

# ST GERARD'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Representing the Third Branch of our Community

## Dear Parent

We are once again coming to the end of yet another busy year. Looking back we see the many successful events the Parents Association Committee were involved in. From the informative talk on internet safety at our AGM given by John Wills to the fun of the Bazaar evening, the wonderfully supported, entertaining conference around "balance in modern living" and the fantastic parents information evening on all things social media related given by Wayne Denner.

This coming year there will not need to be as many new members on the committee as before. But we are looking for at least one more member and up to 4 more members can join. I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my years on the committee. It is a wonderful way to be involved in organising events for both students and parents and I strongly urge any of you who may be interested to get involved. You won't regret it! Our AGM will be at the beginning of October so please let us know if you're interested by the first week in September.

On behalf of the PA I would like to wish you all a relaxing and a mindful Summer holiday.

Clea Dolan  
**Chairperson PA**



## Dates for Your Diary

May 16th	Winter Ball Tickets On Sale
May 16th	Jnr School Family Tennis Tournament
May 17th	Snr School Family Tennis Tournament
May 22nd	Sports & Prize Day
May 25th	6 <sup>th</sup> Yr Graduation Mass & Valedictory Dinner
May 30th	Std 6 Graduation
June 2nd	Std 6 Drama Production
June 3rd	Summer Holidays
June 8th	State Examinations

*This committee is here to represent you; so please feel free to contact us with your ideas or questions: [parents.association@stgerards.ie](mailto:parents.association@stgerards.ie)*

## PA Annual Conference – Balance in Modern Life

Thanks to all the parents who joined us for a fun, interesting and successful evening at our recent Conference on the theme of Balance in Modern Life. It was a great opportunity for us as parents to pause in our very busy schedules and consider how we can make positive changes in our lives.

We were joined by Elsa Jones, Nutritional Therapist and Author of No. 1 Bestseller 'Goodbye Sugar'. Elsa shared diet tips to boost energy, and reduce sugar intake. Elsa also discussed healthy weight Management.

Tony Ward, renowned Irish Rugby Player shared his thoughts on the importance of looking forward and bouncing back from the challenges that are thrown at us.

Finally, George Hook, Irish broadcaster, journalist & rugby union pundit, completed the evening with a very entertaining talk. George shared his thoughts and experiences of finding balance in life.

A big thanks to Brien, in catering, for preparing healthy snacks and drinks during the evening.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

## Evening Talk With Wayne Denner

The school held a Cyber Bulling Awareness Day on Tuesday 5th April where all classes from Std 5 - 6th year were involved in a talk on all things social media related given by Wayne Denner ([waynedenner.com](http://waynedenner.com)).

Later that day the Parents Association sponsored Wayne to present a parent information evening on issues pertaining to Social Media, Online Reputation, Online Protection, Online Wellbeing and other associated matters. This comprehensive talk was delivered in a dynamic and attention-grabbing way and was very well recieved by the parents who attended.

A further talk has been proposed for the future. More to come.

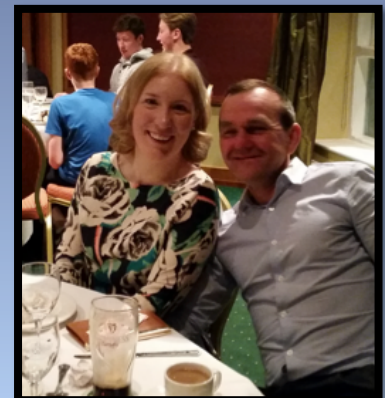
## Annual Golf Outing in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital

Powerscourt Golf Club played host to this year's PA Golf Outing on Fri 15th April when we had four seasons in one day! Many of us braved the elements to complete our rounds of golf on this beautiful golf course. A very enjoyable evening followed where many non - golfers joined us for an excellent barbecue despite the weather. Our raffle this year was a great success raising E3,700 for Temple Street Children's Hospital.

Special thanks must go to Doreen O'Reilly for all her dedication and commitment to this annual event which is growing from strength to strength. We look forward to seeing her play next year on the golf course! We would also like to thank Thelma Hodgins and Maeve Cantwell for their hard work. Many thanks to Mr. Geraghty, Dr. Farrell, the staff of both schools, our very generous sponsors and the parents for your continued support. The success of our Golf Outing highlights our strength as a Community. Ni neart go cur le cheile. Deborah McEvoy.

### Special Thanks To Our Sponsors:

- Paul McEvoy, ORHT Project Managers / Cost Consultants
- Kenneth Hodgins Interiors
- R H Packaging
- Whelehans Wines
- Beacon Hospital
- Mark Wyse, Under Armour Golf
- Max Benjamin
- Daysha Consulting
- Oriflame
- Karl Holmes, Greystones Golf Club
- St. Gerard's PA





## Senior School PA Sponsored Art Competition **Congratulations to:**

Congratulations to all participants in this year's Art Competition. As always, the standard was very high.



### FIRST YEAR

1st Prize      America Totsuka  
2nd Prize      Freddy Happonen

Highly commended first years:

Emily Barrett  
Maria Jose Alonso Mata  
Genevieve Dineen  
Marcus Brassington  
Robbie Hoffman  
Jack Hedigan

### SECOND YEAR

1st Prize      Charlotte Fulvio  
2nd Prize      Molly Stening

### FOURTH YEAR

1st Prize      Caroline Blennerhassett  
2nd Prize      Stephen Ryan

Highly commended:

Ethan Robinson

## Junior School PA Sponsored Art Competition **FIFTH YEAR**

The Junior School PA sponsored Art Competition is underway this month and we look forward to congratulating all the participants in our next newsletter!

1st Prize      Cameron Brady

## PA Mock Career Interviews

On Saturday 9th April the Careers Department along with the PA held a morning of Mock Career Interviews for 5th years. This was, as always, a very enjoyable day and has really helped the students to get a better understanding of what is involved in the careers that they are interested in pursuing. Many thanks once again to all the parents whose expertise, experience and enthusiasm ensured its success and to Ms. Sheila Maguire, Career Guidance Counsellor.

## We Need Your Nearly New Uniforms

The last Uniform Sale raised in excess of €600 with all proceeds from this very popular sale going to DEBRA Ireland, a national Irish charity, established to provide support services to patients and families living with the debilitating skin condition epidermolysis bullosa. If you have any contributions to make of nearly new second hand school and/or sports uniform clothing, please let us have these as soon as possible. Items can be placed in a bag marked for the attention of Laura Brennan and left in the reception of the Junior School.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL GARDEN: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you enjoy or would like to learn more about gardening and have an hour to spare per week then we need you! The St Gerard's Junior School Gardening Team is looking for volunteers to help with the Gardening Club. By using a hands on approach we help to educate the children about the life cycle of plants and their uses. They learn about what plants and trees need to grow as well as soil structure, different environments and how to compost successfully.

We plant spring bulbs (lasagne planting) with Standard 2; Sow acorns with Standard 3 (Which they will plant as small oak trees on the School Grounds when in Standard 6); sow seeds and plant up the vegetable garden with Standard 4; harvest the vegetables sown in the Autumn with Standard 5.

This year we assisted in compiling a very successful RDS Young Scientist Project with Std 4 and also Std 5 The Lego Competition 'Trash Trek' project. If you would like to help out please contact Fiona Gallagher on [086 – 8544104](tel:086-8544104).



## PA Business Directory

As many of you know, we have been working on an online business directory that highlights our community-affiliated businesses. We are delighted to now be in a position to launch the directory on our school website.

To visit the directory and browse listings, please visit the Parents' Association section of the school website or use the following link [PA Business Directory](#)

The directory offers free listings for parents who own their own businesses, the idea being to heighten awareness and help promote business within the St. Gerard's Community. If you have not already, we invite you to submit a listing for your business. To submit a free listing to the St. Gerard's Parents' Association Business Directory please complete the electronic form under the Parents' Association section of the school website. Entries will be updated once every two months.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Parents' Association at [parents.association@stgerards.ie](mailto:parents.association@stgerards.ie)

## New PA Email Address

This committee is here to represent you; so please feel free to contact us with your ideas or questions at our new email address: [parents.association@stgerards.ie](mailto:parents.association@stgerards.ie)

## Summer Camps

Camps will run 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June & 20 – 24<sup>th</sup> June. Look out for more information coming from Julie McNerney & Ken Jolly over coming weeks.

## Family Tennis Nights

The PA are delighted to continue with their annual sponsorship of the St Gerard's Family Tennis Evenings on the 16<sup>th</sup> May for the Junior School and 17<sup>th</sup> May for the Senior School. Entry forms for the events will be available online after the Easter break. This year we would love to see more parents playing in the event with special prizes for those taking part. All standards of tennis are welcome at this great social event. There will be a BBQ available for players and supporters on the night. It once again promises to be exciting evening of tennis with family fun for all, so dig out your rackets and get practising, we look forward to seeing you all in May!



## *Enchanted Winter Masquerade*

For the benefit of the Jack and Jill  
Foundation & St. Gerard's Outreach  
Programme to Zambia

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TICKETS ON SALE MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 8.15AM  
SENIOR SCHOOL DINING HALL  
TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON FIRST COME FIRST  
SERVED BASIS.

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We invite you to join the social event of the year, St. Gerard's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Ball, in Powerscourt Hotel, Enniskerry, November 26, 2016. Support your school and our longstanding commitment to raising funds to support local and national charitable causes. Tickets: €100\*

\* To be paid in full on May 16<sup>th</sup>, cash/cheque.

[Stgerardswinterball2016@gmail.com](mailto:Stgerardswinterball2016@gmail.com)