

## **St Pius X Parents Association Annual General Meeting held on 22 April, 2008**

### **Summary of issues discussed**

The Chairman welcomed all the attendees at the meeting and introduced representatives of the Parents Association Committee (PAC).

The Secretary outlined the Association's achievements to date in the school year 2007/2008, summarised as follows:

- Parking improvements – following discussions with South Dublin County Council (SDCC), a meeting was arranged between the schools, the PAC and SDCC. Though our schools were not a top priority for SDCC, they agreed following representations by the PAC to take on board some of the list of improvements which had been suggested to them. These included the one-way signage system in front of the school, the set-down area, the raised footpath in front of school gates etc. SDCC have agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- Toilets – the GNS have updated their toilets. PAC is in consultation with the BNS to fund steam cleaning the boys toilets.
- Meeting between Chairpersons of new Boards of Management, school Principals and PAC – at the January meeting it was agreed that the PAC would fund the provision of defibrillators and training for both schools. This is currently being put in place.
- At that meeting PAC also agreed a plan with the Boards of Management and Principals as to what school equipment is needed and agreed what equipment the PAC should fundraise for. The main priorities agreed were: upgrading of computers – white boards (GNS only) – play markings in yard – equipment for kitchen to be used for resource teaching. Both sides agreed that the meeting was very useful and that further meetings would be arranged.
- Talk – a talk on “Your Child and the Internet” held in November, 2007 was organised and funded by the PAC.
- Basic Life Support course – this course was organised and funded by the PAC and was attended by PAC members.
- Advanced Life Support course – this course was organised and funded by the PAC and was attended by teachers in both schools.
- Constitution for the Parents Association – a revised Constitution (the original dates back to 1975) was drawn up by members of the PAC. The new Constitution was based on National Parents Council guidelines and two existing Constitutions from two comparable Dublin schools. A copy is available on schools websites.
- Thursday/Saturday classes were organised and funded by the PAC
- End of year concert for Thursday/Saturday classes organised and funded by the PAC

Other events which will take place between the AGM and the end of the school year are as follows:

- Communion Reception organised and funded by the PAC - 17 May, 2008
- Heather Cup organised and funded by the PAC – May 2008
- Prize Draw to be set up – a sub-committee of the PAC are currently researching this and it is hoped to have the Prize Draw up and running in the 1<sup>st</sup> term of 2008/2009
- Walking Bus initiative in conjunction with South Dublin County Council – the PAC is hoping to set up a “Walking Bus” to allow children to walk to school under supervision from various arranged meeting places. SDCC are advising on this issue and a letter to all parents will issue shortly. PAC is hoping to commence this initiative in 1<sup>st</sup> term of 2008/2009.

Other issues that arose at the AGM are as follows:

1. Various suggestions for fundraising were made by the attendees including dog racing, pub quiz, casino night, sponsored walk, cake sale, BBQ/social evening.
2. Query raised as to whether SDCC could be approached to prolong green traffic light sequence from Fortfield Park onto Templeville Road particularly at school times.
3. Attention drawn to new space saving cycle racks which are available in other schools in the area and which it is understood are provided by SDCC
4. Query raised as to whether soft landscaping could be provided at grass patch inside school gates.
5. Broad agreement that school websites should be used more widely, e.g. use of hyper links – adapt websites to allow parents to register and receive texts re talks, events organised etc – use of website to seek provision of services from parents, e.g. if PAC want to raise funds for upgrading school computers, does any parent work/have a connection with Dell or similar company to avail of a discount?
6. Complaint that insufficient notice is given to parents re talks, AGM etc.
7. Question as to whether PAC could be registered as a charity and available of tax breaks re donations.

**All of the above issues will be addressed by the PAC in the coming weeks and updates will be posted on the Parent Association page on both schools websites.**

Lorayne Ellison  
Secretary