

Killiney Parents' Association (KPA)

Newsletter - October 2010

The AGM was held on the 8th September 2010. There was a very good attendance. The Principal, Mrs Hackett, the Chair of the Board of Management, Mr. Maurice Fitzgerald, and Sr. Madeleine attended. Ms. Gina Fox, the out-going Chairman, thanked the committee for their work during the year. Mrs. Hackett gave a summary of the preceding year and congratulated the girls, both Leaving and Junior Certificates, on their excellent results. Elections were held. Six new committee members were elected:

Ms. Gemma Brazil (1st year);
Mr. Frank Sweeney (1st year);
Mr. Gabriel Dooley (2nd year);
Ms. Karen O'Donoghue (3rd year);
Mr. Ciaran O'Donnell (4th year)
Ms. Anne Russell (5th year).

The new members join Ms. Gráinne Wafer (2nd year), Ms. Thelma O'Connor (2nd year), Mr. John Sheehan (5th year) and Ms. Julie Crown (6th year) who commence their second year on the committee. Two parents, Ms. Emer Hunt and Mr. Joe Rooney, were elected to be the Parents' Nominees to the Board of Management.

Following the annual table quiz in March, the KPA donated €2000 to GOAL to help provide assistance to the people of Haiti, who had suffered severely in the earthquake on the 12th January. GOAL acknowledged the donation and expressed their gratitude.

On the 30th September, Dr. Bobby Smyth, Consultant Psychiatrist, gave an excellent talk on Preventing Drug and Alcohol problems in Teenagers. He told the large attendance that he had given the talk in 12 other schools but that Holy Child was the first all-girls school in which he had spoken. The take home message was to encourage your daughter to delay having her first alcoholic drink until the age of 18. He said that the younger a person is having their first drink, the more likely they are to develop an alcohol problem. He also spoke on promoting a young person's Developmental Assets. Parents can access more information at the website Search-institute.org.

From September, Ms. Gráinne Wafer, on behalf of the KPA, started to provide teas, coffees and even biscuits to parents and supporters of teams visiting Holy Child on Saturday mornings. This generosity has been much appreciated particularly on the cold mornings. The KPA will continue to provide this facility throughout the year.

Class lists have been sent out to some years and are in preparation for others. Most parents have found the lists extremely useful in the past, enhancing communication and facilitating dialogue.

Several individual class coffee mornings/evenings have been held for parents. Such events help the "get to know you" factor and keep parents in touch.

Ms. Louise Murphy, a parent, contacted the KPA with an excellent idea of reusing/recycling the school-books at the end of the academic year. Some other schools are already doing this. The KPA will work with Ms. Murphy to have a system in place for next summer.

Over the next few months, the KPA will be involved in the Mass of Remembrance for past pupils and staff of HCK as well as the annual Christmas Carol Service. How the year is whizzing by! Please contact any of the committee if you have ideas that the KPA could facilitate. The KPA have an email address: hckpa@ireland.com. It can be used to contact the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

John Sheehan
Chairman

Gráinne Wafer
Secretary