

# Belgrove Senior Boys Parents Association – June Update 2011

**Congratulations to the schools teams who have achieved great things in GAA, Swimming, Soccer, Basketball and the Credit Union Quiz. It is great to see the trophy cabinets fill up. Thanks to the teachers and parents who make it possible for the boys to take part in so many competitions.**

The Parents Association is made up of Parents / Guardians of the boys in the school and is run on a voluntary basis. The association aims to work in conjunction with the school to represent the views and interests of the parents and children. The association has two representatives on the Board of Management and is in regular contact with the school principal in relation to these activities

There are currently 14 members on the committee. There are also a great group of volunteers who help with all activities but do not want to sit on the committee itself. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.30pm and new members are always welcome

## How Do the PA help the School

Just to mention a few of the many activities our Parents' Association have been involved with during the past year.

- Counting the monies raised during the sponsored walk
- The Book Fair
- The School Credit Union
- The Chess Club
- The 6 Class Graduation
- The Parents Association Newsletter
- Second hand Book Sale
- Second Life Jumper Sale
- Healthy Living Week
- Pizza Cookery Lessons for 6 Class Boys
- The Wicklow Mountain Walk
- Welcome visit for incoming 3 class boys.

## The Credit Union

All boys are invited to join the school credit union. Application forms are available from the PA every Friday morning in the school library where volunteer parents collect from our diligent savers. We have had a great year so far with over 200 savers. The Easter Egg give away was very popular and we are awaiting results of the super saver awards which take place at the school prize giving on Monday 27 June. We have visited with the incoming third class boys and given out membership forms so they will be able to save from early September. **Thanks to all volunteers especially Ann O Flaherty, Jackie Opperman and Mary Collum who finish this year as their boys move on**

**– So get saving! New members always welcome. Just ask for a form**

## The Chess Club

The Chess Club started back on Tuesday the 5 October and was running really well and is popular with the boys. Unfortunately, due to the building works, it has had to be put on hold but will be back in full flight as soon as possible. Thanks to Jennifer Campbell and her team of volunteers who run this activity

## 2 Class Boys Visit the Senior School

On Monday 20 June the three classes of 2 class boys from the junior school visited the senior school in preparation for their move in September. Frankie Byrne hosted the tour and made the boys very welcome. Volunteers from the parents association were ready at the end of the tour with a little treat to help make the tour a happy memory.

We wish the boys a great summer and look forward to seeing them in September

## Pizza Hut Cookery Class for 6 Class

On June 20/22/23 the 6 class boys visited pizza hut on the Clontarf Road where they were taught to make the pizza of their choice. They made the dough and each boy was given a piece of dough to roll and top with tomato sauce. Then they topped it with their own creations and a wild and wonderful selection of toppings they were. Into the oven, and off back to school with pizza in tow. Thanks to Una Mockler and her team of volunteers who organise this with the teachers. Thanks also to all the teachers and teaching assistants who make this possible with lifts and supervision. We hope that having had such a great taste of life in the kitchen that the boys will try out their new found skills at home. The event was highly successful.

**Parents' and Grandparents' Show and Tell:**

Parents and grandparents, do you have a particular skill, hobby or historic tale which might be of interest to the boys? If so, Frankie Byrne would be delighted to welcome you to the school to share that knowledge with the children. If interested – please contact any member of the Parents Association.

The 3 classes had a very successful visit from Monster Animation on the 4 March where they were able to see how to make an animated movie. Thanks to Vincent Weldon for organising this and to Gerard O'Rourke of Monster for giving the boys such a great talk and the gift of the DVD of Ballybradden.

**The Second Life Book and Jumper Fair:**

Held during Wise Owl book sale on the 14 June. Many boys donated their jumpers for sale (useful as back up to a new jumper). The proceeds of this sale go to a charity of the schools choosing. We await the total funds raised.. There were over 200 second hand books for sale and the monies go back to the boys who sold them. Thanks to Julie Reddin and her team of volunteers who put this together, collecting and pricing books and jumpers and manning the stall on the evening.

**Internet Safety :**

The use of the internet is an everyday occurrence either through home computers, gaming boxes, smart phones or other wi-fi enabled devices such as iTouch and Nintendo DS's. Parents are advised to supervise children's internet use to ensure that it is age appropriate. Positive advice on safe internet use can be obtained from <http://www.microsoft.com/security/> specifically the section on Family safety

**Healthy Living Week:**

A big thanks to Cathy Marren and her team of volunteers for an excellent week in May. The boys had exercise each day, with a Pilates class on the Wednesday which was very enjoyable and useful fitness technique for all sportsmen. The Food Fair in the hall was both informative and fun with an emphasis on super foods and healthy lunches and snacks. The boys got to try lots of new tastes and were a lot fitter by the end of the week. Thanks also to Nolan's Supermarket for their sponsorship

**Information Evening for Parents "How to choose the right secondary school for your child"**

The feedback from parents was very positive about this event. Thanks to David Keating for putting this together. Michael Moretta gave us some really helpful insights and facts about choosing a school and things we can consider. Also thanks to David and Vincent Weldon for gathering the detailed information on 9 secondary schools which is now available on the web site following completion by each school of a questionnaire devised by the PA. (thanks to Sean O'Neill, our resident technical expert for the work on the PA section of the web). If you are aware of other schools that might be included please contact the PA. We hope to run this event every couple of year as new parents come into the loop.

**Have a great summer everyone.**

**Thanks to Mary Collum and Lisa Mc Ginn for all their work with the Parents Association over the years. Best wishes to you and the boys as they move to secondary school.**

**Welcome to those of you who have signed up as committee members and volunteers (we are in the process of contacting everyone). Thanks to Frankie and the staff of the school for their support and enabling many of the events. Thanks to the committee and the huge number of volunteers without which none of this could happen. And lastly thanks to the boys who make it all worthwhile**