



OCTOBER 2021

St Patrick's N.S. Parents' Association Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many thanks to all of you who joined us for our annual AGM recently. We were delighted to be joined by our new Principal, Séamus MacConámha, and Chairperson of the Board of Management, John Conway. Both spoke about the importance of parental involvement and encouraged more parents to get involved with activities in the school such as Helping Hands, and also in activities with the PA and Action Team Partnership. We know parental involvement makes a big difference to the lives of our children in school. We look forward to working with them both, and the rest of the staff and Board of Management, again in the coming year.

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members to the committee this year - Colette Inglis, Emily Sullivan, Neeraj Tripathi Grainne Kehoe and Robert Cooper. They are already getting involved!

We are disappointed that we cannot hold the Christmas Fair again this year. As well as being our main fundraiser it is a lovely family event so we hope to be able to do a different "Fair" outdoors in the Spring/Summer. We will keep you posted! However, there are still lots of things going on. The children's Christmas cards have already been sent to the printer and will be back with you in time for Christmas post deadlines. Class photos were taken this week for the 2022 class calendars, we will let you know when they are ready for ordering.

We are delighted to be still holding our bumper Christmas Raffle and will be reaching out looking for prizes after the mid-term break. We hope that we can count on your continued support to make it even bigger and better than ever.

Your support of these activities allows us to continue funding really useful resources being used by our children every day. Last year over €22,000 was given back to the school to purchase ActivPanels for classrooms, books for Irish, English and Maths, Reading Eggs subscriptions, Atlases and many other resources.

We will keep you informed about other events as the school year progresses and look forward to working with you for another successful year.

The PA Committee

facebook

Please follow our page at
www.facebook.com/schoolPA

email

You can always contact us by
email at
stpatrickspa@yahoo.com

School Garden

We asked parent Mairéad Stack about our beautiful school garden.

Where is the garden?

The garden frames the main carpark entrance to St. Patrick's N.S. Until Spring 2019 it was a barren area. It is now a beautiful pollinator-friendly garden and wildflower area and a registered site of the National Pollinator Plan.

Who created and maintains the garden?

The school, Caretakers, parents and Action Team Partnership Committee collaborated to develop a garden from two empty patches of soil outside the school car park gates. Parents designed the garden and sourced materials using the goodwill of the community. The right hand side rockery was designed to maximize benefit to our bees, butterflies and other Irish wildlife. The left hand side 'woodland and wild' side has a selection of native Irish trees such as Hawthorn and Rowan and is planted with native Irish wildflowers. Fingal County Council, parents and local businesses donated the trees and plants.

It is a fine example of how co-operation among parents, schools and a local community can create something beautiful out of nothing.

What's happening at the moment?

Each Autumn the wildflower area is cut once the flowers have gone to seed. This follows best practice guidelines and explains the 'cropped' look of the 'wild' side at present.

What can we do?

We need volunteers to help manage the garden. You don't need any experience and you don't need to know anything about plants! We need weeding volunteers to help clear both sides of unwanted plants. We can guide you and we won't mind if you dig up the wrong flower! The garden belongs to the families of the school so 'get dug in'! We welcome families planting flowers and plants also. We try to plant wildlife friendly plants.

Any queries, questions or comments can be sent to Mairéad at info@naturecubsireland.ie

There is also more detailed info under the Action Team Partnership banner on the school website.

Thanks Mairéad!

Outdoor Classroom

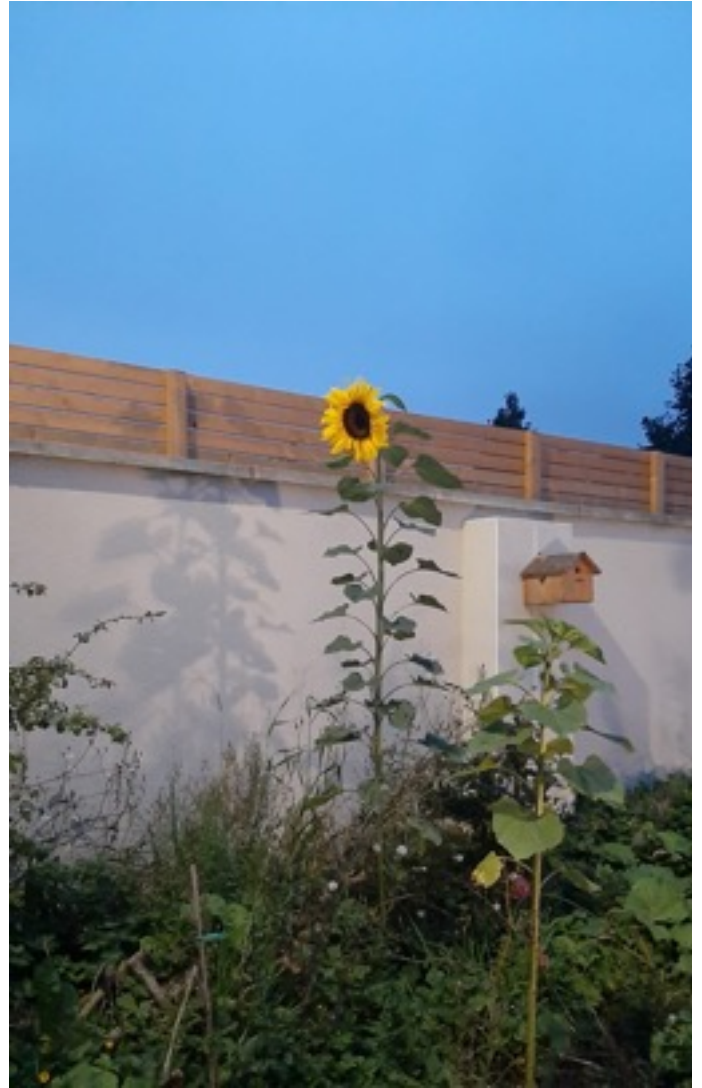
Spring/Summer 2021 saw another great collaboration between the school, parents and local community for the benefit of the children. An Action Team Partnership initiative in collaboration with the Parents Association saw the addition of an "Outdoor Classroom" to St. Patrick's N.S.

Parents very generously supported a "Santa Hat Walk" last December which raised nearly €5,000 to pay for the equipment. Families willingly gave their time and skills over a number of days to create and decorate an area which incorporates an all weather green play area, seating and teaching equipment. It is beautifully decorated with a mural and planting.

The space is used by classees on a daily basis for learning and also by children at break time.

We were recently awarded €333 by the Tesco Community Fund and plan to use this to add more equipment and enhance it even further.





Some photos of our beautiful school garden

St Patrick's N.S. Parents' Association is a member of the National Parents Council Primary. Please see their website www.npc.ie for useful information and publications for parents. They also operate a helpline for parents on 01-8874477