

PRIMARY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

KILDARE & LEIGHLIN DIOCESE



MAY 2018

A WORD FROM THE TEAM

As the month of May begins there is always a sense of looking forward to holidays and a sneaking suspicion that there is so much still to do. There is no doubt that this has been a very busy term already with many demands being placed on our principals and BoMs. Our Newsletter this month highlights some of the issues concerning school management at the moment and seeks to give some, we hope, useful advice or direct you to the places where advice may be obtained. As always if we can be of any help please don't hesitate to make contact.

Bryan, Camillus & Maeve

CONTACT DETAILS:

Maeve: maeve.mahon@kandle.ie

0872373336 for all staff appointment procedures, Redeployment Panels, Religious Education and Ethos Issues

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

Brother Camillus: cregan45@hotmail.com

087 2244175 for Vetting concerns.



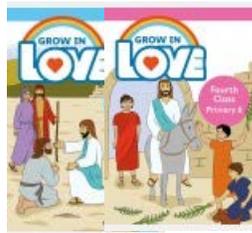
KANDLE FAMILY FUN DAY: The Family Fun Day in

Carlow College, St Patrick's on Saturday June 16 from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. is shaping up to be a great event. The Garda Band, the Army No 1 Band and lots of local musical talent will provide entertainment. There will be games, art activities, drumming, demonstrations, and many other opportunities for an activity packed, fun filled afternoon for all. We would love your help in spreading the word by publicising it in your newsletters, websites and re-tweeting from @KANDLEi. Flyers and Posters available from the office.



CHILD SAFETY STATEMENTS: We wish to acknowledge the magnificent work done in schools on CSS. More than 200 board members attended CPSMA training in the diocese. The vast majority of schools have now sent their statements to the Patron's office. Míle buíochas. Please forward the outstanding ones to bryan@kandle.ie. Put the following in the subject line 'CSS/RA school name and roll number'. This will make administration much easier. Please note that the patron will not be reviewing the safety statements, at this time, as this is a matter for Board of Management discussion. Such discussion is an essential element in the process of developing the statements.

CAPITATION GRANT CAMPAIGN: An independent study of 140 schools' accounts, 12 of which came from K&L, by Grant Thornton shows that only 50% of school costs are covered by the current Capitation Grant. There was systematic and successful media coverage on Monday April 23rd. We need every school to make contact with their local TDS over the coming weeks to lobby them on this. A pack to help with this very important campaign is available by emailing supportourschools@cpsma.ie. The Diocesan office will be contacting a number of schools to encourage them to have TDs visit to see the brilliant work going on in Primary schools and to highlight the campaign. **Would your school like to volunteer to host such an event?** If so please contact Bryan or Maeve as soon as possible.



GROW IN LOVE UPDATE: More than 220 teachers of 3rd and 4th classes attended in-service in the Grow in Love programme in 7 venues since Christmas. Many thanks to the principals who facilitated their attendance and also to those who hosted the sessions. The 5th class programme will be ready for use for the school year

2018-2019 and as in previous years we will be ordering the material from the Diocesan Education Office and distributing it to schools through parishes. An order form will

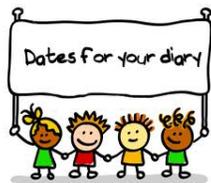
be sent to schools in the coming weeks and if you require extra material for other class groups please include that on your order. A gentle reminder that, as agreed, **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES** are to be sent to the Diocesan Education Office by **June 30**. A template for this policy is available on www.kandle.ie

RECRUITMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT PANELS: The Main Panel is now clear and we would like to thank all schools that engaged with it in a timely fashion. At this time there is no information to hand on the Supplementary Panel. Schools will be notified as soon as it is published. If there are any further vacancies to be notified please let Maeve know as soon as possible.

A number of principals have announced their retirement and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them well as they begin another stage of their life journey. At the recent Diocesan Education Council Meeting it was agreed by the Patron that while **principal positions must not be advertised during the months of July and August, interviews** may take place during the **first two weeks of July**. This is to facilitate Boards of Managements that are made aware of an upcoming retirement at the end of May. This decision will be revisited next year. It is worth noting, however, that the appointment of a principal is the most important decision that a Board of Management will make and it deserves due time and consideration. A decision to slow down the recruitment process and interview in September/October may often be a better option.

GDPR: The business community have a high level of awareness for May 25th as the date for new General Data Protection Regulation to become law in Ireland. At the time of going to press we understand that a training video is to be made available for schools. In the meantime, the Data Protection website for schools has helpful information and GDPR is explained at <http://dataprotectionschools.ie/Document-Library/GDPR-12-Steps.pdf>

PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS: The Financial Regulatory Authority has published a guideline in regard to school fundraising. The guideline should inform the management of Parent Association fundraising activities and the management of monies so raised. It is available at www.fssu.ie/app/uploads/2018/01/Financial-Guideline-P10-Good-Financial-Governance-and-the-Parents-Association.pdf and further advice is at: www.fssu.ie/app/uploads/2017/09/04-17-Financial-Guideline-School-Charges_Voluntary-Contributions_Fundraising.pdf. More guidance is provided at <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Boards-of-Management/Governance-Manual-for-Primary-Schools-2015-2019.pdf>. A sample copy of a Parent Association constitution is posted for use by schools on <https://www.kandle.ie/resources/cpsma-resources/>



TRAINING for Chairpersons, Principals, Treasurers and other Board members in Recruitment Processes, The Complaints Procedures and Introduction to the FSSU continues on the following dates: **May 9 and 10; May 16 and 17**. Details of venues, times have been circulated to all Principals and Chairpersons. Please contact Christine on 059 9164084 or email bomtraining@kandle.ie to book a place.

POPE FRANCIS TO PRIMARY TEACHERS IN JANUARY 2018

In January of this year Pope Francis met with Italian Primary Teachers. He made three points to them: thanking them for promoting the culture of encounter; encouraging them to create stronger educational alliances between the school and the family and finally stressing the importance of:

***Ecological Education** (see Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, 209-215). 'It is about educating to a lifestyle based on an attitude of care for our common home, which is creation. A lifestyle that is not schizophrenic, that for instance takes care of animals in extinction but ignores the problems of the elderly; or that defends the Amazon forest but neglects workers' rights to a just wage, and so on. This is schizophrenia. The ecology in which we must educate has to be holistic. And above all, education must aim at a sense of responsibility: not to transmit slogans that others should implement, but to inspire the pleasure of experiencing an ecological ethic, starting from choices and gestures in daily life. A style of behaviour that in the Christian perspective finds meaning and motivation in the relationship with God the creator and redeemer, with Jesus Christ, centre of the cosmos and of history, and with the Holy Spirit, source of harmony in the symphony of creation.*

You can read the whole text here: <https://zenit.org/articles/popes-address-to-italian-catholic-primary-school-teachers-association-aimc/>