

SCOIL BARRA PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO AGM - 19th May 2017

Hello, my name is Maura Daly. I am the outgoing Secretary of the PFA and I have completed 2 terms in office. My daughter Muireann is in 6th class. We held a total of 2 meetings of the PFA and also the AGM in the last school year and also a number of sub-committee meetings for the purpose of organising events.

I will now give you a brief run through the events that the PFA lead or helped the school in organising in the last school year.

The first of these events was:

- **Nature Trek** – 8th October. Once again the PFA provided teas and coffees for the parents returning from the Nature Trek. This year our numbers were up and this was due to the posters which were displayed outside the school door
- **Open Afternoon** 19th November- the PFA had a stand informing and explaining to parents/guardians of potential new students what the PFA's role in the school is and we also provided a welcoming cup of tea for all those who attended
- **Coffee Morning**, 25th November – the purpose of this was to try and get some new members involved especially from the junior end of the school. 25 attended for an informal chat and a coffee
- **Class Calendar** - this was a new initiative and the PFA decided to undertake the production of a school calendar as a 'fund raiser' for the school. Each class had its own photograph on its own calendar. A sub-committee came together to plan and organise this initiative which proved to be very successful. A total of 579 calendars were ordered and all were delivered in the first week of December. The feedback was very positive

Our first event in 2017 was:

- **External Speaker**
Monday 3rd April, the PFA hosted a talk "Moving Onwards & Upwards" which dealt with the different challenges involved in the move from Primary to Secondary school. Pauline Baston, Parent & Relationship Mentor presented the topic, which was followed by a Questions & Answers.
- **Easter Egg Raffle** – we held the Easter Egg Raffle again this year on 7th April in conjunction with no uniform and crazy sock day. We bought 2 Easter Eggs for each class and raffled them on that day. This was a free raffle as the children brought in €2 per child or €5 per family of 3 or more for the 'No Uniform Day'. Each child received a 'prize' a much coveted chocolate lollipop, so no one was disappointed.
- **Confirmation Ceremony** – took place on Friday 28th April and 58 pupils received this sacrament. The school has a tradition of holding a party for the confirmation children in their classrooms. The PFA provided party bags and also supervised the party in the classroom. In the hall refreshments were provided for the parents, family and relatives. There was also a treat table for the younger family members. This is a

very enjoyable time for the parents and children who can also spend time with their school friends before leaving and continuing the day's celebrations'.

- **Book Sales Day** – this was held on Thursday 8th June and, again, PFA members assisted on the day by staffing the workbook station for 2 hours each.
- **Holy Communion Ceremony - Saturday 21st May-** a total 86 pupils either made their first Holy Communion or received a blessing. The format for the Communion party was the same as that for the Confirmation with party bags, refreshments and teas or coffees. This year we had a challenge as the numbers were so high – the biggest number ever but thanks to all we managed a successful day. We decided to ask the whole school to either bake or buy. The response was fantastic and a great day was had.

Our year ended with the

- **Cake Sales Day/Sports Day** Friday 9th June – We held a cake sales event from 10-12pm on the sports day. We didn't ask parents to bake/buy on this occasion as we had some stock left over from the Holy Communion. However we were provided with some baking by some very busy and generous parents.

A huge thank you to all the committee and all parents/ guardians who helped for another busy, productive and enjoyable year for the PFA.

I am stepping down after 4 years, I want to thank all parents for their support of the PFA I especially want to thank all those who served on the committee.

I wish the new committee every success and although no longer involved I will remain as a committed and active supporter of Scoil Barra.

Thank you for your time.

Maura Daly