# Maryfield Spring Clean 2016 Saturday April 16th

Another highly successful Maryfield Spring Clean, organised and funded by the Parents’ Association, was held on Saturday April 16th from 9:30am to 3pm. Large bunches of balloons at the entrance to the school indicated that a special event was being held within....and indeed it was!

A group of 54 Maryfield students and 40 adults from the school community made their way through the gates that Saturday morning with one thing in mind, to give of themselves, their time and their personal skills for the good of the school. Once again the dry, bright if somewhat chilly weather ensured that the occasion would be a success.

People registered in the Gymnasium throughout the course of the day to “Give an hour (or in most cases hours!) for Maryfield” as music pumped out from the school portable speaker. Many people have made this an annual event at this stage and it is a joy to see several members of the one family working together on the day.

So many jobs were done on Saturday but I truly believe that real legacy of having taking part lies in the spirit of positivity and camaraderie that has developed among the volunteers in the school community. The lunchtime barbeque and all day refreshments, supplied by Charlie Treacy of C&T , ensured that the volunteers were well nourished.

As this is my final year on the Parents’ Association I would like to add a personal note. This has indeed been a labour of love for me. I went to Maryfield myself and value the wonderful education I received within its walls. My daughter, now in sixth year, has been very happy here too. Being part of this initiative was my way of “giving back,” ....a little.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank especially, the Principal, Ms. O’ Rourke and the Board of Management who have supported us every step along the way over the past six years.

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**

* Clearing of the area behind the railings.
* Gracepark Heights perimeter area
* Power hosing of the main entrance (by Teresa, our school secretary)
* Moss and weed removal
* Gathering of hedging

**GARDENING**

* Grass cutting, edging and weeding in sixth year courtyard
* Strimming and edging of the area around the bicycle shed
* Planting of new flower bed at the front of the school
* Pruning, clearing and mulching of the rockeries in front of the school
* Weeding of the two granite bays in front of the school
* Top-dressing of pots of at the school entrances
* 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.

**REPAIRING**

* Repair and painting of wooden picnic tables.

**PAINTING**

* The student gate
* The main gate
* The railings on the ramp up to the student entrance
* The railings around the entrance to canteen
* The external door into the sixth year courtyard.
* The picnic tables and benches

Two new picnic tables were purchased for the canteen courtyard.

**MORE THANK YOUS!**

* **Sincere** thanks to all the volunteers 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 Catherine Brophy, Dublin City Council for providing us with brushes, bags, pickers, gloves etc. and for the efficient collection of the rubbish on Monday.
* To An Taisce and the National Spring Clean initiative for their advice and Clean –Up kit
* To Sr. Áine for her support and good wishes.
* To Charlie Treacy, C & T Philipsburgh Ave. for his generosity in providing refreshments for the day free of charge
* To Woodies, Coolock for giving us discount on plants and materials.
* To John and Brian , caretakers, for their preparation and continued maintenance of the school and its grounds.

I apologise if I have left anybody out.

As I have stated before 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. The good news is that other members of the Parents’ Association have agreed to continue it on next year! Go on! Come along next April and be part of it!

*Siobhán Conroy*

*Maryfield College Parents’ Association*