

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 but wholeheartedly enjoyable and fulfilling school year. Thank you for all your continued support for the many various events and occasions that are part and parcel of the school year.

From The Principal's Desk:



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 extremely lucky to have families who are so generous and giving with their time, expertise and talents. Together with your continued financial support for the school, we are a thriving and vibrant school community which continues to go from strength to strength.

What a busy year it has been!!!

Firstly, we wish Rang 6 a final farewell as they branch off in various directions this June knowing that bright and exciting futures lie ahead. We said goodbye to Rocco (R2) and Roxy (S1) in January as they moved to Wicklow and now we say goodbye to Evan and Heidi (R5) who are both moving to Coláiste na Rinne and to Kieran (R5) moving to St. Augustine's. We wish them all every success and look forward to them coming back to visit us here in RMDS.

We wish Amal Perera and Caroline O'Dowd the very best of luck on their career breaks for the year ahead, while Mary Clare Pigott remains on career break.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Marguerite Ryan, who will be retiring this year. Marguerite has worked in RMDS since 1999. We thank her for all her dedication over the years to RMDS. We thank her for her energy and enthusiasm which will be missed throughout the school and we wish her wellness and happiness as she starts this exciting new chapter of her life. Go n-éirí an t-ádh leat Marguerite!

Earlier in the year we said farewell to our beloved Eleanor Murphy White, and we welcomed Barbara Gallivan, who is well settled now, into the office.

We also look forward to the appointment of our new staff which will take place in time for the new year!

We have had a very busy, active year here in RMDS as you will re-discover as you turn the pages of the news from across the classes. During the year we achieved our first Active Flag, we took back in RDS Science Blast, we had some wonderful performances from our school Orchestra Ensemble and Choir performing in the NCH and Cór Fhéile respectively, we took part in Cór na nÓg, we had great success participating in sport from a fantastic year in Santry Athletics to winning the Mini Morton's Cup, we carried out a review of our ethos and don't forget we "ran" to Morocco in the middle of it all!

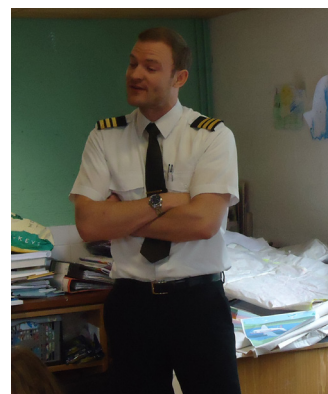
As always, our child-centred focus is always to the fore as we place the social and emotional well-being of the children in priority as academic achievement can only be attained when the child is happy and in a good place. This is something we strive to achieve, in partnership with parents and families.

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

Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy making fabulous memories and I look forward to seeing you all back here on the 29th August.

Rosemarie Stynes

Junior Infants



We have had great fun in Junior Infants and we have learnt so much.

Our favourite themes in Aistear were the Opticians, the Building Site, Pets, the Airport and the Winter Wonderland. The snow was very messy though! During Engineers Week we borrowed some lego and made lots of amazing things. One of the stations we really like is cutting and sticking. We made lots and lots of paper airplanes. Ms Stynes' husband Cian is a pilot and he came to talk to us about his job.

We went to the park every week and we watched all the changes in the plants, flowers and trees through the seasons. The oak tree outside the park has leaves on it now. We planted bulbs with Maria and we made ink with berries. We learnt about the oak tree, the barn owl, the polar bear and blackbirds. We lifted heavy buckets in the park by making pulleys during Engineers Week.

The buddies from Rang a 6 came to visit us most weeks and we went to the library with them, they taught us how to skip, we played lots of games with them and we made butter. We love our buddies!

In December we went to the Ark on a bus and saw Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers. We performed our first ever Christmas play. We were dressed as stars and we sang two songs and did the floss.

Lots of parents and some aunts came in to speak to us about babies, architecture, photography, Hanami, making Seamróga, teeth, carpentry, plastic pollution, being a doctor, being an engineer, doing exercise with us, making a St Bridget's cloak and Chinese New Year. Thank you all for taking the time to teach us new things. We really enjoyed it! Just last week our grandparents came to see us in school. We sang a song called 'You cannot shove your Granny off a bus'!

Mr Fairbrother put up the climbing frame and we all took turns to try it out. For Seachtain na Gaeilge we dressed all in

green and had a Céilí. Rang a 5 organised a margadh cístí and we all bought cístí deasa from them. Is maith linn cístí!

We ran all the way to Wexford with our class and the whole school ran to Morocco. We are doing Active Week now and we have done exercise, games and soccer.

Some of our favourite go noodle activities are peanut butter, knick, knacky knocky noo, and show stoppers.

What a busy time we have had this year.

It has been great!

Tá na laethanta saoire ag teacht go luath!

Senior Infants



We had a great year in Senior Infants with two teachers Ms. O'Dowd and Ms. Halpin.

Some of the things we loved about this year were:

- Playing with lego - We just love building and designing!
- Setting up our classroom shop and playing in it
- Making art from junk cardboard and plastics
- Going to the Museum of Modern Art
- Going to Imaginosity
- Going to Dublin Zoo
- Learning about magnetism
- Having visits from an author, Sarah Hogan (Jake's mum)
- Doing yoga in the yard
- Learning about weaving from Dori (Elise's mum)
- Learning about Ramadam and Eid
- Learning about writing a book
- Writing our own book
- Doing our show at Christmas for the whole school
- Singing songs
- Learning more about reading
- Forest School

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



Memories of Rang 1 include GAA, the Write-A-Book project, group projects about Australia, learning about Fairtrade...the list goes on!

We learned lots about seeds and plants. We estimated how many seeds were in different fruits, before cutting them open to see if we were right.

We also conducted a fun 'eggxperiment'! We put one unboiled egg in water and another in vinegar. We predicted what would happen and left them for the weekend. On Monday, we discovered that one in water just got soggy! To our surprise, the vinegar had dissolved the egg's shell and the egg had turned hard and squishy! It has also grown a lot bigger. Some of us loved the smell, but some of us disagreed!

We gobbled up lots of books together this year! Ms. Reilly read *The Twits*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Giggler Treatment*, *George's Marvellous Medicine* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to us.

We had some fantastic school trips, including the IFI, Imaginosity and Fort Lucan!

Writing and performing our Christmas play was one of the highlights of Rang 1. We took the legend of the Chinese zodiac and came up with our own action-packed version! We hope the audience enjoyed watching it as much as we did making it!

We celebrated lots of different religious festivals, such as Vesak, Ramadan, Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi and Eid al-Fitr

Art was one of our favourite subjects in Rang 1; we learned about artists like Henri Matisse, J.M.W. Turner, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Paul Klee, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, and many more. We used their work as inspiration for our own masterpieces, which we explained during the Artist's Chair.

Lots of us took part in the hockey and soccer World Cup competitions during yard time, as well as the Mini-Mortons Cup. We did lots of fun activities during active week, including Kung-Fu, GAA, Irish dancing and basketball. We did lots of P.E. with Mr. Fairbrother. Our favourite activity was the climbing frame! While half of us did P.E. with Mr. Fairbrother, the other half did drama with Ms. Reilly; our favourite games were Zip, Zap Boing, Handshake Murder, Bang!, Fruitbowl, In the River, On the Bank, Keeper of the Keys, Good Morning Your Majesty, and many more. We created soundscapes to accompany our dramas.

In the second term, Rang 1 were joined by our reading buddies from Rang 4. We took it in turns to visit them and Ms. Dillon in their classroom on Thursday mornings.

We're really looking forward to Rang 2, especially Forest School and choir! We hope everyone has a lovely summer! 🍌

Rang a Dó



Hi everyone. We would like to tell you a few of our favourite moments from Rang 2!

Isabelle: We did Forest School in Term 2. I loved the treats and free time. — **Rowan:** Eleanor retired this year. I wrote an article about her in The Rang 2 Times. — **Amaya:** We had a Halloween and Easter raffle. Jazmin won at Halloween and Nell won at Easter.

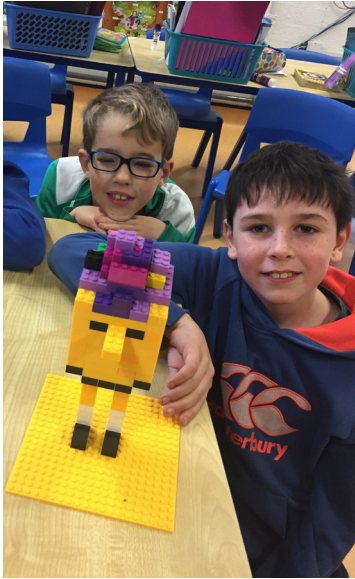
— **Oisín:** The Rang 6 musical was Oliver. I loved The Artful Dodger character played so well by Mabel. — **Cormac:** We started the year with a project based on our favourite artists. I chose Leonardo Di Vinci. — **Owen:** We completed our fourth Write- a- Book project. I wrote a story called Meehoven and I'm very proud of it. I made it up on a sleepover with Leo and Charley. — **Théo:** We did a project on Africa as a class. I was in the animals group and I chose to mine on zebras. My favourite fact is that zebras sleep standing up.

— **Conn:** Owen brought in a great book as a class read aloud called Skyhawk. We finally finished reading it in Term 3. I liked this book a lot. — **Rebecca:** We did a load of art, and I loved the butterflies in the summer and the African inspired masks. — **Sally:** We did a Christmas play. It was about the origins of Hannukah. I was a priest, and we all did a dance. — **Isabel:** We did Mission to Morocco as a school. Our class had to run to Cork. To finish off we had a celebration run in Ranelagh Gardens. — **Noah:** We did projects of choice in the last couple of weeks. I chose World War 1 and I learned lots of interesting facts. — **Leo:** In the Christmas play I played a bloody soldier after the war between the Syrians and the Maccabees. — **Zoe:** We went swimming every Thursday. I learned how to do the mermaid and dolphin. — **Jazmin:** I also loved art,

especially the wash African silhouettes and flower collage, and most recently Yoga Poses for Active Schools. — **Jullia:** We did individual projects. Mine was about ducks. The word duck is a common name for a large number of the water fowl family. — **Oscar:** I joined this class this year and made lots of new friends. We played rounders, soccer, Gaelic and I played chess. — **Daniel:** We made mosaic masks, and we learned about regrouping in Maths. I used a lot of glitter. — **Julian:** At Halloween we dressed up as usual. I recycled a bunch of my old costumes to make a brand new scary costume. — **Charley:** We worked hard in Maths, we did 2D shapes, how to regroup in subtraction and we did pizza fraction art. — **Alec:** I loved Forest Schools. We adopted trees. I called mine Slingshot Number 2. — **Lois:** I went swimming. We learned how to dive, the butterfly and breast stroke. We also helped with the aqua aerobics every week. — **Tom:** We wrote our own class newspaper. We called it Rang 2 Times. We did perspective in art at Halloween based on a scarecrow in a field. — **Senan:** Ms Mortell came in to the class for a few weeks. She taught us how to plant a seed. I was interviewed by News 2Day, as I am very interested in Technology.

Ms Coogan: It has been a fantastic year here with Rang 2. I have loved teaching this happy, bright and caring class again. Everything was approached with enthusiasm and care, and I could rely on this class to always try their best. The children from Rang 2 are great friends to one another, and I foresee them being friends for life. Bíodh samhradh íontach agaibh go léir.

Miss Ormiston: I have been lucky to work with these wonderful pupils for 18 months. It has been a pleasure to watch them mature and flourish. We have had a lot of fun, a great Forest School term and nice trips out too. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!



We had a really fun time in R3.

We went on many cool school trips: The Ark, Airfield, The Dead Zoo, The National Museum, the IFI and the Mill theatre in Dundrum. Zip-It is our big trip before the summer holidays - we are so excited to go there. We went to Rathmines Library many times and also visited Marshes Library during Engineers Week. We worked in teams on different challenges which was great fun. We did lots of other STEM activities during the year. Our favourites were making robots and dinosaurs from Lego. We learned all about acids and bases during a science workshop and investigated how light is made by electricity.

We completed history projects on the Egyptians, the Normans and the Mayans throughout the year. We really enjoyed working in groups and presenting our finished projects to the class. We even constructed our own Norman castles! We all researched a county in Ireland and discussed the information with the class. Emmet from Junior Achievement Ireland taught us all about city zones and we built our own city called Scrunchie Topilis! We completed our last ever Forest Schools. We had so much fun in Iveagh Gardens and will always have fond memories of our trips and activities there - Thank you Caroline!

We are sport fanatics in R3 and have had a very active year. Both boys and girls relay teams won gold at our first Santry athletics competition as well as winning the Mini Mortons Cup. We even helped the school run all the way to Morocco in March! Simon spent the year helping us develop our Gaelic football skills and we

played tag rugby, soccer, hockey, athletics, yoga and gymnastics during PE lessons. Active Week was brilliant and it helped us develop our fundamental movement skills.

Even with all of these exciting things we did so much work in the classroom. Maths lessons were full of tables, multiplication, division, fractions and so much more! We learned lots of poetry, wrote fabulous creative stories for our Write-a-Book projects and joined handwriting has taken over our copies! We discussed the importance of disability awareness during core curriculum lessons as well as birth/death customs, dyslexia, Eid, Diwali, different types of families and the Stay Safe programme. Mr. Fairbrother taught us the recorder for the first time and we explored our creative skills during drama and art lessons.

A big thank you all the wonderful Mums, Dads and Grandparents that helped us throughout the year and to Ms. Ryan and Anne who worked so hard with Ms. Desmond. We appreciate all your time and effort in making RMDS a fabulous school for us.

Enjoy the summer of 2019 and continue making memories with your family and friends! 😊

Rang a Ceathair



What a year Rang 4 has had... busy, fun-filled and lots of adventures!

Our third and final term was full of hard work and fun and memorable moments as was the rest of the year.

On 21/05/19, our school welcomed Tomi Reichental, one of the last remaining survivors of the Holocaust. He spoke to R4, R5 and R6. The children were mesmerised by his story as were the adults. We were very appreciative that he visited us, his first time to talk to students in a primary school.

Rang 4 learned how to play cricket, they trained every Friday in the Leinster Cricket Grounds in Ranelagh. We also had very busy days during Active Week. We took part in a GAA blitz, played squash, rugby, practised some yoga and much more. It was a great opportunity to try out new sports.

A trip we were really looking forward to was the National Concert Hall in June. We took part in the Quavers to Quadratics Workshop. R4 worked with a scientist and a musician to learn the relationship between both subjects. We spent the full day in the NCH on June 17th and participated in three workshops. It was great fun and we met pupils from other schools there too.

Throughout this term, we worked on our projects based on a county of Ireland and we then presented them to the class. All children put great work into their county project and some even visited their county to find out as much information as they could. We were lucky enough to get the opportunity to visit Croke Park for a stadium and museum tour this term. The children got a birds-eye view from the media centre, peek inside the dressing rooms, and of course, they walked in the footsteps of Gaelic games legends as they went pitchside through the players' tunnel, where hopefully Dublin will be in the All-Ireland Final this year. (Fingers crossed!).

On top of all these trips we went to visit the Little Museum of Dublin on St. Stephen's Green. We learned how children used to play, we found out all about Clery's Clock on O'Connell Street and we spent some time in the room dedicated to U2. We listened to some of their music and read some information about them.

Dogs Trust came to visit R3 and R4 in June and we got to meet Lucy, a 7 year old Cavalier King Charles and his owner Audrey.

As a treat for Rang 4, we had a 'Special Effects in Make-up' workshop visit our class. Sophie, who is a make-up artist and has worked on the sets of 'Harry Potter' and 'Game of Thrones' taught the children how to create certain 'scary' looks. The children got to practise some of the skills they had learned on each other.

The trip Rang 4 had been waiting for all year finally arrived and we set off to Clara Lara early one Thursday. What a day we had filled with lots of adventures, laughter and of course many memories to cherish. Many thanks to Anne McCullagh who went above and beyond to support us this year, from helping and caring for us when we got injured to teaching us how to respect each other.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Ms. Ryan this year. She has been a great support to Rang 4 and she will be greatly missed not only in our class but throughout the school. She has been a member of the RMDS staff for many years and she has now decided it is time for a new adventure. We will always remember the help she gave us, the respect she showed us and the guidance she provided us. A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite imaginations and instil a love of learning and Ms. Ryan certainly did that! We thank you very much and we wish you all the best with the next chapter in your life!

Have a lovely, fun-filled and most importantly a relaxing summer from all of us in Rang a Ceathair!



What a great year in Rang a Cúig!

This has been a great year and now we are here to talk about our time in Rang a Cúig.

This term we went on our big end of year school trip to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre. In Baltinglass we did lots of different activities like orienteering, zip lining and kayaking. We had a great day!

This term we were really lucky to have a visit from Tomi Reichental, a survivor of the concentration camp Burgen Belsen. It was a really interesting visit and we were really honoured to have Tomi come and visit our school. We wrote Tomi letters after his visit telling him how special it was to meet him and his wife. We have also been reading his book "Tomi" in class and are almost finished it!

We made pizza from scratch including making the base. We had a lot of fun doing this and they turned out delicious.

The Gardaí came back again this term and they set up a mock crime scene in our classroom. This was really great fun! We can't wait to work with the Gardaí again next year.

This term we also got to participate in the Junior Achievers programme where Josie would visit us each week to talk to us about business in Ireland and to help us all make connections between what we learn in school and the real business world!

This year we have completed a lot of different projects. For example we were split into pairs for our country projects. We were given time to develop slides on our chosen country and present it to the class. Lots of groups also made traditional food from their chosen country. It was great to get to taste all the different cuisine!

Every year each class does Write-a-Book and again this year everyone made a great effort. All the stories were really enjoyable. Jean came first this year with her fantastic story, "Shrunk!" It was nice to be able to read everyone's stories after the assembly.

We really enjoyed Active Week and participated in a number of different sports activities such as squash, rugby, athletics, yoga and cricket. It was fantastic!

Since we are Rang 5 we are getting to plan the Rang 6 graduation disco, party and their cards. It will be such a fantastic day.

As part of this final term we got to play cricket each Friday in the Leinster Cricket Club in Rathmines. We all really enjoyed this and learnt a lot.

All in all we've had a great time in Rang 5 and we are sure everyone's looking forward to a nice long summer break.

We wish everyone in the school a great summer holiday and hope the sun shines! 🍷

Rang a Sé



Rang 6 End of Year Report

By Tara McDonagh & Lola Fitzpatrick

This year has flown by but it's been a blast! At the start of the year we were introduced to our buddies. Every Friday we love playing with them and helping them learn new skills. We taught our buddies how to skip, and helped with some art projects of their own.

Our class has gone on many school trips this year including the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin Cemetery and Kilmainham Gaol. Author Alan Nolan talked to us about his books on a visit to Rathmines Library and drew us an Alan Nolan original which Michael got to keep.

We visited the National Art Gallery in January to see the famous Joseph Turner paintings. However none of those trips could top our amazing trip to Delphi or Delphay!!!

After a train and bus journey on the first day we arrived there. We went kayaking in a beautiful harbour. We were then allowed to do pier jumping, which was very fun. The next day we did a Bogstacle course (major midgie alert!), some climbing and some high ropes activities. This really challenged many of us but we all enjoyed it very much. The hostel was great and we enjoyed the food. All of the supervisors were good fun too. Ms Stynes came down on the second day to see Delphi too.

Lots of people's amazing acting and singing abilities shone through during our Christmas Play and our musical Oliver. We had so much fun preparing for it and performing it for the school and parents. It will be something we will always remember!

Student Council



We've had a number of workshops and talks this year including dance, yoga, science and we took part in the Energise Junior Achievement program too. In Rang 6 we have loved being given a lot of extra responsibilities such as organising various school and sporting activities.

We loved meeting our brilliant buddies this year and it will be hard to say "Goodbye" next week.



We are looking forward to our Graduation but we will be sad to leave RMDS and all the happy memories we have from here. However, we are looking forward to new beginnings too!

Goodbye from us all. 🙌



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

In September, Rang 6 elected James and Olivia to attend Comhairle na nÓg on our behalf. They also acted at 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.

Here are just some of the activities we were involved in over the year...

- We led the Halloween walk around Ranelagh village which we really enjoyed.
- We helped organise and carry out the ethos survey for the students as part of our Ethos Review in the school.
- We took part in a workshop focused on the ethos of our school.
- We took part in research on the voice of the child and inclusion in schools.
- We were involved with fundraising activities within the school such as the Halloween, Easter and Christmas raffles.
- The Student Council worked with the staff and parents to help organize the annual Christmas Hamper appeal for Focus Ireland.

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

Term 1 – Mylie Rose & Milo (R3), Zain & Síbha (R4), Jean & Louis B. (R5), Peter & David (R6)

Term 2 – Bobby & Emma (R3), Mylie Rose & Milo (R4), Yousra and Simon (R5), Alannah and Christopher (R6)

Term 3 – Art & Prosper (R3), Anna G. & Oscar Martin (R4), Heidi & Daniel (R5), Brandon & Tara C. (R6)

We wish you all a lovely summer.

The Student Council

From The Active Committee

In August 2018 we decided as a school to form an Active School Committee in the hope of receiving an Active School flag. Each class from R3- R6 selected two members to be on the committee. Some classes were selected out of a hat and other classes decided it was best if those who wanted to be on the committee made a speech. Our Active Committee changed each term. The Active Committee met once a fortnight to discuss various active initiatives that we introduced to the school. The three committees we had over the year worked very hard to promote physical activity and came up with great ideas throughout the year. Well done!

We decided to focus on our fundamental movement skills to begin with. We introduced 'Heroic Hopping' in September, followed by 'Deadly Dodging' in November and December and finally 'Brilliant Balancing' in February.

During this time we also introduced the initiative of 'Active Lines' at break time. Each class participated in 30 seconds of either running, lunges, jogging, hopping or jumping jacks depending on which day it was. Each class also dedicated 5 minutes, two or three times a week to do 'Drop Everything and Dance' as a movement break.

One of the biggest events of the year was in March where the Active Committee joined with the Parents' Association to hold a fun and active fundraiser called 'Mission to Morocco'. This involved each class choosing a destination and then working together, they had to run that distance over the month of March. For example, Junior Infants had to run to Cahore Point, Wexford (85km away) and Rang 6 had to run to London (450km away). When we added up all the different destinations from each class it totalled to over 20,000km which would get us from Dublin to Morocco. The whole school completed their final 2km together in Ranelagh Gardens on 29th March.

Throughout the year the Active Committee also introduced other activities. For example, Yard Yoga, 'Do Your Talking As Your Walking' and the Active Walkway in Linear Gardens.

The Year ended on a high with our Active Week which was held 10th-14th June. We had a jam-packed week full of lots of different sports, games and workshops for all children to try out. Some of the activities were squash, cardio, cricket, basketball, rugby, dance, fundamental movement skills, hurling and camogie and GAA. It was a very busy week and the week ended with a basketball match where Rang 6 took on the teachers. It was a great way to finish such an active and exciting year! The Active Committee would like to thank all parents who took time out of their busy schedules and helped us throughout Active Week. We would also like to thank the staff and children of RMDS who made not only Active Week so successful but also the whole year.

We wait in anticipation to see if we have achieved enough to get our first Active School flag! 🏆

RMDS Active School Committee.

Childcare



Hi Everyone...

I would like to start off by thanking the parents for their support over the past year in the Childcare. Also I would like to thank Eimear and Leanne for all their hard work and for making the Childcare a happy home from home. The Childcare would like to welcome Jeannette who has joined the Childcare team recently.

We are saying goodbye to some of our regulars over the past few years who will be leaving to go to secondary school - Goodbye to Samuel Deale, Finn McCluskey, Leo Andrews and Donncha McGrath. We wish them all the very best with their future education.

We ran three very successful camps at Halloween, Midterm and Easter.

We are now running the Summer Camp in July and applications are available outside the office with very limited places left. Our trips for Summer Camp are as follows:

Week 1 – Rathbeggan Lakes **Week 2** – Clara Lara **Week 3** – Lullymore **Week 4** – Tayto Park

Our Childcare facility closes at 6 p.m. during term time.

Our Summer Camp will run from the 1st – 26th July. We will be open for Childcare in the afternoons until 5p.m.

The Camp and Childcare are open to all children, both RMDS pupils and children from outside the school.

Hope you all have a great summer and look forward to meeting some old and new children on the 29th August!

Enjoy the summer!

Caroline Carroll-Percival
Childcare manager

From the PA

The RMDS Parents Association would like to give an enormous thanks to all parents and guardians for their support over the 2018/2019 school year and for turning out on numerous occasions to support the PA events.

The Parents Association acts as a link between school and parent body. We also aim to enrich children's experience of school life by organising activities that add a little extra to the enjoyment of the school year, such as the Book Swap, Cinema Night and Sports Day.

The PA also provides a social forum for parents, and a way for them to contribute to the school community. We also support the Board of Management by organising fundraising events for the school (i.e. the raffles, the Christmas Fair and this year's Mission to Morocco).

Here's a quick round-up of what we got up to in 2018/2019

We kicked off the first term with a Back-to-School Swap & Coffee Morning in September. A great opportunity to meet new parents and for everyone to catch up after the holidays. We were spoiled by Lolly & Cooks treats supplied by Lolly Strahan, who is always a very generous supporter - thanks Lolly!

Continuing with the 'Swap don't Shop' theme in October, we ran a Halloween costume swap. Combined with the Halloween raffle, a fundraiser for the school, it ensured a very spooktacular time of year!

November brought the hotly contested Parents Quiz Night, hosted by our very own MC Brendan Breen! The winning teams earned cash prizes for the classes they represented, which were spent on art supplies, Lego, games, a trip to the cinema and a special effects workshop, among other things! The children were not the only winners, as many of our parents went home with fantastic raffle prizes donated from our generous parents.

The biggest fundraiser of the year is the RMDS Christmas Fair! A small sub-committee led by Avril Whelan took on the Fair and made it a huge success. This year we expanded our Christmas tree selling initiative, which was very successful. A massive volunteer effort resulted in many homes admiring their RMDS Xmas tree, a great tradition and one we plan to continue. Enormous thanks to Daron Ward who created the fantastic website for the Fair and to Brian Nolan for the gorgeous posters (for all our events!!).

February means Cinema Night in RMDS. We screened 5 movies and served refreshments in the hall for parents. Thanks to Kieron Walsh for the super movie selection, and to Tim Gill and Paul Fairbrother who set up the equipment and made sure the movies ran without a hitch! Proceeds from this event went towards power packs for the new extracurricular coding class, and we plan to contribute towards the planting of some new plants and trees in Linear Park in September next term, with the help of Maria Vlahos.

March was an action-packed month. First up was the annual book swap for World Book Day with loads of books donated and finding new homes.

Next was Seachtain na Gaeilge, when parents did some lovely activities with the classes trí Ghaeilge, including baking, Pilates, arts and crafts and storytelling!! From October to December, Aoileann Farley and Therese Coogan hosted monthly ranganna Gaeilge for parents who were interested in either improving or learning a cúpla focail. The feedback from the parents who attended was excellent and it provided a great and safe forum to practice and learn Irish together.

March also saw visits from the many talented authors, artists and writers and publishing experts among RMDS parents. They very



kindly shared their knowledge and love of books with various classes during the Write-a-Book project. The children and teachers learned loads!

This year's collective fundraiser, organised jointly by the PA and the Active School Committee, was also run throughout the month of March, as a Run-A-Thon! The children raised over €5.5K through the "Mission to Morocco," and we had a great breakfast party in the yard to conclude the event. The funds raised will go towards upgrading the school's IT technology. Sincere thanks to all involved.

The Parents Information evening was once again hosted by Paula O'Connor - Don't be Mean Behind Your Screen. She gave us the lowdown on Fortnite, Snap Chat, Roblox, Tik Tok and more and explained how to keep kids safe if they're using any of these!!

Term 3 saw the introduction of a new extra-curricular coding class. Many thanks to Bronagh Hayden for taking the lead on this and to all the parents who donated laptops. The children seem to be really enjoying the classes.

It's nice to get together at the end of the year at our local, The Hill, so we were sad to hear that it had closed unexpectedly. Fortunately, Corrigans, Mount Pleasant Inn were happy to step in and host us! A great opportunity for parents to reflect on the school year and swap ideas for entertaining the children during the school holidays!

Sports Day is the final event of the year and our second year at the lovely Alexandra College grounds on Upper Rathmines Rd. It's a great setting, and along with the sports, everyone gets to enjoy the ice cream, hot dogs and cakes! This year we introduced a new tattoo stand (the tattoos are temporary!!) and a swap stall for things like sports gear, dance/gymnastics gear. Special thanks (again!) to Brendan Breen for coordinating the volunteers for Sports Day.

Finally, we'd like to thank all of the hard-working committee members who did so much on behalf of the PA all year and were so generous with their time and talents! We look forward to welcoming many new members in September 2019. Get in touch at pa@rmds.ie.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer!

Rachel Sirr and Oscar Carolan (Co-Chairs)

PA Committee 2018/2019: **Cormac O Foghlu** (Treasurer) **Lorraine Hackett** (Secretary), **Mary Kearns**, **Avril Whelan**, **Mary Frances O'Dwyer**, **Dori Trent Kelly**, **Melissa Darmody**, **Lisa Murphy**, **Inga Ryan**, **Roisin Boyce-Cantwell**, **Caroline Chambers**, **Daron Ward**, **Anna Carroll**, **Maya Derrington**, **Niall Byrne**, **Grainne Fahey**, **Lorraine Murphy**, **Matt Davey**, **Edel Murray**, **Florence Loric**, **Catherine Crowe**, **Shelley Horan**

From the Board of Management

On behalf of the BOM I would like to thank everyone for their support and input over the past four years. The current Board will step down in November 2019 and a new Board will be appointed. If anyone is interested in joining this new Board please let either myself or Rosemarie know, you will get back what you put in and more.

The Board's primary role is the management and administration of the school, overseeing the school's educational activities, maintenance, delivery of childcare services, delivery of extra-curricular activities and supporting the Principal in the day to day operations of RMDS. The Board comprises parents, the Principal, Deputy Principal and two external community representatives. The BOM meets quarterly with the Executive and the Parents Association to ensure we have good communications and collaboration between the different volunteer groups.

Sadly the following staff members have or will retire this year;

Eleanor our long serving school secretary decided to retire after 14 years at RMDS. She initially joined for a couple of weeks to help at Christmas and never left....

Marguerite Ryan will retire at the end of June after 20 years in RMDS. She will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the BOM we thank them for everything they did in making RMDS what it is today, and we wish them both every success and happiness in their next adventures

Voluntary Contributions and Fund-Raising

The Board is responsible for how and when your generous and vital Voluntary Contributions are spent during the year. In addition, we oversee how any funds raised through various activities such as the Christmas Fair/Raffles are spent. We have a target of raising €40,000 every year and we might yet achieve this in 2018. We would like to thank you for your generous contributions and all your hard work & effort in raising funds to supplement the VC's.

This enables RDMS to continue to provide a classroom assistant focused on the junior classes. This extra resource greatly enhances our capacity to ensure that every new child gets the best possible start to their formal education. Add in building upgrading, maintenance & repairs, every penny is accounted for and spent wisely. This summer we will be spending €12,500 approx. on repairing part of the school roof. All this wouldn't happen without your generosity, thank you.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The ECA programme has once again delivered a comprehensive range of fun and educational activities. New to the ECA program this year was an Introduction to Coding which was a great success.

Child Care

Thanks to Caroline and her team, Childcare continues to provide a much-needed local afterschool service.

And finally, have a great summer, relax and enjoy the break 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

A quick update on the work of the school patron over the course of the year:

The Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School Association is a company limited by guarantee and serves as the independent patron for RMDS.

The patron is managed on an ongoing basis by an Executive Committee, the current members of which are myself (Chairman), **David Clerkin** (Treasurer), **Lee Dillon** (Secretary), **Vanessa Barcroft**, **Conn McCluskey**, **Mairead Flanagan**, **Rachel Murray** and **Amal Perera**.

Thanks to all on the Executive Committee for their work over the course of the year. A few members are standing down shortly, having reached the end of their term, so thank you particularly to them.

Our work over the year, as always, related to the three areas of responsibility of a school patron:

1. Provision and Maintenance of School Premises/Facilities

We worked with the Board of Management on implementing the ongoing programme of repair and maintenance of the school premises. Further works are scheduled to take place over the course of the summer.

Much of the work done on the school premises is funded from voluntary contributions and fundraising at school events, so thank you for your ongoing support.

2. Oversight of the Board of Management

As patron, we have an oversight role in relation to the Board of Management. Thanks to Will Connor, Chairperson of the Board, and all of the Board members for their excellent work and commitment again this year.

Representatives of each of the Patron, the Board of Management and the Parents' Association meet on a quarterly basis to ensure good co-ordination and collaboration on all projects. Thanks also to the Parents' Association for all the social and fundraising activities!

Ethos

As you will know, this year involved a very worthwhile ethos review project. Thanks particularly to Mairead Flanagan and Rachel Murray, the Executive Committee members leading the project, and to Niamh Skelly, former member, for her work before that.

The review project took in 7 Ethos Review Committee Meetings; 5 Ethos Review Surveys; 277 Survey Responses; 3 School Community Workshops; 1 Action plan.

In the last term of 2018, an invitation went out from the RMDS Executive looking for volunteers from within the school community to join the Ethos Review Committee.

In June 2018, the Committee- comprised of 10 representatives from the parents, staff and Executive, guided by an external facilitator- met for the first time to kick off the process.



It had been a number of years since such a review had been completed and the whole school community asked whether they felt that the 'ethos' of the school was truly lived in RMDS.

Once the Committee had been formed, attention turned to drafting the Ethos Review Survey, which would give staff, students, parents, the Board of Management and the Executive the first formal opportunity to give their opinions on the realisation of the ethos in RMDS. The specifically-tailored survey was circulated to the whole school community last November. There was a huge response, with 131 parents, 113 students, 22 staff and 11 from the Board/Executive giving their views. Thank you for that.

On collation of the survey, the findings were made available to the school community in March this year. In brief, the Survey found "... RMDS is a very safe, child centred and welcoming school, with a strong focus on including everyone and implementing the ethos". This was a positive and welcomed outcome. Equally valuable were the areas for further improvement identified.

Following circulation of the Survey findings, a further invitation to participate in the Ethos Review process was extended to the school community through a series of workshops for each of the parents, staff and students held over the course of April. The purpose of the workshops was to explore the findings of the survey with a view to informing the next stage, namely an 'Action Plan' based on the same. A number of parents, staff and students again participated in the process.

The Action Plan is now in the process of being finalised for release back to the school community, with the aim of doing so either immediately prior to the end of this academic year, or the very start of next term. This Action Plan will guide and inform the work of the Ethos Review Committee in executing findings of the Review process over the coming years, with the overall intention of strengthening the positive and addressing the areas for improvement.

Conclusion

You will be getting notice soon of the annual general meeting of the patron company for a date in September, so please do come along to that if you can. More generally, please contact any of us on the Committee if you have any questions for us, or if you would be interested in getting involved with the Executive Committee.

David Phelan
Chairman

Other info...

Second level schools

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL	GIRLS	BOYS
St. Louis, Rathmines	3	
Sandford Park, Ranelagh	3	1
Blackrock College, Blackrock		1
St. Conleth's, Ballsbridge		1
Sanymount Park ETSS, Sandmount	1	5
The High School, Rathgar		4
Muckross Park, Donnybrook	5	
St. Kilian's, Clonskeagh		2
Gonzaga College, Ranelagh		3
Dominican College, Sion Hill	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 2019–20

(provisional)



School re-opens: Thursday, 29th August 2019
at 8.30am

October Mid-Term Break: Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November (inclusive)

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Friday 20th December at 12 midday and re-opens on Monday 6th January 2020 at 8.30am

February Mid-Term Break: Monday, 17th February to Friday, 21st February (inclusive)

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th of March

Easter holidays: School closes on Friday, 3rd April at 12 midday and re-opens on Monday, 20th April*

Public holidays: School closed on Monday, 4th May
School closed on Monday, 1st June

Summer Holidays: School closes on Friday, 26th 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 seven days. From Monday, 9th September, normal closing time of 1.10 p.m. will apply.

Staffing 2019–2020

Class teachers:

Junior Infants: Aoileann Farley
Senior Infants: Anna Shackleton
Rang 1: – TBC
Rang 2: – Therese Coogan
Rang 3: – Colette Desmond
Rang 4: – TBC
Rang 5: – TBC
Rang 6: – Rita Brennan

Special Education teachers:

Therese Curran
Louise Ormiston
Maria Halpin
Maria Dillon
Paul Fairbrother – *Deputy Principal*

Special Needs Assistants:

Christina Dowling
Anne McCullough

Classroom Assistant:

Ann Maguire

Secretaries:

Mary Holder
Barbara Gallivan

Principal:

Rosemarie Stynes



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 2019/20 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 2019–20. The onus is on you to let us know of any changes – in particular contact details for minders and creches.

Newsletter Credits:

Photography Michelle O'Sullivan, and RMDS Staff, Cover illustration Sally Caulwell