

ST GERARD'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Representing the Third Branch of our Community

Dear Parent

Welcome to our December Newsletter!

As you can see, the Parents' Association has already been busy working on a number of different initiatives with lots more to come over the coming months. In particular, we welcome all our new families to the St Gerard's Community. Remember the Parents' Association is representing you and we would love to hear from you so please send us your ideas and comments.

Christmas is just around the corner and while we are all busy getting organised please remember those less fortunate by supporting the St Gerard's annual Bazaar on Thursday 15th December – you can help by donating items and coming along on the night. Every bit helps and as always, proceeds go to those locally who need it the most. Looking forward to seeing you there - our stand will be in the Canteen – so please come over and say hello!

There have been a number of changes to the Parents Association this year with 6 new members who we welcome on board and, as always, a big thank you to outgoing members who have worked really hard over the past number of years on your behalf.

We hope you enjoy catching up on the news and we look forward to supporting our parents and families over the coming school year.

We wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2017



Dates for Your Diary

Dec 13th	Talk by Dr. Farrell 'Get Ready to Read...and so much more'
Dec 15th	Christmas Bazaar
Dec 15th	Montessori Nativity Play
Dec 16th	Junior School Christmas Plays
Dec 22nd	Christmas Carol Service
Jan 12th	3 rd Year Parent- Teacher Meeting
Jan 14th	Junior School Parent Teacher Meetings
Jan 17th	5 th Year Parent- Teacher Meeting

Sponsorships

€1000	Junior School Library Books
€1500	St Gerard's Winter Ball
€500	Christmas Bazaar Hampers

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

St. Gerard's 11th Annual Winter Ball

The 11th St.Gerard's Annual Winter Ball was held on 26th November in Powerscourt Hotel, Enniskerry. Tickets were completely sold out with over 300 people from the St. Gerard's community attending. Many thanks to all the parents and sponsors who contributed to the Ball, a fantastic €30,000 was raised for The Jack and Jill Foundation and the projects supported by the St. Gerard's Outreach Programme to Zambia.

The evening was a huge success and the theme for the night was 'Enchanted Winter Masquerade'. A huge thanks to Alyson Stanley, this years Ball Co-Ordinator, who along with her ball committee delivered a thoroughly enjoyable and successful event!



AGM – Guest Speaker

We were delighted to have David Carey join us at this year's AGM to discuss how we could better understand our children's anxiety and fears. The evening was a great success, many thanks to all who attended!

We would be delighted to hear any feedback you may have on this speaker, or any thoughts on speakers you would like to hear from in the future: parents.association@stgerards.ie



Junior School PA Sponsored Art Competition

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



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September Uniform Sale

Our September Uniform Sale was a huge success and we raised in excess of €1200! All proceeds from this will go to the Concern Haiti Hurricane Appeal.



We Need Your Nearly New Uniforms

The next second hand uniform sale will be held in the New Year. 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 the Parents Association and left in the reception of the Junior School.

Volunteers Needed: Rugby Referees

The Sports Department are always under pressure for rugby referees to officiate at all junior levels (U9 to U15). With this in mind, we are looking for volunteers! Parents who are interested in volunteering to referee some home matches will be put forward by the school to attend the next available Associate Referee's Course, as run by the Leinster Branch.

If you are interested or need more information on what is involved, please contact Mr. Jolly on 086 8202629.



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).



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St. Gerard's Parents' Association Business Directory

Is Your Business Listed?

Last year the Parents' Association launched a Business Directory for parents who own their own businesses, the idea being to heighten awareness and help to promote businesses within the St. Gerard's Parents Community. The directory is in online format and can be found on the school website or through the link below. We would appreciate if you could take the time to browse through the businesses and support wherever possible.

If you are a parent in the school with your own business and wish to be listed in the directory please register your interest at parents.association@stgerards.gmail.com or click on the link below.

[LIST YOUR
BUSINESS HERE](#)

[VISIT THE
BUSINESS
DIRECTORY](#)

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Up Coming Events

“Get Ready to Read..... and so much more!”



A talk by Dr. Deirdre Farrell for parents of pre-school and early primary-years children on preparing your child for literacy, numeracy and all round educational development.

St. Gerard's Junior School

Tuesday 13th December 2016 ~ 10.30am to 12 noon

ALL CURRENT and PROSPECTIVE PARENTS WELCOME

*The lecture will be followed by a tour to see
our Montessori and Junior School in action.*



*St. Gerard's is a Catholic, co-educational, independent school
educating children from two and a half to eighteen years.*

To confirm attendance please contact Stephanie
on 01-2393445 or junior@stgerards.ie

www.stgerards.ie

Up Coming Events

The Parents' Association will be playing an active role in the Bazaar again this year! Be sure to come along and say hello!

St. Gerard's School
Christmas Bazaar 2016

RAFFLE

Face Painting

AUCTIONS

New Toys & Fun Activities
 Std 6 Pupils

Evening Dining
 ENJOY YOUR
THURSDAY NIGHT SUPPER
 WITH OUR CATERING TEAM
 IN THE DINING HALL

FORTUNE TELLER

Christmas Fare
 RUN BY THE IN-HOUSE COMMITTEE
 WILL BE LOCATED IN THE DINING HALL

TY MINI COMPANY & YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATOR
 GROUPS WILL PROMOTE THEIR WARES

Casino & Tombola
 Lots of New Fun Events

Computer Games

DVDs & CDs

Santa's Grotto

Donations Needed!!

Thursday 15th December

AUCTION ITEMS - Traditionally our big funds generator! Please advise the Senior School office if you can donate any item.
RAFFLE PRIZES • **BOTTLES FOR THE TOMBOLA** • **DVDs/CDs/COMPUTER GAMES** (all in good order)
CAKE/FOOD STALL/CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATIONS will be located in the Dining Hall (All donations will be gratefully accepted on the day of the Bazaar)



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PARENTING COURSE 2017

We are delighted to let you know that Stuart Wilson of Zest Life (www.zestlife.ie) will once again conduct a Parenting Course in the Junior School, the course will begin early in the new year. This time around the content will be aimed at parents of children ranging from Standard 3 through to Standard 6.

Register your interest by clicking link below:

[Register Interest](#)

PA CHARITY GOLF OUTING In aid of Sunbeam House Services Friday 28th April 2017

This year we are holding our annual Charity Golf Day in Druids Glen Golf Club on Friday 28th April. Our chosen charity is Sunbeam House Services and the funds raised along with the labour of 70 TY students will help transform the outdoor area of one of the residential complexes in Sunbeam House.

The cost is €400 for a team of 4 which includes a Gala Dinner after the golf and prize giving. Individuals are more than welcome at a cost of €100 per person and we will create teams for you. Morning and afternoon tee times available this year we are also holding a 9 hole scramble competition and the cost will be €260 for a team and €65 per individual. Dinner and prize giving is also included. Please email parents.association@stgerards.ie to reserve a tee time and we will be in contact with more information. Non-golfers welcome to join evening meal at a cost of €35.

Parents' Association Sponsored Literary Competition

Coming Soon: Open to All Senior School Students!



Monday 13th March 2017

Renowned speaker **Dr. Fergus Heffernan**, CHH Services, will deliver a talk on Managing Stress, Anxiety and your Mental Health. A not to be missed evening!

New School Website



Have you visited the schools fabulous new website? Still at www.stgerards.ie, the new site offers a greatly enhanced and unique user experience, which affords parents, and the broader community, the opportunity to explore the wealth and array of activities we partake in at St. Gerard's School.

The PA have enjoyed exploring the new site and encourage you all to log on!

Parent to Parent

Driving Tip

You can do a lot to improve the circulation of traffic in and out of St. Gerard's. How? By always entering from the North and exiting to the South.

Party Time

For the sake of all our children in the Senior School, please keep in mind our Headmaster's request not to have parties during school term.

If your child asks to host a party please work with them to schedule it during a break.

Lost Property

Every day a large number of items make their way to the lost and found. The majority of these items have no name on them. Please make sure that all items are tagged to help ensure their speedy return.

Your Parents' Association Committee 2016/2017

We would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the outgoing members of the PA committee for all their hard work over the past number of years. Namely; Clea Dolan, Aoibheann Cleary, Deborah McEvoy and Dalton Philips. In particular we would like to thank all the officers. To our treasurer Aoibheann and to our Chair, Clea, who tirelessly & without complaint took on the role for two years running. You have been a fantastic asset to a great committee!

We would also like to take the opportunity to welcome all our incoming members.

Full Committee 2016/2017

Margaret Brightling (Chair), Marie Happonen (Secretary), John Connolly (Treasurer), Laura Brennan (Communications Officer), Pauline Burke, Suzanne Dalton, Roland Keogh, Emma Galvin, Niall MacCaughey, Melanie Reilly, Orla Van Den Bergh, Barry Orr, Rosemarie Maguire, Edwina O'Sullivan.

How are we doing? We would love to hear from you. Please contact us with your ideas, suggestions or questions at the link below.

Parents.association@gerards.ie