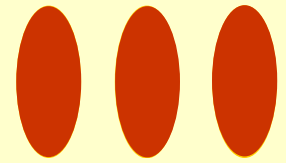


PARENTS POSTINGS



Hollypark B.N.S. Parents / School Association Newsletter - By Parents for Parents

Christmas 2008
Issue 8

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Editorial

Dear Parents,

It's amazing how quickly the time goes from when they start back to School in September to Christmas - maybe it's a sign of age but time is moving a lot faster these days! In this issue of Parents Posting we want to highlight that the Newsletter is now going to be available on the new Parents Association website which has a link from the school website www.hollyparkbns.ie. We have a parent on the committee who is familiar with this area of work and so will help us become an even greener school by cutting down on printing costs and paper! We also have an article on the Committee and we outline briefly the events scheduled for the rest of year.

Once again, we would like to thank you for all your support with our Sports Blitz which was a superb success raising just over €24,000. If you have any suggestions or comments please do let us know.

The Newsletter Team



The Parents Association 2008/2009

The Parents Association had their AGM on Tuesday 18th November. Everyone who attended was made very welcome with a cup to tea or coffee and it was lovely way of meeting other parents. The Committee this year is listed below.

Sandra Kealy - Chairperson
Cormac Bradley - Secretary
Geraldine Deegan
Roisin Kelly
Theresa Flynn/Geraghty
Alice Childs
Mary Egan
Patricia Murphy
Patricia McCoy
Oliver Seery

Suzanne Flynn - Treasurer
Fiona Hayes
Kim Brennan
Silvia Cleary
Catherine Maloney
Joanne Crowley
Ciaran Lacey
Niall Murray
Virginia O'Callaghan

Our recent Santa Day was a great success and each boy received a chocolate Santa from the man himself. We provided the Teachers with a well earned lunch which went down very well indeed. The 6th Class Boys Carol Service was a wonderful night for Boys and Parents alike. We will be organising the First Communion Breakfast; the Sports Day and the Graduation Night to name but a few. If you have any issues/ideas that you would like to bring to the Parents Association's attention please drop us a note and leave it in to the Office marked for the Parents Association Attention or send us an email through our website under **About Us** at pa@hollyparkbns.ie and we will in turn make contact with you.

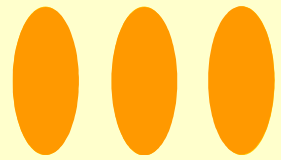
Holiday Reminder

The boys will get their School Holidays on Tuesday 23rd December at 12 Noon.

School will re-open on Wednesday 7th January 2009 at 8.40am



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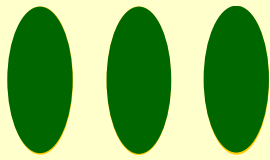
10 things you should know about Holly Park:

- 1 697 pupils
- 2 In 1966 the school opened as a mixed school for boys and girls and in 1969 they separated so the boys' school will be 40 years old next year!
- 3 Helen Kelly is the third principal (Colm O'Shea was the first and Goretti Newell the second).
- 4 School secretaries: Annette and Denise
- 5 School caretaker: John
- 6 40 staff
- 7 After school activities: art, chess, drama, guitar, after school sports, tennis, swimming, French, German, Japanese, basketball
- 8 Junior hurling and Gaelic football teams in 4th and 5th class, Senior teams in 5th and 6th
- 9 Handball teams from 4th class, Quiz teams from 4th Class
- 10 The best school in Ireland!

Introducing the P.A. Website



The Holly Park Parents Association now has a presence on the internet. Please take a moment to look at our web site at <http://www.hollyparkbnspa.com>. The web site will allow us to reduce our costs associated with printing this newsletter and allow us to communicate with you the parents on a more frequent basis rather than restricting ourselves to the print medium. The web site will be used to promote all the current and future events that the Holly Park Parents Association are working on and allows you the opportunity to contact us with any queries, concerns or suggestions. The web site has a "Register" section that allows parents to opt into our database so that we know that you would like to be kept in touch. We will use this database to distribute future newsletters to our parents via e-mail if you have it. We will continue to keep a limited supply of paper newsletters and they can be collected from the school secretaries when available.



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A PARENTS REFLECTION

He's a 6th Class boy now.....

A blink of an eye - seriously, it's like yesterday that I held his little hand and brought my son into his Junior Infants classroom, which was back in 2001. 9 school tracksuits, 10 pairs of grey trousers and what feels like 100 pairs of runners later - he is now a sixth class boy - one of the oldest boys in the school!

He was shy at first but didn't cry, made friends quickly and as they have moved through the school together and remain great friends. All growing in confidence year after year, older and wiser!

Trials for hurling, football, handball teams and so many sports days have kept him occupied, happy and disappointed at times.

He learned how to read and write here. He made his First Holy Communion. Birthday party after birthday party. At 12 years of age he can speak Irish better than I ever could! More birthday parties. He has taken guitar, German and chess classes. Another birthday party. He learned how to swim in Glenalbyn. Phone calls from Annette - cuts and bruises in yard. And yet more birthday parties to attend.

Time moves on, so sad to see all the boys go their separate ways to different secondary schools.... but thank you Holly Park for the wonderful memories.

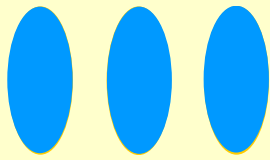
BAKING WITH BOYS ...

Baking is a great activity to do with boys. They aren't always given the opportunity to experiment in the kitchen but it is a skill they can learn and build on over the years ahead. Who knows we could have another Nevin Maguire or Jamie Oliver on our hands and it would be shame not to tap into it while they are young. Baking can be a great confidence builder - they put so much effort into following a recipe and the pleasure they get when everyone eats up what they have made is fantastic. It doesn't have to be a fancy dish it can be as simple as making Krispie Buns or a loaf of bread. It's showing them the importance of hygiene and also the need to clean up afterwards and you can be guaranteed that they won't starve in the years ahead and at least they will know how to turn the cooker on in later life!!!!

Below is a Recipe for Brown Bread to try out:

1lb Wholemeal (Stoneground) Flour	1 Teaspoon Salt
4oz White flour	2 Teaspoons Bread Soda
2oz Bran	1 Egg
20z Wheatgerm	1 Pint Buttermilk

Mix ingredients together and bake in 2lb loaf tin in over 200c/400, Gas Mark 7, for 30-40 minutes depending on how hot your oven is. Remove bread from oven - run a knife around the tin and ease the bread out. If it sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom it is cooked - if not return to oven for another few minutes.



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School Uniform

We are having a meeting with the Uniform shop early in the New Year and we would really appreciate if you could let us know in writing any issues you may be having with the Uniform so we can highlight them as issues that need attention at our meeting.

School Security

When calling to the school during the day can you please make sure that you "check-in" and "check out" with the Secretaries Office. It is important that you do not leave by any other door.

INTER ACTIVE WHITEBOARDS

A number of interactive white boards have been purchased this year for a couple of the classrooms and are proving very successful. The Parents Association are planning on helping to purchase another of these boards. They cost around €6,000 each and the Teacher has to be trained to use it. The classes who have been using these since September have found them very worthwhile and so the school hope to eventually have them in all classrooms.

ROAD SAFETY

The new website on Road Safety www.3Mradwise.ie is worth checking out to make sure that both you and your children can travel safely whatever mode of transport you use. It is important to demonstrate good road safety behaviour at all times as your child will learn from example. Travel safely this Christmas!

Holiday List

If you have mislaid your copy of this year's holiday list please check out the website

www.hollyparkbns.ie

where you can download a copy. The Parents Association's Website also has a link from the School Website.

RECIPE IDEAS

We are still hoping to go ahead with our Recipe Book as a Parents Association Fundraiser and we will keep you posted on when we need you to send in your ideas.

The Parents Association would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and every good wish for 2009

Our next issue will be posted on our new website
www.hollyparkbns.com