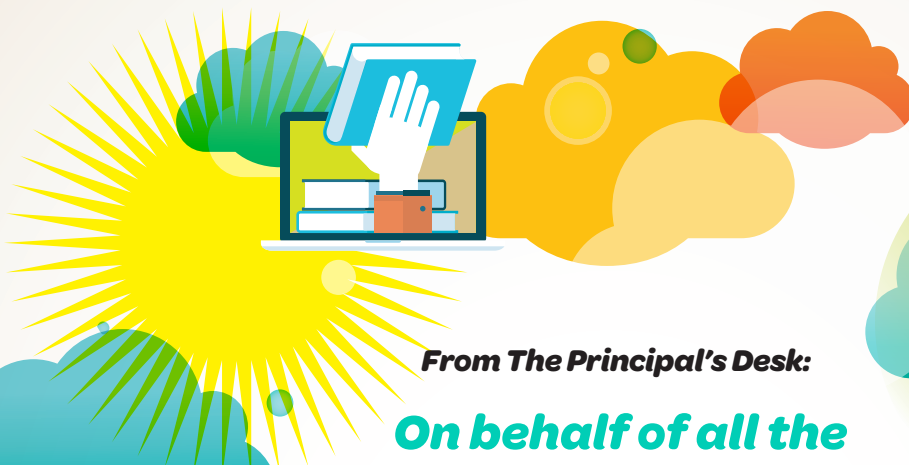


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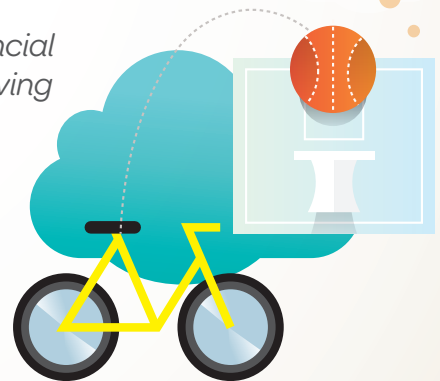
Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School



From The Principal's Desk:

On behalf of all the pupils and the staff...

I want to thank you all for your support of the many and varied activities that go on over the course of a school year. Particular thanks to those of you who have served on the various school committees over the year. It simply would not be possible to run our school without the voluntary support of parents and families and for that we are most grateful. Together with your continued financial support of the school, we are a thriving and vibrant school community.



From The Principal's Desk:



Sixth class leave us next week to go their various ways. We wish them every happiness and success and all our good wishes for the future. Congratulations to all of the children in the class who graduate with distinction – and special congratulations to Oscar, who was awarded a scholarship to Sandford Park School. We say goodbye to Anna May (R2), who moves to St Michael's House NS, Katie (R4) who moves to St Augustine's NS in Blackrock and Lily (R3) who is returning to Canada. We look forward to keeping in touch and to seeing them come and visit. We also say goodbye to Shauna Maguire who has worked with us here in RMDS as a classroom assistant for the past four years. Shauna is returning to education next year. We will of course still see Shauna as her daughter Faye will continue in senior infants. We also wish Colette Desmond all the best as she takes a career break for a year to do some travelling. Mary Clare Pigott remains on carer's leave to look after her mother. Finally we wish Caroline O Dowd all the very best for the birth of her first baby in October. Caroline will be going on maternity leave in September.

School reports were posted last week. Thanks to all those of you who took up the invitation to send in your comments or suggestions regarding the year past and of course the year ahead! We also circulated the School Self Evaluation summary report for the year. It is very satisfying to see the high levels of attainment of the pupils here in RMDS on standard tests of English reading and Mathematics. Here in RMDS we also prioritise the social and emotional wellbeing of the children in line with our child centred and progressive ethos. The two together, that is academic

attainment and social and emotional well being are what comprises a successful and happy and productive year in school. Our aim, in partnership with you as parents, is to achieve that for all our pupils to the best possible degree.

Two things for the summer holiday – we would really like everyone in school to have a library card for September – so if you don't have one, please try to sort that over the Summer. There is a new plan in place between the local libraries and schools and we need each child to have a library card to make the best use of the service. Secondly, let's all try to have a book on the go at all times – parents, children, teachers and staff. We want reading to become a habit, a good habit that we never lose. Check out summerreadingbuzz.ie

Finally may I extend to those of you who have suffered bereavement and ill health over the course of this year the thoughts and good wishes of everyone here in RMDS.

Have a relaxing, book filled, sunny Summer and see you all safe and well in September!

Joan Whelan

Junior Infants



Time flies when you're having fun they say! We've had a great time this year and we can't believe just how fast this year has flown in Junior Infants!

We came together as a class in September, 18 girls and 13 boys. We got to know one another day by day and now we all have made many new friends! We are a class full of lively, clever, artistic, thoughtful, friendly, funny, kind, generous, fun loving children!

The highlight of this term probably was our trip to Glenroe Farm. We were lucky with the weather and had great fun going on the trail in search of the Fairy garden.

We passed a big black bull in a field on the way but luckily he didn't chase us! We saw the pot bellied pig and petted the sheep and had fun with the goats.

On the way back the bus got stuck in a VERY, VERY, LONG traffic jam but we didn't mind! We sang songs and even had a little disco on the bus. The bus driver didn't mind at all. Ms. Halpin said she was proud of how patient we were and that we all did our best on the day! We made it back to the school safely and with good memories of the farm trip!

Some Mums and Dads helped us by coming with us on trips during the year and also with art and other activities. We really appreciated them giving their time so a big 'Thank you' to you all.

We loved the climbing frame on Sport for all Day and we did the 2K jogging challenge running around Mount Pleasant Square, twice! We are really fit Junior Infants!

We're looking forward to our grandparents coming to visit us in our classroom and hearing from them about what school was like long ago!

Our buddies are leaving the school at the end of this term and we'll certainly miss them. We hope they have a really good time in Secondary school. We're looking forward to going on a Teddy Bear's picnic with them before the end of the year!

That's all from Junior Infants for now. We're going to have the best, sunniest, summer ever and hope you all do too!

Senior Infants



Our absolute favourite thing this year was ...

Our trip to Dublin Zoo on Friday, the 12th of June. We went on a big bus and sang "We're going to the zoo" all the way! We were there early and were first in the queue! Alexander loved seeing the lions. James was excited to see the tigers! Senan noticed that the baby giraffes were playing chasing. We thought this was very funny. Oscar C, Cathal, Harry, Iarlaith and Anabel loved the seals. Cloadagh and Anna G adored the tigers. They were having lots of fun! Zain, Zoe, Sarah K, Beatrice and Sarah D's highlight of the day were the okapis with their stripy legs. In the African planes, Tom and Oscar M liked the gorillas. We sat and had a little rest by the elephants. Susannah and Laoise spotted the baby elephant. Oliver, Jarvis and Max thought the squirrel monkeys ran very fast. We have great photos from the new playground called "Play Forest!". Alannah, Jess, Sam and Hazel flew down the slide! Milo, Conn, and Anna BC liked the sea lions in the new section of the zoo. We also saw crocodiles and the last set of animals we visited were in the reptile house. We missed having Fionnán with us. Both the adults and children slept well that night from all that exploring!

And the other things we loved too...

1. Watching the Rang 6 musical; "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory".
2. Ms. Ormiston arriving after Easter but it was sad to see Mr. Perera leave us. Luckily he is still around RMDS!
3. Our Christmas Play; it was all about Perahera.
4. Trip to Imaginosity.
5. Having fun with teachers.
6. Symmetrical art with Spiders and Butterflies.
7. Write a Book and the Awards.
8. Forest Schools.
9. Melty's adventures to all of our homes.
10. Trip to the Zoo.
11. Book swap on world book day.
12. World Earth Day activities!
13. Fashion Show.



We had a brilliant time together in Rang a hAon.

Here are some of our favourite memories of all the things we learned and enjoyed...

I enjoyed everything we did. I will never forget teaching this lovely, intelligent and talented class. – **Ms Coogan**

I loved everybody's yummy cakes and working in first class again. – **Joyce**.

I loved playing wordshake with this class. – **Ms Gallagher**

At the beginning of the year we did banners of our names. – **Jack**

The time we did the shaving cream art was very fun to me. We also made clouds with shaving cream and food colouring. – **Zoe**

The time we made art with the different materials. – **Alannah**

The time we went to the Leprechaun museum. – **Louie Alice**

When we did coding using Scratch on the computers. – **Lenna**

When we baked for homework.

Yummy!. – **George**

When we made seed cakes for the birds in winter. – **Sophia**

When we made out T-léine for Seachtain na Gaeilge. – **Altan**

When we had pancakes in the staff room. Delicious! – **Theodora**

When we did a group collage of the animals habitats. – **Muireann**

I loved everything in Rang a hAon. – **Evan**

When we went for a nature walk in Ranelagh Park to study the leaves. I also loved the Jai Ho dance. – **Jean**

When we made a village from cardboard. I also liked the celery experiment. – **Ethan**

When we did printing for art using foam, and doing the Drumcondra tests. – **Daniel**

When we learned to sew the puppets. – **Billy**

When the Mums and Dads came in to talk about their jobs, and our money projects. – **Heidi**

When we drew sketches of The Grand Canal. – **Chloe**

When we visited Rathmines library. – **Christopher**

When we made our puppets with material. – **Natan**

Book Day was awesome! – **Fergus**

When we went to the margadh cístí in Rang 4 for Seachtain na Gaeilge. – **Louis**

When we made the name clouds with Miss Gallagher. – **Brian**

When we made froganna. – **Luke**

When we learned to play the Hacky Sacks. – **Mustakeem**

I enjoyed the Write-a-Book. – **Olivia**

I like the time in the hall when we did the obstacle course. – **Patrick**

It was fun to make a little me and put it with the month of my birthday. – **Sylvie**

I loved the rince for Seachtain na Gaeilge. – **Kieran**

When we made our Bia collage. Is maith liom anraith sicín. – **Katie**

I loved it when we made the clay divas for Diwali. – **Maria**

My favourite things were going to The Leprechaun Museum and making penguins from egg cartons. – **Juliette**

Rang a Dó



When we talked to Ms Brennan about this year's highlights here are some of the things that sprang to mind:

Solar eclipse morning, The Titanic, Space scavenger hunt, Food chains, Yoga with Joshua's mum, Giant's village in Drama, Writing books, Adding with hundreds, Wordless, Manga-high maths, Healthy eating, Dentist visit to class(Gavin's dad), Picasso portraits and making Sukkahs, Getting new board games for the class, Free-writing and free-drawing copies, Judaism, Christmas concert, Writing Diamante poems, Singing songs, earning homework passes and the Céilí Mór!

Some other highlights for our class were being given responsibility for the school garden, swimming every Thursday, taking part in Forest Schools in the 2nd term and our two memorable trips to The Ark.

We have learned a lot about the importance of playing well together. We watch out for each other in the yard.

We love singing and have lots of songs to sing and poems to recite. We can play our ocarina's well and have practised mindfulness.

One of our favourite things to do each week is to talking about the books we are all reading and so we did Book Club a few times a week. We made a list of our top 20 favourite authors in Rang a dó too.

We are learning how to knit at the moment and are planning to put all of our pieces together to make a class knitted picture!

We are ready for third class which we really are looking forward to but not before we go on our end of year trip to Causey Farm in Co Meath where we hope to get nice and messy while we do a bit of bog-jumping!.

Ms Brennan is very proud of us all!



We have had great craic in 3rd class this school year

This year was particularly special because we had three teachers: Ms. O'Dowd, Ms. Swain and Mr. Perera. We liked it because it was a new experience and a nice change. It was good because if we didn't understand something taught by one teacher, another teacher might explain it in a different way in which we could!

Rang a Trí has been a little harder than Rang a Dó and during the year we learned loads of new things. In Maths we learned division and multiplication. This year we joined the senior end of the school and, as a result, we have enjoyed more responsibility. Many of us represented the school on The Green Schools Committee and the School Council.

During the year we learned about many different and interesting places: Italy, Ancient Egyptian and even Outer Space.

We particularly enjoyed researching Ancient Egypt. We went to Rathmines library to find as many books on Ancient Egypt as we could. In pairs, we each chose an aspect of Ancient Egypt (eg. Cleopatra, Hieroglyphics) and created and presented projects based on it. To finish the topic we went to the National Archaeological Museum, Kildare Street, and completed activity booklets, demonstrating what we learned.

Another highlight of the year was our trip to see Dav Pilkey, the author of Captain Underpants, a book which is very popular in our class. We even got his autograph!

This year, some of us joined children from 4th and 5th class and got the chance to go to Santry Stadium and represent our school in the all Dublin athletics competition. We learned correct running techniques and ran as fast as we could on the day. Our school won five medals.

Another exciting day was when the fire brigade visited and we developed a fire escape plan for our houses. They even let us use the fire hose!

This term, we played cricket with Leinster cricket. We especially liked batting and throwing tennis at Mr. Perera and Ms. Swain.

We all wrote another book this year and were awarded certificates. This very write-a-book became a competition and some books won medals!

At the beginning of the year, we completed our final Forest Schools programme. We thoroughly enjoyed it, the best part being building a boat that could float.

It has been an exciting and enjoyable year in Rang a Trí and we are looking forward to our holidays!

Rang a Ceathair



We have had an exciting year here in Rang 4...

At the start of the term Amélie joined our class.

We finished the novel "Holes" and we watched the movie.

We also did our Viking projects and when we were finished them we got to go to Dublinia. It was really good. We also made charcoal Viking pictures.

Santry School Sports took place in Morton Stadium. Rang 4 represented the school very well. The girls' under-11 relay team (Molly, Ruth, Aoife and Julia Rang 4) did really well coming fourth. Isabel and Hazel (Rang 5) were also part of this team. Molly also won an individual sprint silver medal.

Mark M, Mark C, Shane, Aidan and Lucia also represented the school as well.

This term we started cricket in Leinster Cricket Club in Rathmines. Our instructors, Rob and Claire, have taught us really really well.

We also did "Write a Book" assembly. Our class did very well and the books were amazing.

We did LOADS of art this year. We looked into the work of artist Paul Klee who did a type of art called abstract art. We also did optical illusions. They were really, really cool. We also made a city called Loom Band City. It's basically a big, big city constructed using paper, little animal rubbers and loom bands.

On a less exciting note we did our Drumcondra tests – though Ms Neylon was very pleased with the results.

In Core Curriculum we talked about conflict resolution and we also studied pilgrimages. It was very interesting.

We also filled 3 marble jars and got a night off homework.

We continued working on the class library and we sorted the books in alphabetical order. In Geography we learnt about Japan. We enjoyed working on it.

In June, we will be going to Croke Park, and last but not least, Clara-Lara.

Have a great Summer!



Throughout the year we went on many school trips including...

Waterways Ireland, The Mosque, Marsh's library, Dublin Castle and the Jeanie Johnston. In Waterways Ireland, they have two otters living under the building. In the Mosque we learned about the Muslim religion. In Dublin Castle we learned about the process of how things are built and designed. We went to visit the Jeanie Johnston on the River Liffey. While we were there we learned a lot about the famine and got pretty scared by the wax figures! We can't wait to visit Baltinglass in a few weeks.

We had great fun in PE this year. We learned a lot of basketball, athletic and rugby skills. We loved playing games of tag rugby and Gaelic football in Mountpleasant. During the last term, Eoin taught us how to cycle and stay safe on the road. We also played cricket on Fridays for forty five minutes in Leinster Cricket club. On Wednesdays most of the class went training for Santry for the Primary School Athletics competitions. They went to a cycling track on Sundrive Road and practiced sprints and relays. The people who were not in the Santry training used Manga High on the laptops, playing Maths games.

We have worked hard on the core subjects in class. Maths has been challenging with lots of new concepts this year. We wrote our write-a- books and we had a lot of fun coming up with ideas and plots for our creative stories. We had an assembly to give out awards for our write-a-book and then pictures were taken outside. Rosa won the first prize. In English we also learned lots of poems by Seamus Heaney, Robert Frost, Yeats and

Spike Milligan. We enjoyed reading and studying our novels during the year- The Breadwinner, Under the Hawthorn Tree and Catching Fire. Last but not least, in Irish we broadened our vocabulary with many new words and phrases.

In core curriculum we learned about Chinese Zodiac Animals, staying safe and different beliefs and customs. We had to learn that fairness is not giving the same – it's giving everyone equal and giving everyone what they need. The community Garda, Garda Jerry came to our class. We did a mock court case and we learned about how to be safe with social media. Students from St. Michaels House NS came to visit us and we got to visit them in their school. We played games and got nice treats.

Every Tuesday after big break we did art. We did paint, drawing, fabric and fibre and clay! We studied and responded to Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night and Sunflowers. We drew pictures that reminded us about summer and drew swans practicing our shading. In January, we participated in the Peace Proms concert and got to come to school at 10:00 the next day. We also helped Rang 6 in the choir with their musical, Charlie and the Chocolate factory. Every Wednesday, we go down to the hall with Ms. Gallagher for Drama where we normally play Stuck in the Mud, Wink Murder and Charades. It is great fun.

Alex was very kind and shared his baking with us during the year. Thank you Alex- it was yummy!

Thanks for reading our 5th class report - have a great Summer.

Rang a Sé



Music and Drama

by Juno Hegarty

We did a lot of music and drama throughout 6th class. At the beginning of the year we had a dance workshop with Robert. Our Christmas play was based on the WW1 Christmas Truce. I thought it turned out well and we put in a lot of work. Over the year we learned a good few songs in Irish such as "Riptide" and "Trasna na Dtonnta" which we enjoyed. Early in 2015 we performed in the Peace Proms in the RDS. We worked very hard on our songs with 5th class. We learned "Let it go", "You'll never walk alone", "I was here" and lots more!!

I think my favourite was the musical, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and we really put our heart and soul into it. It turned out great! All in all the year was very musical and I will remember the songs from the peace proms and the musical forever!

Trips

by Patricia Baratu

This year, we went on loads of really fun trips, like the Botanic Gardens and the Buddhist Centre. We also went to the R.C.P.I., where we saw a short movie called 'The Birth of a Nation.' We went on a tour to Collins Barracks, where we learned more about 1916. One of our most recent trips was Glasnevin Cemetery. Did you know that there are many famous people buried there? Like Maud Gonne? They even have a special round tower where Daniel O'Connell is buried. The tour guide said that if you touched the wood, you would have good luck. It was a very interesting tour!

My favourite tour was definitely Delphi!! I'm sure most of the class would agree. There were so many fun activities! We jumped into a bog, jumped off a very tall pole, capsized kayaks, jumped off the pier, and had the best time ever!!

Projects

by Oscar Despard

Rang a Sé did a lot of very interesting projects. The first project we did was on the Second World War. We studied various different aspects of the war. We all really enjoyed the project. Afterwards, we also learnt about World War One for our Christmas Play.

For the Christmas Fair, we had a competition for who could make the most money for the school at the fair by selling different things. It was great fun.

After the Christmas Holidays, we did a project on W.B. Yeats, to learn about his poetry. We also did the Write-A-Book. We all loved writing our books for the competition.

In the Summer Term, we all chose European countries to do projects on. We found out all sorts of surprising things about our countries, and on Europe Day we gave a presentation to our parents and the other classes in the school.

A taste of the rest

by JohnLuka Doherty and Niall Healy

This year has been a great year for this 6th class. We did a lot of fun and creative things. We each made our very own paper mache objects, we also did very colourful winter paintings. Two artists came in and taught us how to make ink print.

Colin Judge is a table-tennis future paralympian that is the number one in Ireland and ranked 36 in the world. He came to our class to talk about school and about his career.

Shay's dad is a computer expert and he kindly came in to talk about coding and the Apps we dreamed up and wrote about.

We have done lots of fun stuff with our buddies such as the time we went to see Paddington in the Swan Omniplex.

On science week the class made robots using circuits.

Sa rang Gaeilge rinne muid rudaí éagsúla. Bhí gach rud go h-iontach. Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge go h-iontach freisin.

During Seachtain na Gaeilge we did and made lots of things. We made stop-motion movies and books about Irish legends. We made cakes and brought them in and then sold them to Junior Infants, 5th class and each other. We and every other class in the school participated in a Ceilí where we Irish danced to traditional music. We also learnt An Taoide(Riptide) for an assembly.

We have been doing yoga over the year to keep us keep healthy. We have also been doing some gymnastics in the hall.

**So it's goodbye from us...
forever!**

School Council

It has been a busy year for the RMDS Student Council.



In September, rang 6 elected Niamh and Oscar to attend Comhairle na nOg on our behalf. They also acted as the Chairpersons of the Student Council for the year.

Our first big event of the year was a trip to Stepside Educate Together NS in October to meet Ms. Carroll and her school. They are starting a Student Council and so we gave them some advice and ideas.

We surveyed the bathrooms, lights and the water fountains in the school and then we fixed all the problems. Thank you to the Board of Management and Mr Fairbrother who helped to make sure this happened.

The four senior classes did a bake sale during Seachtain na Gaeilge and we gave the proceeds to Nepal Earthquake relief and to the Irish Cancer Society.

We helped to organize the Halloween raffle and the Easter raffle and Niamh won a prize for the third time. We wonder what was happening there...

All the school voted in an anonymous referendum to change the name of the school council to the student council. The referendum was passed by 72.7% in favour and 27.3% against.

We did a spring clean all around the school in April and helped to support the Ranelagh Tidy Town campaign. Thanks to Rang 1 who provided posters for the park to encourage the dog users to clean up after their dogs.

Thanks to Mr Mulholland for helping us to organise the Hockey World and Soccer World Cup were organized by Mr. Mulholland and all of the student council.

We finished up the year by inviting Ms. Carroll's school to visit on the 4th of June to show what their school had done since October.

All of the student council have enjoyed working on behalf of the school. We wish you all a lovely summer.

The School Council

Niall Healy	Clara Darcy	Patricia Byrne
Niamh Fanning	Andrew Browne	Emma Walsh
Oscar Despard	James Godson	

Green School Committee



Water is the third theme of the Green-Schools programme. Here at RMDS we are busy working towards our Water Flag and hope to submit our completed application to An Taisce by March 2016..

Twice a year, in September and in February, RMDS Green Schools recruits 6 volunteer pupils to sit on the Green Schools Committee and represent the classes. These are pupils who strongly believe in environmental issues. This year the committee members from September to February were:

Rang 3 – Cal Fitzpatrick, Patricia Byrne, Kitty Carolan

Rang 4 – Mark Coughlan, Holly Pigott

Rang 5 – Andrew Browne, Emma Walsh

Rang 6 – Patricia Baratu, Josh Roycroft

The second committee who sat from February til June were :

Rang 3 – Evie Walsh, Heather Coyle

Rang 4 – Madeleine Andrews, Charlie McIntosh Brien

Rang 5 – Isabel Doorley, Fionn Conroy

Rang 6 – Lo uis O Sullivan, Juno Hegarty

Ms. Halpin organised the monthly meetings. Everyone participated in the discussions and shared ideas and came up with some great suggestions for helping RMDS to stay a Green School. In the first term the committee organised the Recycled Christmas Tree Decoration competition which was a great success! The winning entry was made from an old CD disc and turned into a Christmas owl to hang on the Christmas tree! It was amazing to see how pupils turned junk into such beautiful tree decorations, even nicer than shop bought decorations!

In March committee members went to do a workshop on water conservation at the Inland Waterways Centre in the Grand canal dock . The Centre has a permanent exhibition and

is a good place to visit over the summer if you are interested in water conservation. It's free entry too !

On March 22, World Water Day, other members went on a trip to Glendalough to meet up with many Green Schools committee members from schools all over Dublin. We walked up part of the Spinc mountain carrying water packs to see what it feels like for people in other countries who spend hours every day of their lives walking to collect water from a well and back again because they do not have any water piped to their homes. We know what it feels like for them after doing that walk! It doesn't seem fair that some people waste the water they do have when others have to live such hard lives getting water to survive.

A great event in the school was the Water Day of action on June 18th. Every pupil searched and found where our water meter is kept, where the electricity meter is kept and where the gas meter is kept. We learned about measuring how much water, electricity and gas cost the school. Rang 6 were scientists for the day and gave water workshops to the classes which was fun! We started working on our new RMDS Water song and we even had our own Walking for Water event ! It was a sea of blue in the yard on the day!

The weekly newsletter often reports on the theme of Water and one of the Junior Infant dads, Gary Byrnes, has helped out posting really interesting water facts over the year.

All the RMDS Green Schools Committee pupils , Ms. Halpin and parents Avril Whelan and Gary Byrnes would like to remind you to have a safe time on the water and to keep saving water over the Summer

From the PA

The PA events focus on three key areas:

Social

We kick off the school year with a Coffee morning to welcome parents new to the school and to welcome back everyone else! This is a great chance for a quick catch up early in the new school year.

The Parents Quiz Night is growing every year – and so is the competition! Parents organize themselves in teams to represent a class, and last year the winning teams earn prizes for the class they represent! Senior Infants, 2nd Class and 3rd Class were delighted to have their art supplies, board games and libraries re stocked with the prize vouchers! In the Spring term the Cinema Night is a favourite event in the school calendar for classes from 4th down to Junior Infants. The children take great delight in returning to school after dark to watch a movie and eat popcorn!! This evening is well supported by the parents too, and evolves into a very social night!

The RMDS annual sports day is held in the grounds of Sandford Park School, Ranelagh. This year it took place on Sunday 7th June from 11h00- 14h30. The sun shone, and you turned out in great numbers! It was a great day! This event relies heavily on all the parents who volunteer to help – huge thanks from all of the PA committee. The last event in the PA calendar is the RMDS Parents Night! This year it was held in Kinara Kitchen on Friday 12th June from 7.30 til late... A great way to celebrate the end of another super year at RMDS Local, Informal and fun!

In addition this year saw the first RMDS Dog Show in May. After the first date being rescheduled due to torrential rain, the second attempt was a great success. Well done and thank you to all pets and owners who came out in support of this woofstastic day!

Informative

Every year, the PA stages an information evening covering topics relating to family life. During the first term, we invited Nutritionist Alva O'Sullivan to talk to us on Family Nutrition. We received very positive feedback on this event. We are lucky to have a resident Astrology expert on the PA, and we were all set to for the children to view the eclipse. The weather was not on our side on the morning of 20th March, but all classes were fully briefed in advance. Maybe next time! This term, sixth class were treated to a very special presentation from Paddy Cosgrove's team on App development. The children were able to explore their own App ideas, and present them to The Web Summit office for review prior to the talk. A very exciting and relevant opportunity for the class.

Representative

The PA Committee – Please come along to the Parents' Association AGM which will be held early in the first term. Why not consider joining the committee – many hands make light work! We hold a meeting every month or so to plan events and discuss issues affecting parents. We run a class rep system to communicate with the parents, and we are always open to suggestions and new ideas. The PA represents you on the NPC, which runs courses for parents and a Parents' Helpline, T: 01-887 4477, 10am-12.30pm

Finally, a big thank you to all Committee Members who gave up their time to attend meetings and to run the PA events over the last 9 months.

Ann Treger Swift, Anne Harrington, Ashling Daly Bouktila, Caroline Walsh, Clodagh Moran, Conor Smyth, David Quinn, Deirdre Whelan, Dori Kelly, Ian McDonnell, Florence Loric, Mary Kearns, Melissa Darmody, Rachel Sirr, Ronan Kenny.

Looking forward to next year already! Keep an eye on the RMDS Calendar on the website, we will be updating this as the event dates for the coming year are set.

Avril Whelan

Chairperson

Childcare



It's that time of the year when we say goodbye to some old faces...

In particular, we would like to say goodbye to Oisín Stapleton Doyle, Clara Darcy, Zac Dorfman and Cian Whittaker. Some of them started with us in Junior Infants and to see them grow with the childcare has been a great journey. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them well in their secondary schools. Hopefully they might come back and visit us some day. We would also like to thank their parents for their support of the childcare.

We ran the usual Halloween camp and our Midterm camp in February and we had a full house both times! We will be running the Summer Camp from the 6th–24th July and the applications are outside the office. We are now taking names for September as well – please get in touch by email or phone for more information if you are interested. We will be open for childcare in the afternoons until 5pm so if you are interested the forms are outside the office.

Thanks to all the parents for their support throughout the year from all the Childcare Staff, Shauna, Mishily and Myself (Caroline). We look forward to meeting old and new children.

Enjoy your Summer Holidays.

Caroline Carroll

From the Board of Management

This is a great time to look back on what's been going on in the school over the last year and, as the current Board is nearing the end of its four year term, to reflect on the work of the school over that time.

Most of the Board's time is taken up with the management and administration of the school and with oversight of the school's educational activities. Its work encompasses not just the operation of the school but also of after school childcare and extra-curricular activities. And while much of this important work is relatively routine there were, of course, a number of things which I believe are worth highlighting:

- Parents contributed a total of just over €40,000 in voluntary contributions. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously this year to your school. Your contributions enabled us to support additional classroom resources, to enhance children's school experience through various activities and programmes, to purchase additional music, PE and IT equipment, and to rent additional space for sports as well as enabling us to meet the costs of ongoing minor repairs and maintenance.
- One of the most important aspects of the Board's work is direction of the School Self Evaluation (SSE) process of internal school review. This year, following on from prior years' work on literacy and numeracy the principal and teachers, in consultation with parents and pupils, have examined the use of technology within the school to support teaching and learning. As you might expect our pupils had much to say about this topic! We also got input from parents who attended the recent presentation on the topic. Before the end of term we will be publishing the results of the evaluation together with an update on our improvement plans for numeracy and literacy.
- One of the single most pleasing outcomes this year was the school's success in leading a community effort to persuade Dublin City Council to commit to the re-development of the linear park at Mountpleasant. This is something which was sorely needed and which represents a major enhancement of the facilities available to the school and to the local community. It would be completely wrong for the Board to take much credit for this happy outcome, rather I would like to acknowledge that without the vision, persuasiveness and persistence of our principal this might never have happened.

- Boards of Management are appointed for 4 year terms. The current Board's term will come to an end in November this year at which point a new Board will be appointed. The process for appointing the Board will begin early in the next school year. But before exiting stage left, as it were, I would like to reflect on what has been achieved over the last four years. When it was established the Board set out to make progress in a number of areas. We looked for ways to enhance learning through greater use of outdoor activities and through more effective use of technology. We also sought to improve the administration of the school through better and more transparent financial management and through greater use of IT. We've made considerable progress on all of these fronts:
- The Forest School initiative was a result of our commitment to greater use of outdoor learning. Following a pilot a number of years ago this is now a firmly established part of the way in which learning takes place in RMDS.
- The re-development of the Linear Park also flowed from our commitment to look for opportunities to move the school 'beyond the classroom.'
- The Board has implemented a multi-year programme to maintain and enhance the school's IT's infrastructure including its laptops, wireless network, projectors and other devices. The robustness of this infrastructure has now become critical as more and more teachers are taking advantage of online learning tools and techniques.
- For the first time the Board produced annual financial statements and made them available to the school community. We've also provided greatly enhanced information to parents on the school's fundraising activities and the uses to which these funds are applied. Financial management has been improved through a more rigorous budgeting process. And school administration has been simplified through the use of the Aladdin system and communication improved through the upgraded website.

None of the above would have been possible without the hard work of school staff, the generous contribution of time by parents to support specific projects and the tremendous spirit of cooperation in which the Parents Association and the Executive have supported our joint efforts. I'd also like to express my sincere appreciation of the work and wise words contributed by my colleagues on the Board. And finally to thank the children for makes all our efforts so worthwhile.

We wish you all a great Summer.

- Colm Healy** (*chair, ET liaison*)
Joan Whelan (*principal and secretary*)
Geraldine Hall (*treasurer*)
William Connor (*recording secretary, IT liaison*)
Camilla Noonan (*enrolment*)
Paul Fairbrother (*health & safety, maintenance*)
Maeve Kinsella (*extra-curricular activities, Childcare liaison*)
Ciaran Fallon (*voluntary contributions Insurance, Hall rental*)



From the Patron

Activities and achievements this year

All Irish primary schools are required to have a patron. The Patron owns the school and provides and maintains the premises, oversees the Board of Management (who have responsibility for the day to day management of the school), and ensures the ethos is evident in the life of the school. In most schools, this function is carried out by a religious institution – here in RMDS it is a limited company, the Ranelagh Multi-denominational School Association (RMDSA). RMDS is an Educate Together school, based on the principles of the Educate Together Charter.

In carrying out our duties regarding the building this year, there were two main projects. Soundproofing was installed in the ceiling and between the two resource rooms on the ground floor beneath the seomra spraoi. This has meant a huge reduction in sound transfer between the two rooms and between the two floors that has been greatly welcomed by the teaching staff. In addition the large windows in the stairwell at the junior end of the school were replaced. Lastly, we had some leaks in the roof which were located and repaired and so for now the roof is intact!

In order to fund building repairs, the executive held a number of fundraising events. The Christmas Fair was a major success this year, raising €10,000 in aid of the Linear Park project. There was a tremendous atmosphere around the school and everyone seemed to be having a good time. We particularly want to thank all of the parents, pupils, teachers and local businesses who contributed to making it such a very successful Christmas fair. The Halloween and Easter raffles were run as usual – thanks to the parents who donated prizes and the school council who helped sell tickets at the gate. These events are an important part of fundraising but also have a strong role that complements that of the Parents Association in community building and strengthening our ethos.

As part of our ethos remit, this year also saw a facelift for the RMDS website. Improvements to text and visual content have increased overall usability. Site navigation and compatibility with search engines has been improved. Finally the ease with which staff and committee members can add content to the site has been improved.

Finally, this year, the Executive has kicked off a review of its roles and responsibilities during the summer term. This was a timely exercise for a number of reasons, not least that the last review was in 2002. There were a few reasons for the review:

- The Executive's roles and responsibilities were unclear and undocumented
- As company directors, the Executive has legal responsibility for some activities that are managed by the Board of Management (BOM)
- The new Companies Act (in force from June 2015) requires the Executive to review its memorandum and articles of association
- A perception that the coordination of fund-raising activities and communication to parents could be improved.

While the discussions are ongoing, the following goals have more or less been agreed:

- The Executive should refocus on its role as Patron* now that the mortgage has been repaid
- Roles and responsibilities of the three school bodies should be documented and communicated
- The understanding and communication of the school's funding needs and how fundraising contributes to these needs should be improved
- A calendar of events (fundraising and other events) for the school term ahead should be agreed and communicated
- An accounting change should be made to ensure activities that will continue to be managed by the Board of Management are not reported in the Executive's financial accounts

The Working Group will continue to work up detailed proposals for change which will then need to be agreed by each of the school bodies. It is envisaged that changes will take place over the school year 2015/16.

The AGM for 2015 took place on Tuesday 9th June and the new executive committee elected for 2015/16 are as follows:

Chairperson – Kevin Hewston

Secretary – Margaret Bluett

Treasurer – Niall O'Donnchú

Committee members: Colm Gleeson, Naomi Masterson, Kathryn Heslin, Susan O'Connell, Colin Newman, Emma Lane-Spollen, Cormac Callanan.

Our best wishes to the new committee as they take up their duties on behalf of us all and thanks to Colum Gleeson as outgoing Chairperson, Katy Hanley outgoing Secretary, and Ivana Bacik and Aoileann Farley who are stepping down after valued service. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year

Kevin Hewson

Chairperson



Other info...

Second level schools

This year, Rang 6 move to the following second level schools:

SECONDARY SCHOOL	BOYS	GIRLS
Gonzaga College, Ranelagh	1	
Sandford Park, Ranelagh	3	1
Stratford College, Rathgar		1
Marian College, Ballsbridge	1	
St Conleth's College, Ballsbridge	1	
Muckcross Park College, Donnybrook		1
Alexandra College, Milltown		2
The High School, Rathgar	9	
Loreto College, Crumlin		1
St Patrick's Cathedral School	1	
Newpark Comprehensive, Blackrock	1	
Belvedere College, Dublin 1	1	

It is advisable to contact the second level schools of your choice as soon as children start in primary school, in order to be more informed about their enrolment policies.

Dates for 2015 -16 (provisional)

School reopens: Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 8.30am

October half term break: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October inclusive

Christmas holidays: School closes on Tuesday 22nd December 2015 at 12 midday and reopens on Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 8.30am

February half term break: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February inclusive

Easter holidays: School closes on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 12 midday and reopens on Monday 4th April*

Public holidays: School will close for the following public holidays:

Monday 2nd May

Monday 6th June

Summer vacation: School will close for the summer vacation on Wednesday 29th June at 12 midday.



* Unless changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures, in which case the school may reduce the length of the Easter break.

Remember – Junior Infants

Junior Infants go home at 12.10pm for the first five days. From Tuesday 8th September, normal closing time of 1.10pm will apply.

Staffing 2015–2016

Class teachers:

Junior Infants: Therese Coogan

Senior Infants: Rita Brennan

Rang 1: – Ann Gallagher

Rang 2: – TBC

Rang 3: – Amal Perera

Rang 4: – Assumpta Neylon

Rang 5: – Louise Ormiston

Rang 6: – Marguerite Ryan/ Paul Fairbrother



Resource teachers:

Maria Halpin

Therese Curran

New appointment

Padraic Mulholland – Deputy Principal

Principal:

Joan Whelan

Special Needs Assistants:

Christina Dowling

Anne McCullough

Ann Maguire

Joyce Cole

Secretaries:

Mary Holder

Eleanor Murphy-White



Pre-enrolment

Pupils are accepted on a first come, first served basis. This applies to all pupils, including siblings. There is a significant demand for places, so please put siblings names down on the pre-enrolment list within weeks of their birth.

School requisite and school tours payments for 2015-16 can now be made online. Go to the school website at www.rmds.ie and click on the contact button. Scroll down to the Easy Payments plus button for school requisites and school tour payments. Voluntary contributions can also be made online or contact Mary in the school office with any queries. Please ensure we have updated contact details for you and your children for September – the onus is on you to let us know of any changes – in particular contact details for minders/crèches etc.

Newsletter Photography:

Special thanks to Michelle O'Sullivan, Joe O'Keeffe, Kate Horgan, and Alice Clancy.