don't forget to carpool, walk, take the bus or park 'n' stride to and from school to lower your carbon footprint. Remember to recycle your used batteries, stamps and ink cartridges in the collection boxes in the main entrance hall.

Fionn Smith



Kids corner

**Q. Why don't angry witches fly?**

**A. They're afraid of flying off the broom!**

**Q. Where do baby ghosts go during the day?**

**A. Dayscare centers!**

**Q. Where do mummies go for a swim?**

**A. To the dead sea!**

**Happy Halloween Everybody!**