

Cairde na Scoile Newsletter

Dia Daoibh! Like everyone, the parents committee has been a bit quiet over the last two years. The restrictions have made it difficult to carry out our usual programme of events and have created challenges for any new plans. So especially for the new parents in the school, we thought it was important to introduce ourselves, as well as letting you know who we are and what we do at the school.

Cairde na Scoile is the parents' association for the Gaelscoil. Our role is to provide the structure through which parents/guardians in the school can work together for the best possible education for their children. All parents and guardians of the school are members of Cairde na Scoile and the elected committee manage the association their behalf. Membership of the committee is open to all parents and/or guardians. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions from any parent/guardian, and welcome new members to join the Cairde na Scoile committee. It doesn't entail a huge commitment in terms of time or engagement, and the



Nollaig Shona

more members we have, the more great ideas are shared!

Our fundraising over the years has facilitated the purchased of a range of school equipment including our new modular stage, sound system, sports equipment, maths equipment Lego and board games. The money that we raise is ringfenced for additional school resources (the fun stuff!) and is not used for school utilities such as light or heat.

While fundraising for the school is a key role for the committee, adopting a programme of activities at the Gaelscoil, in consultation with the school board, is a really important part of our job.

As well as acting as a liaison between the wider school community and board of management, Cairde na Scoile organises a range of events including:

- Halloween Disco
- Christmas raffle
- Lego club
- Games club
- Summer Barbecues

- Book fair
- Healthy eating policy
- Christmas cards
- Wildlife day
- Culture day
- Crazy Hair Day
- Bake sale for ASD unit

In addition to organising specific events like BBQs and book fairs, one key role of Cairde na Scoile is to advocate with the school management with suggestions on extra-curricular activities to enhance the holistic educational experience of our children. We work in partnership with the school to share ideas for events, celebrations, and activities, including where we, the parents' community, can actively participate. Cairde na Scoile meets on a monthly basis to discuss upcoming events and any issues which have been raised by parents at the school.

Cairde na Scoile is a member of the National Parent's Council (NPC). This gives us access to supports and services available to NPC members including workshops and talks on cyber security, mental health awareness and parental support.

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Emily Piper
 Secretary: Sorcha Sheehy
 Treasurers: Orla Scully and Patricia Lucas
 Aobheann O'Keefe, Louise Kingston,
 Emma Fleming and Aisling Cleary

The generosity of the school community, and the wider community of Clonakilty, has meant that not only have we raised money for the school, but we have also been able to support local charities and businesses. Beneficiaries include:

- Meals on Wheels
- West Cork Animal Welfare
- Vincent de Paul
- Cope
- Clonakilty Chamber of Commerce "Shop Local" Initiative

This Christmas, sales of our School Christmas Cards have allowed us to donate €1,000 to Clonakilty Meals on Wheels

We are looking forward to 2022 and hoping to expand the range of activities which we bring to the school. We can only do this with the continued support of our fantastic school community!

How to contact us.

cnasclonakilty@gmail.com

A Special Thank You to all our parent, grandparent, and guardian volunteers.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Our AGM will take place early in the New Year. Date: To Be Confirmed. This year our AGM will take place via Zoom. We would love you to attend. More information about the AGM, including how to submit a motion, will be provided via email in January.