

**MINUTES of PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL
Thursday 6th May 2010**

Present: Sophie Ryan, co-ordinator of primary classes in Mr. Magaldi's absence, Alain Harvet, Headmaster of LFI, Yann Mathiot (Cycle 3), Sophie Cronin (Cycle 2), Sylvaine Wright (Cycle 1), Frances Caffrey representing the English teachers, Yvon Le Bris (ATSEM), Martin Byrne (Cycle 2), Michèle Parker (Cycle 3), Viviane Larras (Cycle 1), Marylène Hayes and Audrey Ferrandez, guest.

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Harvet reminded us that the minutes of the Primary School Council can be read on the website.

“Green School” minutes:

Mr Mathiot described the activities happening in the context of the “Green School” project.

We were awarded the green flag last year thanks to activities already undertaken sponsored by An Taisce; these activities continue and new projects are also happening.

There are 5 levels before achieving the ultimate “Green Award”:

- 1 : Recycling: Colour coded recycling bins had already been put in place last year. The children regularly weigh the bins to see if recycling is working.
- 2 : Energy: Since this year, “green inspectors” (children from Cycle 3) make sure that efforts are being made to save energy (lights turned off, computers turned off etc...)
A comparative study of a day of using electricity without restraint and a day “without electricity” allowed the children and the adults to see the importance of these efforts to save energy.
- 3 : Water
- 4 : Transport.

In future our efforts should focus on the two remaining areas (water and transport) without letting up on the efforts already made.

Various projects in the context of the “green school” have also happened, like the art competition for recycled objects at Christmas or the spring-cleaning day in May.

The Green School Committee, made up of parents, children and teachers meets twice a week. Volunteers are always welcome. The Green School project should involve the whole school community and requires an effort from everyone.

Preparations for the new school year 2010 :

A. Update on numbers

At the moment, there are:

47 in PS

49 in MS

48 in GS i.e. 144 in kindergarten

48 in CP

36 in CE1

39 in CE2

25 in CM1

25 in CM2 i.e. 173 in primary

However, these figures change constantly until the start of the school year.

Nevertheless, it is looking as if there will be a split class straddling Cycles 2 and 3.

The teachers put great care and thought into split classes as they do into which children will go into the split classes; nothing is done by chance. The interests of the children are taken into account and the teaching methods used adapted to the class.

Particularly in the event of a CE1/CE2 class, the advantage of the English classes during which the pupils could be split into two groups (CE1 in English while the teacher takes the CE2s and vice versa).

B. New Staff

One known departure: Ms Acacie

A part-time for Ms. Pouleau's post (one week three days, two weeks two days).

The names of the persons appointed are not yet known, however priority will be given to those who already know the school.

C. Organisation of the start of the year

The organisation will be similar to last year with PS and MS finishing at 12.30 on the first Monday and Tuesday.

The parents will receive additional information on the organisation of the start of the year at the end of the school year, particularly with regard to after-school care and activities.

D. School Code of Behaviour

The school code of behaviour has been re-written with a view to integrating the anti-bullying policy into it.

Other changes:

- The library Code of Behaviour is also integrated
- Clarifications on the rules concerning meal times
- The re-introduction of the journal which the teachers wanted for a more direct contact between parents and teachers
- Changes with regard to times particularly starting and finishing class ...

Two amendments were decided:

- 9.2.a : replace "the person who reported the incident" by "a member of staff".
- 5 : add "On Wednesdays children remaining in religion or after school care eat their lunch between 12.25 and 12.50."

The Primary School Council approved the Code of Behaviour, which also needs to be approved by the School Council.

The teachers also asked that parents and teachers avoid settling conflicts on the spot, in the corridors or in class. It is important to make an appointment.

There was a discussion on the internet forum set up by the APE and a communication to be sent to the APE in the name of the Primary School Council was decided on.

It was requested that the APE should return to the practice of communicating directly with parents rather than going through the school administration.

Information on the 3rd term 2009/2010:

A. School outings

- 10 March: 2 MS Imaginosity in Sandyford
- 15 March: CM1/CM2 National Library
- 19 March: CM1/CM2 'Alice in Wonderland' Cinema
- 13 April: CM1 Swimming test
- 16 April: CM2 Treasure hunt on Killiney Hill
- 21 April: PS Florence Acacie Killiney Beach
- 27 April: CM1 Spring clean Killiney Killiney Beach
- 7 May: CP Stéphanie Pouleau National Gallery
- 11 May: Sport's Day
- 19 May: 2 PS Airfield Farm
- 28 May: CM1/CM2 – Ballinagran Landfill
- From 24 to 27 May : CM1 Discovery class in Connemara

And other dates

- 27 to 30 April: Sight and hearing tests for GS, CM2 and new pupils.
- 30 April : Day with electricity
- 6 May: Spring cleaning day

CP: school yard

CE1: Cabinteely Park

CE2 and CM1/CM2: neighbourhood

- 13 May: CM2-6ème integration day
- 19 and 21 May : Vaccination MS (MMR)
- 4 June : Art exhibition in the gym
- 9 June : 3rd term school report handovers

B. Kermesse

It will be on 12 June with a special theme this year: LFI's 40th birthday!

C. Course

A training course on oral language will take place from 17 to 21 May in Cycles 1 and 2. Perrine Morlock, Sophie Cronin, Annie Halferty and Hervé Adam will take part with 13 of their other colleagues from lycées in London, The Hague and Brussels.

D. Work

New windows have been put in in MS (Annie Halferty) and GS (Véronique Buckley).

It is also planned to replace the windows in MS (Sylvaine Wright) and GS (Hervé Adam)...

AOB:

- With regard to the change of English teachers in CE2: information about the change of teachers is not the responsibility of the teachers themselves but of Hollypark administration since the English teachers concerned are employed by that school. Two weeks' notice is considered sufficient by Irish schools.
- There is no co-ordinator of the English teachers, but a co-ordinator of English orders (for books) was notified in the second term.
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The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Next meeting of the Primary School Council in the first term: date to be decided.