



# NEWSLETTER *Spring 2015*

## AFTERNOON TEA IN THE CASTLE A GREAT SUCCESS

On 21st March 2015 the Parents Association hosted their inaugural Afternoon Tea event held in Gormanston Castle. The event was held to raise funds to re-open, restock and extend our Franciscan College Gormanston school library. It was the first time the Castle doors were open to the public and the level of interest exceeded all expectations. All three sittings sold out rapidly with many people disappointed as they were unable to obtain a booking.

On a glorious spring morning the first guests arrived at the majestic Gormanston Castle. Guests were welcomed into the magnificent entrance hall to the harpists playing in the background and thus the scene was set for a very special experience.

Local historian Brendan Matthews gave a highly informative history of the Castle and the Preston family who had resided there. Guests were taken on a tour of the ground floor reception rooms before they were invited into the dining room which was transformed into an elegant tearoom. Here, the attentive waitresses served a sumptuous afternoon tea of tasty sandwiches, warm scones and dainty pastries accompanied by endless supplies of teas and coffees.



Having consumed their fill the happy guests, carrying their boxed up cakes and goodie bags strolled through the beautiful grounds enjoying the afternoon sunshine.

The event has proved to be a huge success. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive with requests for a repeat. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Parents Association Committee, parents, friends and students who gave their time in the weeks leading up to and on the day itself. The team work displayed ensured that the event ran smoothly and that any hiccups were dealt with without missing a beat. Special mention for Robyn Brant who took the fabulous photos on the day.



*Helpers on the day*

The event raised approximately €2300 so thank you to everyone for their contribution. Thank you also to the Franciscan Order and to the School Management for all their support.

A special thanks must be given to all those who sponsored the event, many of them local businesses;

Apache Pizza  
Apple Garage  
Arnotts  
Art Office  
Brandon Actuarial and Software Solutions  
Bellview Eggs  
Big Red Kitchen  
Butlers Chocolates

City North Hotel  
 Clarkes Jams  
 Dunnes Stores  
 East Coast Travel  
 Elmgrove Daffodils Gormanston  
 Gem Sugar  
 Gibneys Pub Gormanston  
 Glanbia Dairies  
 Irish Country Magazine  
 Irish Times  
 Keoghs Crisps  
 The Lavendar Bakery  
 Lily O'Briens  
 McCloskeys Bakery  
 Oliver-marketing.ie  
 Pac-on Waste  
 Rustic Recipes  
 Techrete

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## SCHOOL LIBRARY



The refurbishment of the school library is under way. The PA are helping to sort the books into those to be kept and those to go to a book sale. We would like to thank Dublin City Libraries for their very generous donation of books suitable for teenagers and young adults. Further fundraising is needed to ensure that the pupils have a modern, comfortable space to study, carry out research and to relax with a good book.

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## SPORTS & FAMILY FUN DAY

The annual School Sports and Family Fun Day has been scheduled for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The PA are again involved in the event including a Monster Raffle! This year the proceeds raised will go towards the Library Fund. Prizes so far include a €250 Arnotts gift voucher and luxury

hampers. Anyone who wishes to donate a prize please contact the PA Committee.



Raffle tickets will be on sale once school resumes after the Easter Holidays.

This year we have included the Second Hand Uniform Sale as part of the day for the first time. Correspondence on this has been sent out to parents/guardians.

Also we are introducing a Book Stall on the day so we are hoping for book donations to come in. Any books that you wish to donate that are suitable for either the school library or for sale on the Book Stall will be gratefully accepted, please contact the PA Committee.

Any parent who is interested in helping out will be most welcome. It is a great day and is an opportunity to meet other parents and is always lots of fun.



The Cake Stall is an integral part of the Fun Day so we send out a call to all bakers to join in and lend a hand. All baked goods are accepted and are sold to raise funds on the day.

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## JIGSAW PROGRAMME

Representatives from the PA are participants in the School Jigsaw Health Team with school staff, students and health care professionals involved in the project. The purpose is to promote the Mental Health of the whole school.

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# ROAD SAFETY



The PA have been working closely with School Management to raise the awareness of the dangers of the roads in the vicinity of the School. We have corresponded with Meath Co. Council and supported the school Road Safety Day on 5<sup>th</sup> March. We will continue to support all initiatives that will keep our children safe on their way to and from school.



# HEALTHY EATING



The PA are in support of a healthy eating policy in the school. We have written to the Board of Management expressing the concerns of parents in

relation to the sale of carbonated drinks, sweets and crisps in the school. As a result these have been removed from sale as part of meals.



The Parents Association are affiliated to the National Parents Council post primary. The Committee would like to thank the School Management for paying the renewal affiliation fee on our behalf.

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The next PA Committee meeting is scheduled for 8pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015, in the College Boardroom.

Parents and Guardians are very welcome to join the committee and for information please email [fcgpac@gmail.com](mailto:fcgpac@gmail.com).

Membership offers both the enjoyment of being involved in a hands-on capacity in the education of your child and the friendship of being part of a committed group.