

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

6th June 2019

A Chairde (Friends),

This week, lots of classes embarked on their school tours. Many thanks to all staff, parents and children for making all these trips so enjoyable, fun and educational. School Reports will be available through our Aladdin app on 21st June. Please find attached a reminder of how to download and use the app if you aren't doing so already.

If you already have the App set up and working, there's another really helpful Guide attached that shows you your child's information on Aladdin and includes the School Report. School Reports can be found under the Student Menu (6) on the Guide.

This week Rang 1 had a visit from a humanist speaker as part of our ethical education programme. We had our Patron AGM last night and a report will follow next week and on the website. Many thanks to all our Patron group for all their efforts on behalf of the school.

Lost Diamond

A parent lost a 5mm diamond from their ring this morning and thinks it was probably dropped in the yard as she had it at the gate, where it got caught in her child's clothing. It's a 5mm diamond. Please keep an eye out for it and bring it to the office if you find it.

WhatsApp Group Guidelines

WhatsApp groups are used by parents in many classes across the school. Following discussions with several members of the school community concerning the content of WhatsApp groups, the Ethics Sub Committee has compiled a set of tips or guidelines for those parents on WhatsApp groups. We hope all classes find them useful.

The class WhatsApp groups in GBMDS are an extremely useful tool for parents to communicate regarding issues which are relevant to their child's class. The following are some guidelines or tips in relation to the use of the WhatsApp groups which may be helpful to parents.

The WhatsApp groups could be used in the following situations:

- for whole class invites to birthday parties,
- to arrange lifts to parties,
- to arrange class parents' nights out,
- in situations where parents are running late or unable to make school pick up times they can use WhatsApp to ask other parents to help out,
- to enquire about the homework for that evening.

We recommend not using the class WhatsApp groups for the following:

- political posts such as canvassing for support for a particular candidate or political cause, or for disseminating information on political events such as rallies and marches,
- posting comments about GBMDS teachers and members of staff, whether positive or negative,
- posting comments about any parents and students in the school,
- sharing memes, YouTube clips or internet jokes,
- posting information about events not linked to the school.

Some things to bear in mind when posting on WhatsApp:

- Remember that your post will be seen by up to 56 people and that children in the school may inadvertently view these also.
- Remember that some of the members of the individual class groups may also be teachers in the school.
- Always use respectful language in your post- if you would not be comfortable posting it on the school wall with your name under it then don't send it.
- Ask yourself if it is necessary to post a response to a question if it is in the negative. For instance, if you can't help out a parent in a situation it may be easier not to respond. It is worth bearing in mind that these days people are often on five or six WhatsApp groups between class groups, children activities, family groups etc. This means that people may be receiving large amounts of notifications every day.
- Consider alternative methods of communication such as email for sharing information on external events etc.
- Use the Private Messaging function if you just want to communicate with a small group or individuals in the group.

Books, materials and licences money

It would be great to have this payment done before the holidays as it enables us to purchase everything in the summer before the children return in September. We have set a payment deadline of June 20th. As promised Rene will send a link today to any family still to pay.

Seamus the Pigeon

Welcome to our new mascot "Seamus the Pigeon". He has been lovingly brought to life by 2nd class parent Monica Wrobel. We hope he will be an inspiring figure in our school for many years to come.

Parents' Association Meeting

There will be a PA meeting next Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the school. All welcome.

Sports Day

Sports Day which is a 'sports for all' day takes place next Tuesday with a substitute day on Wednesday in case of bad weather. Junior Infants to Rang 1 will have their day on site in GBMDS. Rang 2 to Rang 6 will have their day up in Dolphin Park. We will have portable toilets in Dolphin Park. Cathal is looking for some volunteers to help with some of the station activities. If you can help, please contact him at cathal.ogorman@griffithbarracks.ie.

There will be an awards ceremony for Junior Infants to Rang 1 from 1pm to 1.20pm. Parents are welcome to attend if they are able to come half an hour before collection time. The older classes will also have an awards ceremony with the emphasis on sportsmanship and fair play.

Assembly

This week in Assembly we looked at World Ocean Day which shows how interconnected we are. https://youtu.be/zZO1Vq_4E64

We also looked at the celebration of Eid which many children celebrated on Wednesday.



Students of the Week

Well done to all the Students of the Week.



Coming Up

Thursday 6th June	Rathbeggan Lakes Tour	3 rd Class
Thursday 6th June	Newbridge Farm Tour	Junior Infants
Friday 7th June	Imaginosity Tour	Senior Infants
Friday 7th June	Glasnevin Cemetery Trip	6 th Class
Tuesday 11th June	Sports Day (<i>alternative day Wednesday 12th June</i>)	All Classes
Thursday 13th June	Sealife Tour	Junior Infants
Thursday 13th June	Trip to the Mosque on SCR	2 nd Class
Wednesday 26th June	End of Term Celebration Concert for JI, SI, 5 th & 6 th Class at 9.10am	9.10am
Wednesday 26th June	End of Term Celebration Concert for 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Class	10.45am
Thursday 27th June	6 th Class Graduation Ceremony	6 th Class
Friday 28th June	School finishes for the Summer at 12pm and reopens on Friday 30 th August	All Classes

Beir bua (Best wishes),

Eddie