



RMDSNEWS

Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School



From The Principal's Desk:

On behalf of all the pupils and staff I would like to thank you as we near the end of a busy and fulfilling school year. Thank you for all your support for the many and various activities that go on over the course of a school year.

In particular I would like to extend gratitude to all 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 generous voluntary support of our parents and families. We are very lucky to have families who are so generous with their time. Together with your continued financial support of the school, we are a thriving and vibrant school community going from strength to strength.

From The Principal's Desk:



How quickly this year has gone! It doesn't seem like any time ago that we were back in September and I was taking my first steps into RMDS. A lot has happened since then!

I would like to thank you for the warm welcome extended to me by the whole RMDS community during those first few weeks. It has been an exciting time getting to know you, and I look forward to the times ahead. It was a pleasure to work with Joan and "share the office" with her for those first few weeks. I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for her support this year.

We have a lot of changes going into the new year but change is a wonderful opportunity for us.

Firstly, we wish Rang 6 farewell this year as they branch off in differing directions this June knowing that their futures are bright. We said goodbye to Milo (R2) and Oliver (S1) in February as they moved to Wicklow and now we say goodbye to Matt (R1) who is moving to St. Mary's Junior School, Cara (R1) moving to Mount Anville Junior School and Evan (J1) and Natan (R3) moving to Stepside ETNS. We wish them every success and look forward to a visit back here in RMDS.

We say goodbye to Jilly Swain who is taking up a job share position in Glasnevin ETNS for the year and we thank her for all her hard work here in RMDS. Jilly has shared so many of her talents and expertise with us. We will miss her, but wish her well in her new school!

We say goodbye to Leanne Cunningham and Eimear Rainsford who were our classroom assistants this year. Thank you for all your effort and dedication over the year. Both Leanne and Eimear will be staying on in RMDS Childcare, and Ann Maguire will be taking up the position of classroom assistant. We already said goodbye to Mishily Sibanda earlier this year as she relocated to the UK in April.

We wish Maria Halpin the very best of wishes on her career break for the year ahead as she takes off to undertake some wonderful adventures. Mary Clare Pigott remains on career break to take care

of her mother. We wish Caroline O'Dowd and her family the very best of wishes as she awaits the birth of her second baby in September. Caroline will be on maternity leave from the start of the new school year. We send Louise Ormiston good wishes as she spends time with her new baby and look forward to her return after the Christmas break.

It is with sadness we say goodbye to Padraic Mulholland, our Deputy Principal. Padraic has worked in RMDS since 1988. He has been a steadfast rock in RMDS throughout the years. We wish him, his wife Brigid and his family well as he starts this new chapter of his life. I would like to thank him for all the support he has shown to me over the last year. It has been an absolute pleasure and honour working with him.

It is an exciting time too with the appointment of Paul Fairbrother to the position of Deputy Principal. I would like to extend my congratulations to Paul and look forward to working with him in partnership, as part of the team of RMDS.

We have had a very busy year here in RMDS as you will re-discover as you turn the pages of the news from across the classes. It is great, and a credit to the children, teachers and parents to see the high levels of attainment across the standardised tests for Maths and English. Our child-centred focus is always to the fore as we prioritise the social and emotional wellbeing of the children. Academic achievement can only be attained when the child is happy and in a good place, something we always aim to achieve, in partnership with parents and families.

Finally, I would like to extend my good wishes to those of you who have suffered illness or bereavement over the course of the year. You are in the thoughts and good wishes of all at RMDS.

Have a wonderful summer! Get some rest and I look forward to seeing you back on the 30th August with the same enthusiasm, energy and zest!

Rosemarie Stynes



Wow! What a year! Here are our favourite memories of Junior Infants.

Alex: My first day of P.E., especially traffic lights, and sports day.

Mary: My first day of school.

Evan G.: I like Friday because I can bring in Pokemon cards.

Roisin: My birthday when everybody sang Happy Birthday.

Cleo: Making the bird houses with Dylan's Dad, and meeting our buddies.

Sarina: I like to read.

Edie: The Christmas party with our buddies.

Juno: The Christmas fair, especially the hot dogs.

Edith: Pet day, making sock puppets and my birthday.

Catherine: Making friends.

Morgan: I like playing banana tag on yard.

Evan (Thor) Moorkens: When I met Miss Coogan, and everyone else too, and being on yard swapping Pokemon cards.

Mia and Teddy: Buddy time and making friends.

Romy: I like playing with my friends.

Sean: Baking lemon drizzle cake for Granny on Grandparents Day.

Emmett: Swapping Pokemon cards.

Dominic: Buddy time.

Odhran: Playing with Dominic and swapping Pokemon cards.

Dylan: I love swapping Pokemon cards at buddy time and finding fangs in Lego on roof garden.

Rory: When Dominic made his rice crispie chocolate buns, and playing with Odhran and Buff.

Nina: I love reading the books in the library, and meeting Miss Coogan.

Max: I liked when we had Grandparents Day, and when I got a beanie boo.

Ella: I like the Christmas fair, especially the sweets.

Cameron: My birthday and Friday when we can bring in toys and especially buddy time.

Ollie: When I bring in Pokemon cards and doing my books and writing.

Rowan: I love everything in school.

Bella: Sports Day and my birthday.

Beau: My birthday and sports day.

Charles: Meeting Miss Coogan and making friends.

Leanne: I loved the Christmas play.

The songs and acting were fantastic

Eimear: I loved the pet day.

Mishily: I loved the Halloween party and especially the costumes, like Juno's bunch of grapes.

Miss Halpin: I enjoyed seeing the children's junk art creations every day during Aistear.

Miss Coogan: I loved meeting my new class in September and getting to know all about them. We had fun parties at Halloween, Christmas and Easter. This class really know how to party and have fun, as they are great singers and dancers. Bhí a lán spóirt againn le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge agus bhí an ceili ar fheabhas. I really loved The Garda Band visit, and the all the other visitors to our class this year, especially Anne the farmer and her little lamb Séamus. The buddies were wonderful and we were so happy spending time with them. Thank you to the amazing talented and supportive parents this year. I could write all day about all we have done and accomplished as a class, but I'm out of space.

*Before we go we send
Mr. Mulholland all our
warmest wishes and
love, and of course a
big friendly wish from
Junior Infants. Go n-
eirí an bóthar leat a
Pharaic. Le gra Tx*

Senior Infants



It has been a lot of fun this year in Senior Infants and we have so many great memories...

Ms Brennan says that we are definitely ready to go up those stairs to Rang a hAon as we have worked so hard at reading, writing, Maths and at caring for each other too. These are some of the things we remember best of all.

Mr. Teddy went on an adventure to each of our homes at the weekend which created huge excitement every Friday as we picked out a name. He even went to Ms. Brennan's house! But especially well done to Oisín for being so patient as he had to wait until the very end for his turn!

A few of our favourite art activities were making clay monsters, printing with bubble wrap and drawing with oil and chalk pastels. We constructed crazy shapes with straws in class and made our own bird's nests, fairy houses and fun earthworms in Forest School.

A huge highlight for us this year was Forest School. We loved learning and playing outdoors. Each week we had jobs to do which has helped us to become more responsible. Sipping hot chocolate and chatting while sitting on our logs in base camp was special. We wrote and drew pictures in our Forest School diaries every week. The group that stayed in the class had fun too and got to do activities like PE, Maths activities and Circle Time.

Another highlight was doing GAA with Simon which we loved as he is a fun teacher and we loved when Ms Halpin took us for PE and Drama each week. Thanks Ms. Halpin! We practiced mindfulness and some did yoga which always helped us to relax.

We adore singing so when we were thinking about our Senior Infant memories we ended up singing lots of songs again. One of our favourites has to be the one we sang for Ms. Whelan when she retired last October.

We had a few goodbyes this year too. Although we were sad to see Oliver and Mischily leave we organised parties and presents to celebrate their time with us. Thank you to Conn who brought in his brother's goldfish for a day. Thanks also to all the people who brought in pieces of fruit so that we could make a giant fruit salad. We had mangoes and passion fruit in it which made it extremely delicious! We are healthy eaters in Seniors!

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a busy week and we learned an Irish dance for the Céilí. We are authors now and are proud of the work we put into drafting and re-drafting our books for the school Write – a – Book project. We enjoyed learning all about how the lives of the Inuit people and about endangered animals. We will be going to the zoo for our end of term trip and hope to see some of them there. We had a visit from Anne the farmer who let us hold her little lamb and her hens.

We also won a trip to Milano's to make our very own pizzas!!! This was one of the main highlights of our year!!! And of course winning the RMDS Carbon Challenge...which is how we won the prize!!!

Thank you to all our amazing mums and dads who helped us in so many ways this year. Thank you to Leanne and Eimear who helped us and Ms Brennan each day.

Now we are really looking forward to summer adventures ahead and to a little rest too!



First class was full of fun, excitement and learning...

We had a busy year growing up tall and adjusting to the longer day in school. It was our first year going to the park at yard time and having PE class in Mountpleasant which we loved!

We had so many amazing trips including Imaginosity, Milano's, The National Gallery, Fort Lucan, the Iveagh gardens and the Ark. Rathmines Library is so close to RMDS that we visited many times during the year to read lots of wonderful books. We really enjoy reading books and have read books about dragons, fairies, flags and Biff and Chips adventures to name but a few! The Write-a-Book project was so much fun this year.

Memories in first class include drama in the Seomra Spraoi, PE in Mountpleasant, art lessons in class and sketching in the yard together with lots of Maths, English and Gaeilge. Our favourite time of the day was lunch time! Mindfulness was part of our day in R1 when we practiced our breathing and stillspace. We were also very lucky to have Ms. Cosgrove teach us this term. She taught us many songs including Yellow Submarine and Under the Sea as well as teaching us many fun lessons. We had many colouring competitions, show and tell and talent shows.

We want to say a big thank you to Alana Lily's mum Louise for practicing wonderful yoga with our class. It helped us to relax and cleared our minds ahead of our school day. We planted daffodils in the garden at the beginning of the year which grew into beautiful flowers in the spring time. Thanks to all the mums and dads who helped us clean up the garden- it is now ready for more planting in September!

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mr. Mulholland. We will always remember his kind, friendly, happy personality. He helped and cared for us when we got injured and taught us how to respect each other. We got excited each time he visited our class with news about the football and hockey world cup. We will miss him greatly and wish him all the best in his retirement. Remember you can go and play with LA Galaxy now!

Have a wonderful summer break everyone!

Rang a Dó



We have had a busy, challenging and fun-filled year in Rang a 2.

Here are some of the many things we enjoyed this year.

We have had our final swimming lessons and we learned to swim, jump into the pool, dive and do underwater tumbles. Thanks to all the parents who helped out with swimming!

Forest School was one of our favourite things this year. We loved doing the environmental art based on Tim Pugh's art. We also adopted trees and are looking forward to seeing them again in September.

The STEM challenges we did were lots of fun. We built bridges, made the longest paper chains, made tinfoil boats and a catapult.

This year we did Maths stations. The different stations were, laptops, meet the teacher, sorting station and problem-solving station. Our favourites were the laptops and meet the teacher.

Thosaigh muid ag léamh agus ag scríobh as Gaeilge agus is maith linn é!

We planned, drafted, edited, illustrated and published our fourth book this year for the Write a Book project.

We have had a great year but we are sad to say Slán to Mr. Mulholland this year. As you saw from our art in the hall he has done so much for us. Good luck Mr. Mulholland and happy retirement. We will miss you!



Dia dhaoibh ó Rang a Trí!

It's hard to believe that our school year is coming to a close and summer is upon us. It's been a busy, jam-packed, fun-filled, learning-full, fantastic year!

It seems like September was a long time ago. We have come so far and achieved so much in that time! Mr. Perera, Ann, Ms. O' Dowd, Ms. Swain, Mr. Mulholland and Ms. Stynes would all tell you how hard we have worked this year; we have always tried to try our best, be positive and respectful and make school a happy place for all.

The year started and ended in a similarly sad way as we say goodbye to Ms. Whelan and Mr. Mulholland at RMDS. They made RMDS an amazing place in which to be. It has been great welcoming Ms. Stynes into RMDS and we have loved her first year with us.

We have learned so much it is hard to know where to start! We enjoyed our small Maths groups that we started this year: 'Ms. O'Dowd's Crowd' and 'Ms. Swain's Main'. We have been practising our tables every week and learned new topics such as Multiplication and Division!

This year, we each created our own stories for the Write-A-Book competition. We worked hard on creating interesting characters and redrafted and edited our stories into their best versions. We even had professional writers judge them and choose 6 winners.

More recently we got the chance to meet the popular Irish author Shane Hegarty! We discussed our stories and what inspires us.

We have well and truly joined the senior end of the school now and we have taken up the responsibility well. This year a few of us got to serve on the Green School Committee directly. As a class we were very active in all things Green: we tested the walkability of Ranelagh, took part in travel surveys, met an environmentalist and tried to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible.

We have been very physically active also this year! We have played GAA, soccer, tag rugby, yoga, karate, cricket, javelin, discus, shotput and Olympic handball... to name a few sports we've tried our hand at.

We enjoyed strutting our stuff on the catwalk don Seó Faisin agus bhí a lán spraoi againn i rith seachtain na Gaeilge.

We've also become historians researching ancient Egypt, scientists investigating chemical reactions, and geographers embracing nature. We thoroughly enjoyed our last session of Forest Schools and look forward to reading back over our Forest Schools diaries.

I'm sure you'll agree with our earlier statement: It's truly been a busy, jam-packed, fun-filled, learning-full, fantastic year!

We're ready now for Rang a Ceathair but will look back fondly at our time in Rang a Trí: One Team, One Dream!

Rang a Ceathair



Looking back at our year:

Term 1...

During Term 1 we were taught GAA by Simon. It was really fun and everyone loved it. Also in Term 1 we learned how to do Double Dutch skipping and a game called Alphabet as Gaeilge. Something else that was really fun was at the very start of the year - Ms. Neylon introduced us to the marble jar which is a reward chart for the whole class. When you filled the marble jar you get 10 extra minutes of yard! And if we filled 3 jars we got a night off homework! We did a very fun project on Ancient Greece and everyone enjoyed doing that. And finally at the end of term one we went to the cinema with 1st class, 2nd class and 3rd class to see "Moana" which everyone thought was really good.

Term 2...

In Term 2 we did a project on "Endangered Species" where everyone picked an endangered species and did some research and then finally put it on PowerPoint. Also in Term 2, as a special treat on World Book Day we went to the National Print Museum. It was really fun there. As a class novel we read the book "Holes" and then watched the movie. It's a really good book. At the start of term 2 we got reading buddies from Rang 1. They are very good readers! Then we designed our own book covers for a competition in the Rathmines library! In the middle of term 2 we did the Write a Book project and everyone wrote very good books. Then nearer

to the end of Term 2 we went to the National Art Gallery to see the Caravaggio exhibition. There were so many beautiful pieces of art there. It was amazing! We also interpreted some of the stories behind the paintings using drama. On the last day of Term 2 we did the "Sow and Grow" project where we planted little baby carrots, runner beans or cress. Then we brought them home and let them grow in our homes and they've grown so much!

Term 3...

This term we went to Dublinia which is a Viking experience that has a lot of information about Vikings! This term we also did our first standalone individual projects. We each picked a subject and did the project on that. During the 3rd term we had a few workers from the Cinemagic workshop come in and teach us about special effects makeup and it was really good fun especially when we got to use the makeup on our partners. We started cricket at the start of Term 3 at the Leinster Cricket Club. Joshua's mum did a yoga session with us, and we are getting really good at it. We also enjoyed "Sport for All Day" and we're looking forward to our main trip to Clara Lara Funpark, in Wicklow at the end of June.

*Have a great summer from
all of us in Rang a Ceathair!*



Rang 5 had a great year with some very special events taking place throughout.

We participated in a module with St. Michael's house. Our class were split in two due to the large numbers. Each group visited their school and in return, each group hosted a little reception in the GP room for St. Michael's House pupils. We played parachute games, had treats and got to know the pupils quite well. We learned we had a lot in common. We are all kids who just want to have fun!

For Halloween our costumes were particularly impressive. We had a werewolf, Santa Claus, a cupcake, a clown, unicorns, ghosts, a bat, the joker, a baby, Oriki, a princess, a snow queen, dead neighbours, demons, devils and many, many more.

In November, we visited the Mosque in Clonskeagh. It was so interesting to find out all about the Muslim religion and beliefs. Our Christmas play was really good, very funny and of course extremely well-performed.

We changed teachers in January, going from having our first ever teacher in RMDS, Ms Ormiston, to having a new teacher, Ms Cawley. Ms Ormiston had a baby boy, and we were all so excited when she came in the school to visit us with him in April. He's adorable. Big congrats Ms Ormiston!

In term two we learned about Irish history and studied the famine. We went on a class trip to see the Jeanie Johnston, a replica of an emigrant ship that carried over 2500 people to North America during the famine. It was an educational and fun afternoon seeing what life was like on board a ship that sailed to America on 16 emigrant journeys during the 1840s and 1850s. We learned

lots about the Romans and the Aztecs and did projects on the Romans. We discovered many interesting things about life during the time of the Roman Empire from the projects put together by other groups.

In Maths we learned lots of new things such as long division and working with decimals, fractions and percentages. We learned about the circle and created pie charts reflecting information about our class. We used protractors, compasses and our brains to work out the angle sizes!

For PE we learned how to play cricket for our final term and loved it. We also participated in a fun unihock world cup and had our annual day in Santry, after weeks of training for it. We had a fantastic time there.

This year Rang 5 participated in Cór na nÓg in the National Basketball Arena, for RMDS' first time ever, and we all really enjoyed the experience. We sang again soon after, for the Rang 6 show, 'Wicked', which was a great success!

We had visits from the Garda Síochána, who spoke to us about internet safety and crime scene investigation, the DSPCA and some of their giant snails, Louise who did yoga with us and Adam Harris who came in to talk to us about living with autism. He gave a very interesting and insightful talk. A big thanks to Adam for coming in to us!

For our school tour we went to Baltinglass and did kayaking, archery, orienteering, rock climbing and had lots of fun.

All in all we had a great year of sport, the arts, learning and plenty of fun!

Rang a Sé



Dia duit, rang a 6 anseo tar éis bliain gnóthach! *

*Hello, It's 6th Class here after a busy year! **by Rory**

This year we went on various school trips, First we went to Botanic Gardens, which was an art gallery mixed with a garden. Next, we went to the GPO and saw the underground museum and saw a movie about 1916 in a small theatre. We went to the art gallery (twice) and went to the National Library to learn about W.B Yeats. In May we went to Delphi in Mayo which hands down was the best trip in the history of our class! Our final trip was The Dáil.

Buddies **by Aoife and Laoise**

In October 2016 we met with our buddies. Every Friday from then on we went down to see them and slowly over time got to know them very well. We went on many trips with them and shared many special moments with them. We went on Easter egg hunts and monster hunts with them which we enjoyed very much.

At Halloween they dressed up in amazing costumes that were truly terrifying! We walked around Ranelagh with them and the people on the streets screamed and ran away from their scary princess costumes.

Throughout the year we did tonnes of art with them and all the art looked stunning. We made butterflies, chickens and sheep. We also did tonnes of colouring.

This is our acrostic poem.



We are proud to call them our buddies!!! Yay

The Musical **by Saoirse**

This year's musical was WICKED. Quite literally. It was one of the best musicals RMDS has ever seen. We had some amazing props including a giant head, loads of backdrops, a floating broomstick and more. Our actors were the best and even better during our

prop malfunctions. Not looking at anyone in particular... cough, cough Mr. Fairbrother. We only had two weeks to practise and make props! It was quite a stressful time. We had to choreograph two dances, learn four songs AND learn our lines in all that time. We also had some fantastic costumes including a tin man, a goat, a deer, a lion, a scarecrow, a flying monkey, someone with green skin and so much more. Defying Gravity was probably one of our most impressive songs, including Madeleine flying! Altogether we had a great time performing the play and we think everyone had a great time watching it.

PE by Mark Coghlan

This year in P.E. we did a lot of sports. We started with Athletics and GAA and we even did a 5km run. We did yoga most Wednesdays. The sport we did for the longest was cricket in Leinster Cricket Grounds. For two months we had an hour long session with Claire. Some people in the class went to Santry and the school did very well. At the moment we are working on Basketball and when you read this we hope to be the first class to ever have beaten the staff of RMDS.



Hello-Goodbye by Mark Moloney

Ms Whelan has been a teacher for 35 years and a principal for 24 years and has been a great influence to everyone around her the whole time. Last year Ms Whelan decided to retire after a long and wholesome career. So the job started to pick a new principal that would be able to fulfil Ms Whelan's role. They chose Ms Stynes who turned out to be a great choice and has been doing a great job ever since. Mr Mulholland couldn't bear to be here without us and so he is leaving with us. (We think it... It might not be true!)

It has been an amazing, fantastic and busy last year here in Rang a Sé. We have tried new things from making jam to making robots. We will never forget our time in RMDS. Goodbye from us all.

Student Council



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

In September, Rang 6 elected Aoife and Shane to attend Comhairle na nÓg on our behalf. They also acted as the Chairpersons of the Student Council for the year. Comhairle na nÓg is a youth parliament for Dublin City. They spent the day there and got to know a bit about being on a committee and the kinds of issues young people are concerned about in their lives. Aoife went on to represent Dublin South East Area for the year. Since then Comhairle na nÓg have been doing a lot of work around youth homelessness, while also discussing health and the environment.

Our first big event of the year was presenting at the first ever #StudentMeet at the Educate Together Ethos conference. We presented on all the work we had done in collaboration with the community regarding Linear Park and our finally completed Fort!!!

We worked on the Irish Aid programme raising awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the work of Irish Aid.

We jointly organised the Spring Clean Up with the Green School Committee and with the Parents Association in April.

We also helped launch the first ever Humanism Lessons for Educate Together schools.

Thanks to Mr Mulholland for helping us to organise the Hockey World Cup and the Soccer World Cup. These are two really popular events among the pupils and ones which we hope to carry on in Mr. Mulholland's name in the future. We think it is a good way for the different classes to get to know each other and we thank Mr. Mulholland for setting them up many years ago!

All of the Student Council have enjoyed working on behalf of the pupils in the school and making sure that our voices are heard.

We wish you all a lovely summer.

The Student Council

Green School Committee



It's been a busy and exciting year for the Green School Project at RMDS!

In September we formed a new committee to help make plans for the Travel theme and also other Green topics. Rang 3 pupils sent in letters applying for the job! Some made movie presentations saying why they wanted to be on the committee. There were also many volunteers from the other classes. We had no problem forming a committee, twice; one group for the Autumn/ Spring term and another for the Spring/ Summer term.



Some of our achievements at RMDS this year include :

- Keeping track of our waste management at the school with monitoring.
- Participating in the annual School Recycled Tree Decoration display.
- Organising the RMDS Green Pledge competition.
- Helping with the Whole School Travel Survey.
- Participating in the One Good Idea Project run by Sustainable Energy Ireland.
- Organising an exciting competition to design a travel themed logo /mascot from junk art, which was a great success!

The Green School committee at RMDS are doing their best to help support everyone in their efforts to recycle and keep the environment to the forefront. We'd like to thank all the energy monitors in the classes, parents Lorraine Murphy, Tom Griffiths, Caroline Chambers , Barbara-Ann Chaney and Richard Chaney , the staff and the parents at home for the support they so willingly gave. We love our planet, our country, our city and our school! Let's keep up the good work.

Have a green and happy summer!

RMDS Green School Committee.

Childcare



Hi Everyone...

It's that time of the year where we say goodbye to some old faces, Holly and Ena from Rang 6 are moving onto secondary school and we wish them well. Evan will be moving to Senior Infants in a new school. Senior Infants are going into Rang 1 and we wish them well.

We said goodbye to Mishily during the year whose infectious good humour is greatly missed in Childcare and in the school. We would like to welcome Eimear who has joined the Childcare team.

We ran three very successful camps at Halloween, Midterm and Easter. Our Summer Camp will run from the 3rd – 28th July. We will be open for Childcare in the afternoons until 5pm so if you are interested the forms are outside the office. The Camp and Childcare are open to all children - both RMDS pupils and to children from outside the school. Our trips for Summer Camp are as follows - Week 1 - Astro Turf Park, Week 2 - Tayto Park, Week 3 – Dublin Zoo, Week 4 – Kildare Maze.

We are now taking names for September. Please get in touch through email or phone for more information if you are interested.

We have had some great activities in the afterschool throughout the year with baking, art & crafts, gymnastics and loads of outdoor activities, which the children enjoyed

Thanks to all the parents for their support throughout the year from all the Childcare Staff - Leanne, Eimear and myself.

We hope you all have a great summer and look forward to meeting all children, both old and new in September.

Enjoy the summer!

Caroline Carroll-Percival
Childcare manager

From the PA

Another very busy, productive and successful year for the RMDS Parents Association. We would like to extend our enormous thanks to the entire school parent body for their support over the 2016/2017 school year. Our event success is accredited to all who joined the committee, volunteered their time in running various events and especially to those who turned out on numerous occasions to support the PA activities.

The PA endeavour to involve the parents in school life, be it through fundraising events, or just fun events! We aim to provide a social platform for parents, as well as involving parents in school life, and giving all the opportunity to further enhance their children's experience while at RMDS. In addition to the range of social and fundraising events, we like to include a social awareness project and an informative session for parents in our school year calendar. Pre-Christmas, with the help of Lee Dillon, we co-ordinated a charitable donation of used Lego to the Jack and Jill Foundation and we staged a First Aid in the Home info evening for parents. We welcome ideas on these topics at the start of each school year.

While fundraising is not the primary focus of the PA, there are some events that do have a fundraising focus – the 2 raffles on the gate and the RMDS Christmas Fair. Catherine Crowe and Gwyne McElveen took on the raffle prize challenge this year, and did a super job! The Christmas Fair is going from strength to strength and is now a real Must Not Miss Family Day out! A huge collaboration of many many parents make this event the success that it is. Too many names to mention, but huge thanks to the main stall managers and all of their volunteers – Katy Hanlon, Maria Valhos, Niall O'Donochu, Tommy Kenny, Sonja Bobart, Naomi Masterson, Fiona Carroll, Ivana Bacik, Ann Treger Swift, Mary Kearns, Anne Harrington.

While the children and the school are the main focus of the PA events, on occasion, there is a need for a parents' social occasion! The Hill have been very supportive of RMDS parent events. We hosted the PA Quiz night there in November, and had a record turnout! As always, the teams earned class prizes which bought them art supplies, school trips and even a special effect make up workshop! The Hill Pub also hosted end of year Parents Night which was unsurprisingly well supported! We took the opportunity to thank Anne Harrington who is unfortunately moving on as a parent from RMDS, and as Treasurer of the PA for several years.

Other very popular events include the Cinema Night which the kids love - popcorn and movies in the school! Parents also enjoy the social element in the hall! Kieron Walsh provides a great movie selection for kids every year, and we extend our enormous gratitude to him. Rachel and Tim Sirr, Oscar Carolan, Melissa Darmody, Roisin Boyce Cantwell, Florence Loric, Mary Kearns and Mr Fairbrother, all put in a great amount of effort on this night and in the run up to it!

This year, we also organised for the DSPCA to come to the school to give a presentation to all of the children on Responsible Pet Care. The older classes also benefited from a presentation from author Jonathon Saint, on Character Development, in time for the Write a Book Project. Thanks to Melissa Darmody for co-ordinating this project.

The Write a Book Project corresponds with World Book Day at the beginning of March, and for a number of years now, we have organised a coffee morning for parents and a book swap for the



children to take place on the morning of World Book Day in the school yard. This year, in response to the children's eagerness to raise the money still needed to complete the Linear Park Fort, we co-ordinated a Read-a-thon to run over the weeks before World Book Day to allow the children fundraise (while reading!!) to raise what sponsorship they could. The event was a huge success! The 4.5K target needed to finally get the fort completed was achieved – an enormous tribute to the children who pledged and read, and everyone who sponsored our readers!

Tommy Kenny worked tirelessly to complete the incredible Linear Park CAT 1 Fort in time for the Party in Linear Park mid-June to officially launch the Fort.

Our final school event of the year is the Sports Day. A fantastic day where the weather just about held up which allowed for 3 hours of running, playing, ice cream, hot dogs and cake for all! This event is run entirely by the Parents in the School, and needs a lot of man power on the day. Massive thanks to all who manned stalls, held finish line tape, spotted race winners, and set-up and tidied up! A lot of work – but so worth it! Particular thanks to Brendan Breen who did a super job co-ordinating all volunteers ahead of the event.

This School Year also saw the introduction of the RMDS Hoodies which were organised by the PA. If demand increases next year a re-order may be on the cards! Another addition to the school calendar this year was the Seachtain na Gaeilge Parents Coffee Morning. We are fortunate enough to have fluent Irish speakers among the parent body, and they generously shared their vocabulary, recipes and ideas for helping improve Irish among the parents in RMDS. We will include this item in the PA calendar of events for the coming school year.

The 2017-18 PA School Calendar will kick off in September with the welcome back coffee morning on Friday 1st September, followed by the AGM on Tuesday 19th September 20h00. We hope to see as many as possible there! In the meantime, we wish you all a lovely summer.

Avril Whelan

Chairperson

PA Committee 2016/2017: **Anne Harrington, Rachel Sirr, Ann Treger Swift, Lisa Murphy, Gwynne McElveen, Oscar Carolan, Dori Trent Kelly, Melissa Darmody, Matt Davey, Inga Ryan, Mary Kearns, Mary Frances O'Dwyer, Catherine Crowe, Mairead Flanagan, Andrew Freedman, Florence Loric, Roisin Boyce Cantwell, Clodagh Moran.**

From the Board of Management

Wow another year over and how it has flown by!

The Board's role is the management and administration of the school, overseeing the school's educational activities, delivery of childcare services, delivery of extra-curricular activities and supporting the Principal in the day to day operations.

Rosemarie Stynes took over as Principal of RMDS this year from Joan Whelan and the Board has worked closely with her to ensure the continued development of our school. The Board was able to ensure a smooth transition by supporting an overlap period between Rosemarie's start and Joan's departure. This transition has been a complete success and we have all have enjoyed getting to know Rosemarie. On behalf of the Board and everyone at RMDS we wish Rosemarie continued success at RMDS. In addition, we would like to wish her every happiness on the occasion of her wedding and a long and happy future with her husband to be Cían Hogan.

Sadly, for RMDS, Deputy Principal Padraic Mulholland has decided to retire a little early and will leave us at the end of June. The Board would like to sincerely thank Padraic for all that he has done for RMDS in the 29 years he worked here and also for the support he has given Rosemarie in her first year. Padraic has lots of plans for the next phase of his life and we wish him a successful and enjoyable retirement - He will be missed.

Once again, a big pair of shoes had to be filled and we are delighted to announce that Paul Fairbrother will be taking over the Deputy Principalship from July. Paul has worked in RMDS for over 18 years and we are fortunate to have someone as dedicated and professional as our new Deputy. The Board wishes Paul every success in the future as Deputy Principal for RMDS.

Voluntary Contributions

We had a target of €40,000 for voluntary contributions this year as it takes this additional €40,000 per year to run RMDS at the levels we now enjoy. The financial support we receive in voluntary contributions every year is vital to keeping the school running smoothly and maintaining a comfortable and stimulating environment for all our children. Many of the additional teaching support resources are funded by your contributions. Many thanks

to everyone who gave so generously to the school this year through the Voluntary Contribution scheme: we still hope to achieve our target for this year.

In addition to the above, the VC's this year have funded:

- The completion of the Linear Park and particularly the new play feature. It looks amazing! The Board would like to thank everyone involved particularly our students for the fund raising Read-a-thon, Maria Vlahos and Jimi Shields from Thirty Three Trees (TTT), Tommy Kenny from Interior Innovations Ltd., DCC, Mount Pleasant Residents Association, Mount Pleasant Lawn Tennis Club and the PA. Last but not least, we would like to thank Joan Whelan for assiduously working every component to get the project finally over the line.
- Phase Two of the classroom renovation program. This summer, together with the Executive, the Board will refurbish four more classrooms for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes.
- We also dipped our toe into the latest 'white board' technology with two new and very large touch interactive panels. I believe that they have been a roaring success and over time we hope to replace the remaining classroom projectors where appropriate.
- Ms. Coogan has continued to build up the RMDS choir and it's lovely to hear the singing first thing every Friday morning, along with further raising the profile of music within the school.
- In addition, one of our SNA positions in RMDS has been suppressed due to the Department of Education's allocation within our school community. Your VCs are contributing towards the payment of an additional classroom assistant within the school. These supports are vital to ensure each child is enabled to reach their full potential.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The ECA programme has once again been particularly busy this year. Unfortunately, we couldn't continue the Gymnastics classes in the last term due to the teacher suddenly returning to South Africa. We are currently putting together an exciting programme for September and yes (!) gymnastics will be back thanks to the hard work and negotiation skills of Henri.

And finally, please have a great summer, relax and enjoy the great Irish summer weather, and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

On behalf of the Board of Management:

Will Connor (Chair, Parents Association & Patron Liaison)

Rosemarie Stynes (Principal and Secretary)

Maurice Devitt (Insurance, Hall Rental)

Paul Fairbrother (Health & Safety, Maintenance)

David Harney (School Age Childcare, Voluntary Contributions)

Clodagh Keher (Treasurer)

Henrietta McKervey (Extra Curricular Activities, Recording Secretary)

Gerry Murphy (Enrolment, Educate Together Liaison)



From the Patron

It has been another busy year for the school Patron.

By way of reminder, the Patron of RMDS is the Ranelagh Multi-Denomination School Association, a company limited by guarantee. This company serves as an independent Patron for RMDS, since the school was established prior to Educate Together being recognised by the Department of Education.

The Executive Committee is the Board of Directors of the company, and our three core areas on responsibility: provision and maintenance of school premises and facilities, oversight of the Board of Management and ethos.

The current members of the Executive Committee are myself, **Cormac Callanan** (Treasurer), **Lee Dillon** (Secretary), **Conn McCluskey**, **Niamh Skelly**, **Vanessa Barcroft**, **Eleanor Murphy-White** and **Colin Newman**.

The work of the Patron in our three core areas this year has included:

1. Provision and Maintenance of School Premises/Facilities

Conn McCluskey and Colin Newman have continued to work the year with the Board of Management on the five year program of planned maintenance of the school, and you will have seen the fruits of their collective efforts over the course of last summer in a number of the classrooms and common areas. More work is to come this summer with the renovation of the four senior classrooms to begin with.

A reminder that this work is only possible because of voluntary contributions and fundraising events, so thank you for all of your contributions and donations, and for the assistance you provide with the various fundraising initiatives.

2. Oversight of the Board of Management

This year, we picked up on the work done last year by our predecessors who produced a comprehensive document describing the role of the Patron, the Board of Management and the Parent's Association, and continue with its implementation.

That prompts me to take the opportunity, on behalf of all of the members of the Executive Committee, to recognise the excellent work done by the Board of Management, and the Parents' Association. The members of both of these groups give a lot of their time and commitment in the interests of the school and we are appreciative of that.

Ethos

As you may know, a major review of the ethos of the school was planned to commence in September 2016 using the School Self-Evaluation Process. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, it has not been possible to get that review under way in earnest this year, but we do intend to do so as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please do contact any of us on the Committee for ethos, with any suggestions or feedback you might have in relation to school ethos.



Other Items

During the course of the year, plenty of other work has been carried out too.

A review of the company's Memorandum and Articles Association led to the introduction of a new Constitution, approved at the AGM last June, and the related work on that concluded during this school year. Thanks particularly to Susan O'Connell for her work on that. Over the course of the second half of the school year, the members of the Executive Committee have been scoping out various other initiatives, with a view to identifying one or two bigger projects we will look to move on with next year.

Looking to Next Year

The AGM of RMDSA will be held on a date to be notified in September. Please do come along if you can, to hear more about our activities over the course of the year and to raise any queries you might have.

Thanks to all of the Committee members who stood down over the school year, including Margaret Bluett, Kathryn Heslin, Susan O'Connell, Emma Lane-Spollen, Niall Ó Donnchú and Naomi Masterson.

Best wishes from all of the Executive Committee to Padraic Mulholland who retires as Deputy Principal after working at RMDS since day one. He has contributed very significantly to the ethos and culture of the school over the years and shown remarkable commitment and dedication. He deserves every bit of the fulsome tribute paid to him at the "Fond Farewell" night in early June.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the way in which Rosemarie Stynes has taken over the reins as Principal so well this year. She is already proving herself a great success in the role and deserves much credit for her work during the year.

Finally, best wishes to you all for a very enjoyable summer.

David Phelan
Chairman

Other info...

Second level schools

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL	BOYS	GIRLS
Gonzaga College, Ranelagh	3	
St Mary's, Rathmines	1	
St Louis, Rathmines		1
Sandford Park, Ranelagh	2	
Muckross Park, Donnybrook		6
The High School, Rathgar	1	1
Loreto, St Stephens Green		1
Belvedere College, Dublin 1	1	
St. Kilian's, Clonskeagh		2
Newtown School, Waterford		1
Marion College, Ballsbridge	1	
Bandon Grammer School, Cork		1
St. Augustine's School, Blackrock	1	
St. Conleth's, Ballsbridge		1
The Teresian School, Donnybrook		1
Ballinteer Community School		1
Colegio Santa Maria Del Pilar, Spain	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 2017-18

(provisional)

School re-opens: Wednesday, 30th August 2017
at 8.30am

October Mid-Term Break: Monday, 30th October to Friday, 3rd November (inclusive)

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Friday 22nd December 2017 at 12 midday and re-opens on Monday 8th January 2018 at 8.30am

February Mid-Term Break: Monday, 12th February to Friday, 16th February (inclusive)

St. Patrick's Day (in lieu): School closed Monday 19th March

Easter holidays: School closes on Friday, 23rd March at 12 midday and re-opens on Monday, 9th April*

Public holidays: School closes for Friday, 4th May to Monday, 7th May (Inclusive)

School closes for Friday, 1st June to Monday, 4th June (Inclusive)

Summer vacation: School will close for the summer vacation on Friday, 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 12.10 p.m. for the first five days. From Wednesday, 6th September, normal closing time of 1.10 p.m. will apply.

Staffing 2017-2018

Class teachers:

Junior Infants: Therese Coogan

Senior Infants: Rita Brennan

Rang 1: – TBC

Rang 2: – Aoileann Farley

Rang 3: – Colette Desmond

Rang 4: – TBC

Rang 5: – TBC

Rang 6: – Marguerite Ryan

Support teachers:

Amal Perera

TBC/Louise Ormiston

Assumpta Neylon

Therese Curran

Deputy Principal:

Paul Fairbrother

Principal:

Rosemarie Stynes

Special Needs Assistants:

Christina Dowling

Anne McCullough

Classroom Assistant:

Ann Maguire

Secretaries:

Mary Holder

Eleanor Murphy-White



At RMDS we will continue to implement a strict NO NUTS policy in the lunchboxes. We have two children in the school who have a severe nut allergy. No peanut butter, nutella or actual nuts should be used in the lunch boxes. A strict no sharing of lunches policy will also be promoted. If in doubt, please leave it out. We very much appreciate everyone's co-operation.



Notices

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 requisites and school tours payments for 2017/18 can now be made online. Go to the school website at www.rmids.ie and click on the contact button. Scroll down to the Easy Payments Plus button for school activities and items. Follow the instructions. 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 2017-18. The onus is on you to let us know of any changes – in particular contact details for minders and creches.

Newsletter Imagery:

Special thanks to Michelle O'Sullivan, Sally Caulwell and RMDS Staff