



Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

November/December 2018

Dates to Remember

Christmas Fair & Concert – December 20

Christmas Holidays – December 22nd-January 5th

School Closing Times: 21 December 2018

Junior & Senior Infants:	11am
1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Classes:	11.15am
4 th , 5 th and 6 th Classes:	11.30am

If a sibling is in a junior class, the older child can leave at the earlier time. Can we ask that all parents/guardians collect their child on time.

Winter Concert Schedule – Thursday 20th December

9am	Junior Infants (Clare)
9.15am	Junior Infants (Elaine)
9.30am	Senior Infants
10.15am	1st Class
10.45am	2 nd Class
11.15am	3 rd Class
12.30pm	4 th Class

1.00pm	5 th Class
1.30pm	6 th Class

The Winter Concert will take place in our Open Space area and will be held on a class-by-class basis. After your child's class performance, you are welcome to stay and enjoy some tea/coffee and snacks. There will also be a cake sale, chocolate tombola, candy corner and raffle (all organised by the PTA – many thanks to them).

If you wish to bring your child home with you after their class performance, please ensure to inform their teacher and sign them out in the Attendance Book in Hilary's Office. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Visiting the School: All Parents and Visitors to the school must report to the Secretary or Principal. **Parents are NOT permitted to go directly to classrooms.** All children must be signed into the Attendance Book (located in the office) if they arrive in school after 8.45am. If leaving the school before home time, they must also be signed out. Thank you for your co-operation.

Book Publishing Project: A big thank you again to parents and teachers for your help to publish an anthology for the opening of the new school. The books should hopefully arrive in the new year, with the book launch to follow.

Intel Mini Scientist: The children from 4th class took part in the Intel Mini Scientist competition this year. Over the past 6 weeks the children have been working extremely hard investigating and researching a wide range of subjects from areas of the science

curriculum. The following are a list of the projects the students undertook:

Project Title:	Students:
Solar Power (WINNERS)	Niamh Ahmed, Naomi Ogun-Ajala & Scott Monteith
Flotation (WINNERS)	Alienor Kells, Aarya Rai
Congratulations to the above winners, who proceeded to the regional stage of the competition.	
Electricity	Joe, Herkus, Ellie and Isabella
Electromagnetism	Andrew, Conor, Denis and Kian
The Way Animals See the World	Michael and Finn
Vibration	Thai, Alex, Brian & Pablo
Volcanoes	Adam
Wild Weather	Andrej & Jovania
Batteries	Leah, Katie & Kareena
Magnetism (Received a Recommendation)	Nora Stokes
Lava Lamps	Kira Niamh

Following their participation in the Regional Final we would like to extend a huge congratulations to Aarya Rai and Alienor Kells who have reached the last 16 in the Intel Science Schools Competition with their project on Flotation. They will now go forward to the National Final in February.

Christmas Decorations: Another big thank you, this time to the team of parents who decorated the school for Christmas. METNS is

certainly looking very festive. It is a terrific job and has certainly added to all the excitement, for both pupils and staff, in the lead up to the Holiday Season.

PTA Meeting: The PTA's December meeting will be held on Wednesday December 12th at 7.30pm in the school. Everyone welcome.

Science Club: We are running a Science Club on Mondays in the New Year, starting on 14th January and running for 10 weeks. This is for children from 1st-3rd classes. There is a nominal charge of €2 per session to cover materials etc. This club will be run by 3 volunteer parents, and many thanks to Jennifer, Anne and Carol for doing this for us.

The Butterflies Class Keeping Busy: Everyone in the Butterflies class have been busy putting up their Christmas tree and decorations. The children have been on their best behaviour as the recently installed Elf on the Shelf have been keeping a close eye on everything! The children have enjoyed doing yoga with Anya and music with Laura every week. They will continue going on weekly social trips to the shop into the New Year but swimming lessons will finish on 14th December.

Staff Courses: A number of staff members (SNAs and Teachers) recently attended a Manual Handling Course, funded by the Board of Management.

Assistant Principal II Post Holder: The Board of Management has appointed Angela Langan to the position of Assistant Principal II

with responsibility for the IT coordination in the school, and also the promotion of wellbeing in the school community.

Maternity Leave: Our Special Needs Assistant, Pamela Brunton, will commence maternity leave after the Christmas break. The position has been advertised on educationposts.ie

Board of Management Parent Rep Election: We are happy to announce that Jonathan Hough has been elected as Male Parent Representative on the Board of Management.

Meet with Roddy Doyle in Maynooth Library: Children from 3rd Class got the opportunity to meet and greet with author Roddy Doyle in Maynooth Library. In preparation for this, the children read his book “The Giggler Treatment”. They really enjoyed the book and found it very humorous. Roddy was more than happy to discuss the novel and answer all of their questions. He told the 3rd class pupils about his life as a writer and was very encouraging of their efforts of writing too. It was a very enjoyable event.

Parent-Teacher Meetings: There was a very large attendance at our recent Parent-Teacher Meetings. Sincere thanks to all involved. Parent-Teacher communication is a vital component of your child’s education so please contact your child’s teacher on a regular basis.

Aistear Themes: The Aistear theme being studied in our Junior Infant Classes for the month of December is Christmas and the Toy Shop. In Senior Infants, the theme is the Post Office and Letters to Santa.

Special Education Support Services: Our Butterflies Class Teacher, Robert, recently attended a course on assessment run by the SESS entitled Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLLS) and Verbal Behaviour Milestones Assessment and Placement Programme (VB-MAPP). Teachers will administer these tests in consultation with parents depending on the ability of the child to access the test.

Student Teacher Placements: We currently have a 4th year student from Froebel College, Marcella, who is on 3 month placement in the school. In November and December she will be placed in Special Education and in January she will commence a 3 week placement in 6th class. Also in January, student teachers will commence teaching practice placements in 1st and 3rd classes.

Junior Infant Vaccinations: The HSE visited the school on 23rd November and carried out vaccinations on our Junior Infant Classes and some of the students in our Caterpillars class.

Active Flag – Super Trooper Programme: This is a programme that promotes physical exercise. Each child has been given a pack which includes a diary / chart. This diary / chart must be filled in to record the physical activity of the child. The programme will run for the next 28 weeks. This Super Trooper initiative is a component of the Active Flag which we are hoping to be awarded in this school year.

Educate Together Ethical Education Conference: Entitled “Changing our Ways, Changing our World” – took place on Friday/Saturday, 23/24 November. The Conference was open to

everyone with an interest in Ethical Education and Education for Sustainable Development.

Maynooth Ring Road Non-Statutory Public Consultation: On Wednesday November 21st, Kildare County Council presented to the public the route options in the Glenroyal Hotel.

Written submissions or observations clearly referenced, “Proposed Maynooth Eastern Ring Road Route Options” may be made to Kildare County Council on or before 4pm on 20th December 2018, by writing to Senior Executive Officer, Road, Transportation and Safety Department or by email to roadssubmissions@kildarecoco.ie.

Annual Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers: – This maintenance work has been completed in line with regulations.

Board of Management News

Assistant Principal II Post Holder: Angela Langan has been appointed to the APlI Post with responsibility for IT Co-ordination in the school and also the promotion of well-being in the school community.

Male Parent Representative to the Board of Management: The recent election, organised by the Board of Management resulted in Jonathan Hough being appointed to the Board for the remainder of the term of this Board.

Congratulations to our 4th class Pupils and Teachers on their success in the Intel Science Competition and to our 5th class pupils on their success in the Mangahigh Online Mathematics Competition. Congrats also to our 6th class pupils and teachers on their participation in the Junior Enterprise Competition.

After Schools Science Club: The Board sanctioned this after schools club and thanks to the staff and volunteers involved.

Audited Accounts: The Board approved the audited accounts for the school year 2017-2018, as prepared by Fitzgerald Accountants.

Enrolment for September 2018: This enrolment process is to commence in January 2018.

Thanks to the school community for their co-operation with our traffic control system at daily arrival and dismissal times.

December Newsletter

PTA News

While we are still very new to our roles on the PTA Committee, we are delighted to have gotten our first PTA monthly meeting under our belts in November. It was an extremely short meeting at just 32 minutes (*who is counting?*) to facilitate the talk we hosted by Bríd from the National Parents Council.

There was a great attendance at the meeting and we very much appreciate the effort. It is wonderful to get input from parents and it is key to having an effective PTA.

The focus of the meeting was an update on the hugely successful **Spooky Walk** which raised €1,838.35 and **Scholastic Bookfair** which saw parents and pupils of our school spend over €2300 which will earn €1300 worth of book vouchers for our teachers and PTA to spend with Scholastic. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped out at both events, these events could not happen without you.

Then we moved on to the planning for the **Winter Concert and Fair** which takes place on 20th December.

We have a couple of people collecting raffle prizes; a team of people decorated the school on the 4th of December; we have some people (*but need more*) ready to help on evening of 19th December to prepare for the show on the 20th and then more to

help out on the day itself with the Chocolate Tombola, Candy Corner, the tea, coffee and cake stall and the raffle.

As usual, we ask that each child bring a **chocolate treat for the Chocolate Tombola** and a **non-perishable food item for making up the hampers** for the raffle. We would also welcome **donations for the cake stall** – it makes it easier if the goodies can be eaten in the hand rather than needing a plate and fork.

If you can help out in anyway, please send an email to Maynootheducatetogetherpa@gmail.com or drop a text to one of the committee.

If you would like to contribute to a **gift for the teacher** of your child's class please reach out to the people who are collecting or give an envelope with the class name & pupil name to anyone from the PTA committee.

Jl - Clare = Mia Dare

Jl - Elaine = Olywn Byrne

Sl - Catherine = Amanda Sheehan

1st - Robert L = Daniela Hough

2nd - Noel = Carol Connolly

3rd - Mary Q = Neasa Hogan

4th - Angela/Mary D = Bindiya Doyle

5th - Noreen/Amy = Neasa Hogan

6th - Thomas = Carol Connolly

SNAs - 8 people = Paula McCarthy

Miriam Fleming will collect from Shooting Stars parents and give to the collectors from relevant classes

We were delighted to hear about the afterschool **Science Club** that Jennifer Ahmed, Anne Carrol and Carol Connolly will be running in the New Year. This is only possible because of the fantastic Intel Seed Grant that Jennifer and Carol were awarded last year to fund the STEM Lab in the school. More details will follow in the coming weeks and volunteers will be needed to help on Monday afternoons. If you would like more information, or would like to help out, please contact metnsscienceclub@gmail.com .

The talk by the NPC was about supporting your child's mental health. There was some very useful information and discussion within the group and the pamphlet is available on the Friends of METNS Facebook page or in the School Office. The NPC website (npc.ie) has lots of free resources for parents so is well worth checking out.

If you would like to see anything else on the pages or have anything you would like the PTA to consider please drop an email to maynootheducatetogetherpa@gmail.com or consider coming along to the next meeting on 12th December.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Winter Fair if not beforehand.

Daniela, Deirdre, Neasa and Sarah – the PTA Committee 2018