

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

**Telephone: 051-878388**

**E-mail: office @ballygunner.ie**

**[www.ballygunner.ie](http://www.ballygunner.ie)**



**Newsletter  
Issue 46 – Halloween, 2016**

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2016/17 school year.

I wish to welcome new staff to our school. Neil Kirwan and Philip O'Leary join us as permanent members of our teaching staff while Sinéad Power, Conor O'Neill, Deirdre Ogle, Helen McGovern and Tom O'Sullivan are here on short term contracts.

Also, Siobhán Cullinane joins our Special Needs Assistant staff this 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.

A new Board of Management was appointed in November 2015 for a four year term and it has recently completed and ratified the annual checklists for our Child Protection and Anti-Bullying policies. The Department of Education and Skills Minor Works Grant Scheme 2015/16 allowed us paint all classrooms on the junior corridor over the Summer holidays and with help from our Parents Association fundraising an order for new/replacement pupils' furniture will be processed next week.

I wish to acknowledge our pupils excellent attendance rate of 95%. 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.

As is tradition The Mayor of Waterford will be here before Halloween to present full attendance certificates to our pupils who did not miss a day during the 2015/16 school year.

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 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Enjoy the mid-term and please drive safely on the roads.

Killian O'Reilly  
Principal Teacher

## **Ballygunner Parents Association:**

The Parents Association AGM took place at the school on 19th October last. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairperson:

Vice-Chairperson:

Secretary: Theresa Jacques

Treasurer: Cathy Mulhall

Teachers Rep: Therese O'Shea

A huge thank you to our outgoing committee members who have now retired from the association, in particular last year's Chairperson Adrienne Walshe Ramalhal and Mary Cantwell our teachers Rep.

### **Volunteers required**

We are looking for people to join the parents association. If you have served on the committee previously, you are more than welcome to come back and share your experience. New members, are invited to come along and help out in any way you can, all help is greatly appreciated. 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. Contact Theresa Jacques: 087 6553823.

### **Christmas Raffle**

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

Thanks



## **Library**

THANK YOU! for your amazing support of the school library. A large number of fiction books were kindly donated to the school following our last request. We received 1500 euros from the Parents Association which then allowed for the purchase of non-fiction books last year. These books were requested by the teachers and children and should now provide material for all the projects that your children will be assigned during the year. We would also like to thank all the parents who volunteered time compiling lists of book requests, purchasing, logging and stamping the new books and the constant maintenance and decoration of the library. We will be introducing a 'suggestion box' in the coming weeks where you and your children can request particular books. We will then use these suggestions to purchase books for the library this year. Happy Read'een!

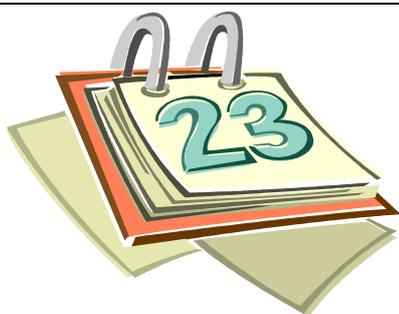
### Library Committee

Huge thanks to all of the Parents who have been involved in organising and decorating our School Libraries. All the children have been enjoying the Halloween themed sections with all the spooky Halloween decorations and spine chilling books. Everyone is grateful for the time and effort that has been put into maintaining the Libraries.

The children are clearly motivated by the large selection of new books which have been purchased by the Parent's Association – they are already making new requests!! The non-fiction section has grown tremendously and the children have been very busy bees researching new projects.

Thanks again to all involved, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Therese O'Shea



### Dates for your Diary:

**Fri Oct 28** School closes from 12.00 – 12.30 for Mid Term Break.

**Mon 7 Nov** School reopens at 9.00am

**Nov** Parent/Teacher Meetings

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

**Mon 9 Jan** School reopens for start of New Term

**Fri 19 May:** Confirmation

**Sat 27 May:** Communion

### School Garden

A school garden clean-up will take place on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. If any parents are free to help you would be most welcome. Bring a garden fork & gloves. Many hands make light work. Hopefully we will be finished within an hour.

Maura Upton

### St. Mary's National School Board of Management 2015-2019

Chairperson: Mr. John Goff  
Patron's nominee: Fr. Liam Power  
Parents' nominee: Mr. Larry Power  
Parents' nominee: Mrs. Mary Ivory  
Community nominee: Mr. Michael Lane  
Community nominee: Mrs. Martha Flood  
Teachers' nominee: Ms. Cathy Frewen  
Principal Teacher and Secretary to Board:  
Mr. Killian O'Reilly

### Sports News



#### Boys Mini 7s Football

Congratulations to the boys Mini 7s football team who won the East Waterford final for the first time in the history of the school. The team won 4 matches out of 4 over two days of playing. They will now go on to compete in the County Final.

Panel:  
Dara Kavanagh, Tony Brennan, Donagh Cooney, Calum Sloan, Charlie White, Aaron O'Neill, Tony Ebhounouye (Captain), Eoin Cuddihy, Oisín Jackson, Jason Healy. Harry Sharp and Ciarán Goff.

Conor O'Neill

## Green Schools Initiative



Our school has been involved in the Green Schools Project for many years and we have won all our flags. Well done and a big thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who continuously promote the Green Schools themes of

- litter and waste management
- water conservation
- energy conservation
- sustainable modes of travel
- biodiversity

Here are a few reminders of what you can do to help:-

- use beakers for juice / water instead of cartons and plastic bottles
- use reusable lunch containers instead of cling film and tinfoil
- turn off lights and keep doors closed to save electricity and prevent heat loss
- carpool, walk, take the bus or park 'n' stride to and from school to lower your carbon footprint
- recycle your used batteries, stamps and ink cartridges in the collection boxes in the main entrance hall

## Kids Corner



**Question:** What's a ghouls favourite game?

**Answer:** Hide-and-ghost-seek.

**Question:** What would you get if you crossed a vampire and a teacher?

**Answer:** Lots of blood tests!

**Question:** What do you get if you cross Bambi with a ghost?

**Answer:** Bamboo.

**Question:** Why don't ghosts like rain on Halloween?

**Answer:** It dampens their spirits!

**Question:** What is a goblin's favourite cheese?

**Answer:** Monster-ella!

**Question:** Why did the monster's mother knit him three socks for Halloween?

**Answer:** She heard he grew another foot!

