

Mountrath CS Parents' Association

Newsletter

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Empowering 21st Century Parents

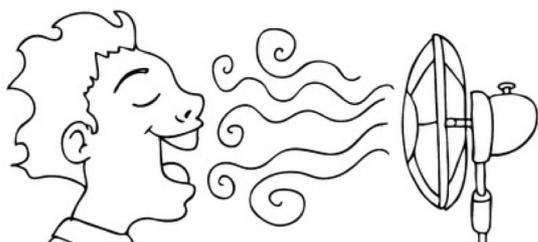
Two members of the Committee attended a workshop entitled 'Empowering 21st Century Parents' hosted by National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and National Parents Council (NPC) on 9th April. Guest speakers/facilitators Professor Guy Claxton and Graham Powell highlighted the importance for young people to have mental agility, be capable of thinking and problem solving for themselves in a world where information is freely available. Teaching methodologies to encourage learning for oneself were demonstrated through group activities on the day.

A Big Thank You

A Church Gate Collection was held before Easter and a total of 1,180 euro was raised for the school. The committee would especially like to thank the parents who organised collections outside their respective parish churches. This fundraising event is held annually and we ask any parent willing to help next year to contact a member of the committee.

A Breath of Fresh Air

The Parents' Association pushed to achieve improved air flow in the school with two projects this year. A pilot project was installed in the summer of 2015 and recently a more extensive air freshening system was installed throughout the main building. This should improve the air quality and comfort level for students and staff.



Accomplishments

This school year has brought many successes in academics, sports and other activities. Congratulations to participants and prize winners in:

- Art Competitions
- Charity Fundraising
- Equestrian
- Football
- Hurling/Camogie
- LCA Construction Studies
- Linguistics
- Scholarships to 3rd Level
- Table Tennis
- TY Mini-companies
- Young Scientists



Best wishes to all our Exam students in June and a happy and a fulfilling break for all this summer!

School Life at the Touch of a Button

The school will be introducing an information App especially for Mountrath Community School activities. It will include information on the school calendar, a newsfeed, past papers, revision tools, items on well-being, teams and classes. The App promises to be a wonderful addition to aid communications between parents and school. Help will be given to all to download and get the app up and running - so no worries on that front! Simply bring your phone into the school once the App is available.

Parking

Parking and access to the school for pickup continue to be a problem. We have consulted various experts and are evaluating possible solutions. It is a dangerous situation now, with cars at school finishing time blocking access for emergency vehicles and making it difficult for students to exit safely. Options such as acquiring more space for parking, a one-way flow, etc. are under consideration.

Wellbeing at Junior Cycle

Wellbeing is a new area of learning for Junior Cycle. NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) has opened a consultation on Guidelines for Wellbeing at Junior Cycle. It is open to all parents to participate online at ncca.ie or by attending a parent consultation on **Tuesday, 10th May from 7pm to 8.30pm in Portlaoise** (place TBA).

We always welcome new members. Please consider joining next school year. We support the school in working to improve conditions for the benefit of students and the school community.

Current members are: Pierre Hanneffy (Chairperson), Cathy Fennelly (Vice Chairperson), Marion Mathews (Secretary), Angela Kennedy (Treasurer), Mary Montague (PRO), Michael Burke, Deirdre Conroy, Ann Doherty, Theresa Dolan, Heather Fletcher, Ivan Jestin, Micheál Murphy, Noreen O'Reilly, Caroline Page, Dominica Scully, and Orla Whelan.