

PRIMARY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

KILDARE & LEIGHLIN DIOCESE



MARCH 2018

A WORD FROM THE TEAM

As we put this Newsletter together snow is on the ground and the Beast from the East is making its presence felt. We hope all our members of our school communities remain safe in these challenging conditions.

Our Newsletter this month highlights some of the key issues concerning school management at the moment. The February meeting of the Diocesan Education Council also discussed a number of issues that we hope will be of interest.

Bryan, Camillus, Maeve

CONTACT DETAILS:

If you have any questions or concern please do not hesitate to contact:

Maeve: maeve.mahon@kandle.ie
0872373336 for all staff appointment procedures, Religious Education and Ethos Issues

Bryan: Bryan@kandle.ie 0833400141 for Building, HR and financial transaction and other concerns

Brother Camillus: cregan45@hotmail.com
087 2244175 for Vetting concerns.



KANDLE FAMILY FUN DAY:

As we continue to prepare for the World Meeting of Families the diocese is organising a Family Fun Day in Carlow College, St Patrick's on Saturday June 16 from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This promises to be an activity packed, fun filled afternoon for all. We will keep you updated as more details come to hand but, for now please help us to spread the word by publicising it in your newsletters, websites and re-tweeting from @KANDLEi.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES:

We wish to acknowledge all those Child Safeguarding Statements that have arrived in the office to date. It is recommended that each Board of Management agree a protocol for advising the parents of the child involved when a report is made to TUSLA. The exclusions outlined by the procedures are only for very exceptional circumstances. The merit of the information coming from the Designated Liaison Person is that it keeps the initiative with the Board of Management and minimises damage to what will be an ongoing relationship. If any principal is worried and would benefit from a sounding board or support in regard to these difficult conversations with parents please feel free to call Bryan at 083 3400141 with a view to sounding it out. The PDST video is now available for staff training and our advice is that this is the video that will be most helpful to all staff and board members. The CPSMA January Newsletter is an invaluable resource for boards and staff and CPSMA training in this area is now being rolled out. Details are available on their website.

CPSMA AGM 2018

was held on February 23rd and 24th and was attended by 7 members of the Diocesan Education Council. Twenty-one motions were passed. These included items such as a release day a week for Teaching Principals; Better Management by the DES of regulatory and circular changes that are placing a serious burden on schools; Improved training for Boards of Management; Supply panels of substitutes; Increases in Capitation grants and Adequate Secretarial Support for all schools.

A dynamic and visionary executive will work to ensure implementation of these motions.

ACCEPTABLE USER POLICY:

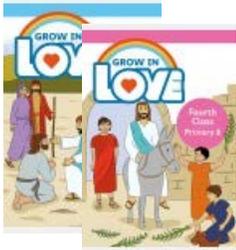
Following a discussion at the Diocesan Education Council all schools are encouraged to have an Acceptable User Policy in Place. There are very practical guidelines available at <http://www.pdsttechnologyineducation.ie/en/NEWS/How-to-develop-an-Acceptable-Use-Policy.html>

It is important that all schools have a clearly articulated Acceptable User Policy particularly regarding the use of photographs such as 'The school will endeavour to

use digital photographs, audio or video clips focusing on group activities. Content focusing on individual students will only be published on the school website with parental permission.'

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA:

We are awaiting the enactment of the EDUCATION (ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS) BILL 2016 which has been through committee stage and is on the Dáil order paper. No date has been announced yet. Schools are asked to ensure that the presentation of a Baptismal certificate is **not** a criterion of acceptance into any of our schools.



GROW IN LOVE PILOTING & IN-SERVICE:

Many thanks to the twenty, fifth and sixth class teachers, from all over the diocese who responded to the request to pilot the new Grow in Love material with Veritas. This was a wonderful response and the feedback to Veritas following the piloting was constructive and very useful. In-service for of 3rd & 4th classes began on February 22 and is being very well attended. All schools have been notified of dates and venues. If your teachers have not yet booked in please encourage them to do so as soon as possible

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS:

The diocese currently has a number of schools interested in compiling a pack by way of a support in developing and managing Special Needs Assistants. Is there anyone who has done research on the role of SNAs? It would be helpful if you were willing to contact bryan@kandle.ie to discuss the outcomes. If anyone provided in-service for your SNAs can you please let us know.

SUBJECT AND WSE REPORTS:

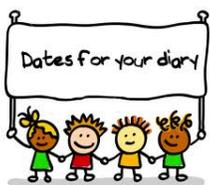
The Department of Education and Skills are this year sending copies of all inspection reports to The Patron. When asked by the DES for an email address for the Patron please use maeve.mahon@kandle.ie as this will ensure that all reports are coming to the same address. The reports will be reviewed by the Patron's office and stored on the school file in the diocesan office.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS FOR TEACHER & SNA RECRUITMENT:

Thanks to those who attended training for Independent Assessors recently. A new List of Approved Independent Assessors will shortly be available and will be sent to all school. Following this training a new process for choosing Independent Assessors will be rolled out and new forms will be made available. Maeve will be in touch with all schools in the coming weeks with the relevant information.

STAFFING 2018/2019:

Thanks to those principals who have returned their staffing details for the coming year. Please ensure that all details have been returned to Maeve as soon as possible.



TRAINING for Chairpersons, Principals, Treasurers and other Board members will be provided on the following dates next term **April 17th and 18th; May 9th and 10th; May 16th and 17th**. These sessions will explore Recruitment Procedures, Complaints Procedures and the FSSU Requirements. More details to follow soon.

POPE FRANCIS TO TEACHERS:

'In a society that struggles to find points of reference, young people need a positive reference point in their school. The school can be this or become this only if it has teachers capable of giving meaning to school, to studies and to culture, without reducing everything to the mere transmission of technical knowledge. Instead they must aim to build an educational relationship with each student, who must feel accepted and loved for who he or she is, with all of his or her limitations and potential. In this direction, your task is more necessary now than ever. You must not only teach content, but the values and customs of life.' (March 2015)