

Maryfield Spring Clean 2013 Saturday April 20th

We did it again! For the third year in a row we managed to get a sunny dry day in April...and considering the weather we've been having recently, it was all the more remarkable.

A group of 38 Maryfield students, 35 parents, teachers and caretakers arrived to register in the Gymnasium throughout the course of the day to "Give an hour (or in most cases hours!) for Maryfield." In this year of "The Gathering," we had our own version in Maryfield on Saturday!

So much was achieved on the day and the build up of 3 years work is truly in evidence at this stage. The wonderful news this week that the school has achieved its first Green Flag from An Taisce spurred the team on to even greater things. The camaraderie within the school community was a joy to behold as we cleaned, planted and painted to enhance the school environment. Refreshments were provided by the catering crew throughout the day and the burgers and hot-dogs at lunchtime were relished by the hungry workforce.

Below is an outline of what was achieved by the Spring Clean Volunteers in the course of a sunny spring day in April.

CLEARING AND CLEANING

- Moss and grit removal from the bicycle shed
- Clearing of the area behind the railings including the removal of a mattress!
- Gracepark Heights perimeter area
- Power hosing and graffiti removal at the student entrance and adjacent to the new library windows
- Removal of plaster from shutters at the back of the school.

Due to a number of interventions introduced in the past two years the number of unwelcome visitors and their litter has been dramatically reduced. The anti-littering message promoted by the Staff and the Green Schools' Committee also seems to be getting through to the girls. The granting of the Green School's flag this week is further evidence of this.

Unfortunately, however there is a new graffiti artist(s) at work. The Charlemont Wall was covered in graffiti over the Easter Holiday period as was the student entrance gate.

GARDENING

- Pruning, clearing and mulching of the rockeries in front of the school
- Planting of new alpinas
- Weeding of the two granite bays in front of the school
- Top-dressing of bay trees at the school entrance
- Pruning and clearing of the shrubberies at the front of the school and at the gym
- Pruning and securing of the pyracantha plants to the railings.
- Preparation and planting up of 7 planters with hebes and dwarf conifers to act as a screen in Boiler Courtyard

PAINTING

- The windows and doors along the east side of the gym. (Special thanks to Liam Cleary for tackling those very high windows once again.)
- The railings around the entrance to the boiler room
- The external side doors into the hall.
- The picnic tables
- The student gate ~graffiti removal and painting
- A large section of the Charlemont perimeter wall behind the railings to cover graffiti

THANK YOUS!

- **Sincere** thanks to all the volunteers (students, parents, principal and teachers) who turned up on the day and worked so hard to make this year's Spring Clean such a success.
- To the Spring Clean Sub-committee for making it happen.
- To the Parents' Association for their work and for funding the purchase of paint, plants, equipment, food etc.
- To the Board of Management of Maryfield College for their support.
- To Fiona Moore and Paddy Bennett, Dublin City Council for providing us with brushes, bags, pickers, gloves etc. and for the efficient collection of the rubbish on Monday morning.
- To An Taisce and the National Spring Clean initiative for their advice and Clean –Up kit
- To Sr. Áine for her support and for giving us access to power and water.
- To Charlie Treacy, C & T Philipsburgh Ave. for his generosity in providing refreshments for the day.
- To Woodies, Coolock for giving us discount on plants and materials.
- To John and Declan, Caretakers, for their preparation and hard work on the day.

I apologise if I have left anybody out.

The Spring Clean provides us parents with a means to actively support our daughter's school in a practical and useful manner. It provides an opportunity to meet other like-minded parents and to work side by side with members of the school community.

"Ní neart go cur le chéile." There is no strength without unity! Why not join us next year?

Siobhán Conroy

Maryfield College Parents' Association