



In Short...

END OF TERM

School will close at 12 midday on Tuesday 22nd December. School opens once more on Thursday 7th January 2010 at 8.30 am.

STAFF MEETING

School will close at 12 midday for all classes due to a Staff Meeting on Wed 13th January.

YOGA WITH FRANK

Unify Mind, Body and Spirit ... and help raise funds for the school!

Join Frank Brooks on Tuesday nights at 7.30pm for an uplifting Anusara style yoga class in Richmond Cheshire House, Monkstown.

€12 to drop in, €10 per class for 4 or more

Half of the money goes to METNS (the rest supports Richmond Cheshire Home, a home for disabled people).
Phone: 087 415 8989

Email: fbrooks@gmail.com
Web: www.innerbodybright.ie

NO NUTS!

Please note that nuts are banned from the school at all times. Please remember this for school bakes, fairs, etc.

LOST PROPERTY

After the end of term, unclaimed items will be donated to Liberties Recycling Trust. During the term, lost property is kept in Room 5 (at the end of the corridor behind the Principal's office).

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Sandford Park Secondary School are currently accepting applications for a general and music scholarship. Application Forms available at METNS office.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of a very busy term, it is hard to believe that we are in our new school just over a year. We have had many wonderful Assemblies where we have celebrated Ethiopian New Year, Hannukah, Ramadan/Eid Al Fitr, Rosh Hashanah, Diwali and next week we will have our Christmas celebration. Our Assemblies have also included presentations on Democracy, Children's Rights, St Francis, Harvest, Advent, Positive Behaviour and Creativity. We have our Frásaí na Seachtaine each week thanks to Chrissie Stokes and her amusing video presentations.

Creativity week coincided with our birthday (12 years as a school and 1 year in our new building) and we celebrated in style. The children had great fun during the week and our Per Cent for Arts project was officially launched. I was amazed at the infinite talent there is in the school. I would like to thank Dolores O'Donnell and our artists Liz McMahon and Fiona Coffey for their incredible input into the whole

project. Thanks also to Dolores, the Percent for Art committee and all the volunteers who made this week a wonderful learning experience for all the children. The PTA and parents yet again provided us with delicious refreshments on the day of our official launch. Many thanks to you all.

Don't forget to check out our website from time to time as we are updating policies, news, etc all the time.

Finally, I would like to wish everybody a happy and peaceful holiday with best wishes for 2010. Please join us for our Christmas Carol celebration on Tuesday 22nd December at 11.00am in the school.

I hope the children have a well-earned rest and a wonderful time over the Christmas Season.

Thank you to all staff, parents, guardians and friends of the community for your continued support.

Le gach dea ghúí agus Nollaig Shona,

Rosario Kealy, Principal



Ruán and Naoise with some of their friends from 5th Class on stage at Dalkey Town Hall after they appeared in the Dalkey Players' production of She Stoops To Folly directed by our drama teacher, Emer Casey.

FROM THE PTA...

It's a busy time of year for all and the PTA have been actively supporting all recent School events. A wonderful spread was prepared for the launch of the Per Cent for Art Exhibition. Thanks to all who baked and served. I consumed quite a few cakes myself on the day and they were delicious! We have also been beavering away in preparation for the Parents' Shopping Evening and our annual Christmas Fair. A 2010 calendar featuring the children's work during Creativity Week is now in production and will be available for sale before Christmas.

Hopefully all parents who have ordered hoodies or school t-shirts are now in receipt of same. The committee are also in the process of enforcing the Garda vetting procedures for all extra-curricular activities, which should be in place after Christmas.

Notice of all PTA Events in the coming New Year will be posted on the school website so look out for details on the Pub Quiz, Parent Information and Social Evenings and the Summer Fair.

Season's Greetings to all and thanks for your support of our work.
Michael Kelly

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP NEWS ...

The Communications Group has had a busy term, with lots of progress made on the expansion of the school newsletter, an improved website, and our regular coffee mornings.

The Group, chaired by Aileen O'Meara, meets monthly with the aim of improving all aspects of the school's communications, and finding ways of communicating the many exciting developments in the school to the community in the best way possible.

The revamped school website is a terrific resource, being updated on a regular basis now by school staff, and thanks to Kelly Price for all the great work done there.

And do keep an eye out for the monthly coffee mornings, organised by Una Millett, which are a great way for parents to stop for a short while and have a chat in the hall, with free coffee and tea!

You'll begin to notice the newsletter is getting bigger and

better than ever, and editor Lyn Duff is taking the expansion on board! We're keen to encourage more contributors, and those with news and photographs to come forward, so do let us know if you want to join the expanding editorial team!

And if you have any suggestions for improving communications in the school, let us know. You can email Aileen at aileenomeara@gmail.com.

Aileen O'Meara

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...

Hockey

It's been a busy and productive season for the Monkstown hockey players, and the move to Newpark's training grounds is working out well, according to organiser Christine Magee.

METNS's hockey players young and old played a tournament against the Glashule-based Harold National School in early December, with four teams toggled out in the METNS kit.

"The teams from 2nd class to 5th class showed great skills and really good team spirit," said Christine. "They were very good representatives for the METNS ethos, and the coaches have noted what great team players they are."

METNS is also fielding a schools League team, made up of 6th class players with 5th class boys subbing. They played in Three Rock in early December against Rathfarnham National School. "There was very good

much about hockey, Christine will help show you what the children need to do! You can ring Christine at 086 8335091 or approach her in the yard.

Aileen O'Meara

Junior Book Club

We've really enjoyed Junior Book Club this term! We had so much fun reading "Bills New Frock" by Anne Fines. We even managed to get Jack Rowan dressed up as a girl!! We have just finished "Esiotrot" by Roald Dahl and after Christmas we hope to write our own stories.

Written by the Junior Book Club Members

Choir

We are delighted to announce that the brand new METNS choir is now fully underway...we have been working on a beautiful choral ensemble called 'Adiemus' and the traditional choral arrangement of 'Oh Holy Night', both of which we will be performing at the



The Junior Book Club dressed Jack Rowan up as Bill from Bill's New Frock

have attended for the past few weeks and we are looking forward to an exciting new term!

Deidre O'Shea

Athletics

We have been blessed with decent weather on Mondays and in just a few short weeks our athletes have already practiced many events: throwing shot putt, javelin, standing long jump, tug of war, hurdles, speed bounce, and plenty of running including sprints, relays and the long, long, 600 metre double lap of the school pitch. We have each measured our Personal Best sprint times and we are working to improve on them. Energy levels are high and enthusiasm abounds!

Soccer

The METNS Italian league is underway. We have witnessed some excellent play such as David Murphy's goal keeping exploits and Odette O'Beirne's out field play. The top four teams will qualify for a place in the Aaron & Andy's Cup and the lower four teams will play in the Shield both of which will be played on the last Friday Soccer of term, the 18th December. Supporters are welcome.

Donal Norton



METNS versus HAROLD NS at the hockey tournament in Newpark on Monday December 7th last.

team play, and we were all pleased with the experience," said Christine. "Peter and Jacob, the coaches, said our team were very unlucky not to score a goal."

What's also been evident this year is the great support of parents and drivers to get 50 hockey players from METNS to Newpark for the Monday afternoon training sessions every week, and well done to everyone who's been involved.

"The move to Newpark has worked out okay, as we were a bit concerned it would be difficult," said Christine. "The co-operation of parents has been terrific, and we couldn't have done it without all those drivers and helpers."

Christine, though, still needs help every Monday afternoon, and a few extra adults to supervise and help with the coaching, would be great. Even if you don't know

Christmas assembly. We are developing our vocal range each week and have been working on our 'part-singing' skills.

We became recording artists this week as we recorded our first CD! We are entering the CD into a choral competition associated with Lyric FM so listen out for us! Myself and Eva Meredith would like to thank all the children who



AC Milan Captain Jack Farrell attacking the Napoli goal keeper Jonathan Gannon with Dino Hamidovic in pursuit.

CREATIVITY WEEK

AT METNS ...

Every child had the opportunity to flex his or her creative muscle during our school's recent week of celebration to launch our exhibition, funded by the DES through the Percent for Art Scheme. We had an exciting array of visiting artists and creative friends on site for the week's programme of activities which encompassed Music Appreciation and Composition, Visual Arts, Drama, Fashion, Design, Architecture, Photography, Animation, Storytelling and Poetry Writing!

Throughout the week each child had the opportunity to view and discuss our new artworks with artists Liz McMahon and Fiona Coffey, who were supported by parents Clodagh O'Brien, Declan Mulligan, Karen Shaw and Maurita Moore.

Much of our visiting talent was home grown with a huge input from parents, siblings, partners and colleagues. A big thanks is due to Elaine Norton, Jaime Jambrina, Darragh O'Toole and Lorraine Bowen, Fionnuala Hayes, Gillie Casey, Colin MacAulay, Emer Horgan, Nell Regan and Anita Groener for their generosity and willingness to share their time, talent and creative passion with us! Thanks to all the teachers and SNA's too who enthusiastically worked their socks off and to the PTA who catered at the launch with their usual flair!

Don't miss the opportunity to walk the school corridors and view both the exhibition and the wonderful work produced by the children. Well done everybody!

Dolores O'Donnell

BEST WISHES TO EMILY ...

Our thoughts are with Sixth Class pupil Emily Casey who has undergone surgery in Crumlin Hospital.

Emily will be in hospital for the next few months. We will all miss you, Emily, and our best wishes go to you and your family over the next few months.

WHAT THE CLASSES ARE UP TO...

Junior Infants (Marie Kane)

Junior Infants had a great time during creativity week: we learned about the famous "action artist" – Jackson Pollock and tried out our own action paintings by rolling painted marbles and corks, flicking painty toothbrushes and blowing paint through straws. That was good fun! We also listened to the music of the Carnival of the Animals and made our very own display in our class.

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and we have moved on to Advent and are looking forward to Christmas celebrations in our school.

The children are getting better at putting on their coats and zipping/buttoning up themselves. Thanks for practising this at home! That's really all from us for now!

Junior Infants

(AnnMarie Kenrick)

Junior Infants have been motoring their way through sounds and letter/number formation and having great fun at the same time. The progress has been amazing and the children are all but reading. We are ready to take off next term.

The chicken pox has swept through and taken out up to 10 children for a few days at a time. We are hoping that it's over and no-one will be sick for Christmas. Happy Christmas to all our families and have a great holiday.

Senior Infants (Claire Cantrell)

Well, it's been very busy in Senior Infants this term. We have been learning all about wild animals both in Ireland and around the world. This linked in quite nicely with creativity week when we listened to part of 'The Carnival of the Animals' played by Elaine Norton on the violin, who is the parent of Leah in 1st class. It was great!

This Term during our 'Show and Tell' on a Friday, Rose brought in her Hamster, Mia brought in her Rabbit and Abby brought in a picture of her Gold Fish. A real life Hamster and Rabbit in Senior infants!!! We found lots of differences between pets and wild animals. Thanks Rose, Mia and Abby. Now its time to get ready for our Holidays. Have a great time from everyone in Senior Infants.

Senior Infants (Liz Goodwin)

Wow! The first term in Senior Infants has flown by! We've been working hard all term practicing our writing and reading about all the funny characters in our readers. We've had visits from scientists, musicians and even the Gardaí!

Don't worry - Gavin, Sean's Dad, just popped by to remind us how to keep safe on the roads!

Creativity week was so much fun! Special thanks to Malachy's parents Vanessa and Jaime for teaching us about world music. Now all we can think and talk about are the Christmas holidays. Senior Infants are dreaming of a white Christmas so we've decorated our windows with some beautiful snow flakes. We've also been learning a reindeer rap! We can't wait for the holidays!

First Class (Martha Lamont)

Happy Hanukkah! Over the past two weeks, the children in First Class have been getting ready for Hanukkah!

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights that celebrates the great victory of the Jews over the Syrian Greeks almost 2,400 years ago. Hanukkah lasts for eight days, and this year it begins on Friday the 11th December.

First Class performed a poem at Assembly on Monday that told the story of Hanukkah. They have learnt all about the Hanukkah traditions of lighting the Menorah, making special fried food like Latkes and Doughnuts, and playing Dreidel. The children have been busy making Dreidels in school, and will be having a Hanukkah party on Friday to celebrate the beginning of the festival!

First Class would like to wish all the Jewish families in our school a very Happy Hanukkah!

חנוכה שמח

Second Class

(Molly Boydell & Nell Regan)

Second Class are very sad to have said goodbye to our wonderful student teacher, Julianne, who has



Above: Second Class are beside themselves...

Below: Morning music with Second Class



Fruit people from Third Class. Aren't they amazing?



been working with us for the last month.

We have had great fun with her doing all sorts of activities like researching countries and making projects, looking at toys in the past and present and making our own toys out of various found construction items, looking at symmetry and saying 'hello!' in many different languages on World Hello Day.

During creativity week we were creative in all sorts of different ways. We wrote poetry with Nell, we made our own music composition with Molly, we did some fabulous art workshops with Jole Bortoli looking at spaces to play in, we worked on our construction projects with Julianne, explored our new purchased artworks with Liz and Fiona, and so many other things besides. Lots of the results of this amazing creative force can be seen outside our classroom—please come and take a look!

Now that December has begun we are beginning to think about the upcoming holiday and Hannukah, Christmas and New Year celebrations. Already we have been learning about Advent and preparing a lovely presentation for Assembly about the symbolism of the Advent Wreath.

Third Class (Deidre O'Shea)

Hi everyone! We have been very busy in third class over the past few weeks... We're playing 'fizz buzz' to learn our multiplication tables, we've been singing our way through fun songs from 'The Sound of Music', creating sound poems using percussion instruments, making fruit people based on the work of the artist Giuseppe Archiboldo and we have even reconstructed Ancient Greece using cardboard!!! Bímíd ag caint as gaeilge sa seomra ranga gach lá agus beimid ag scríobh litir go

In Short...

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

If you have moved house or your contact details have changed at all, please inform the office as soon as possible. Either call into the office or email: office@metns.ie

METNS CAROL SERVICE

Our carol service will take place in the school hall at 11am on Tues 22nd December. All welcome.

WEBSITE

Have a look at our fab new website: www.metns.ie. Some of our school policies can be found here, others are still to come.

If you are wondering about the date of a school event, or need a copy of the school calendar, you'll find it on our website, too.

TRAFFIC SURVEY

Thanks to all who reported back to us. The report will be published on the website shortly

NO DOGS ALLOWED

PLEASE NOTE: No dogs allowed on the school premises at any time.

Daidí na Nollag as Gaeilge an tseachtain seo chugainn!

The brand new third class webpage is now up and running so watch out on www.metns.ie for updates of our lovely work! We're learning Christmas carols this week which we will be performing at Christmas assembly and we're having great fun decorating our classroom for Hanukkah and Christmas celebrations. Happy Hanukkah and Christmas everyone!

Fourth Class (Helen Melvin)

4th class and 3rd class enjoyed a day long trip to the G.A.A. museum and pitch at Croke Park on November 25th. Our guide, Simon, was very enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about the history of the G.A.A. and indeed, everything to do with Croke Park. Everybody had a chance to try out some target practice with hurleys and footballs and to do a very interesting trail of the exhibits. We went into a very fancy corporate box and were lucky enough to see some members of the Irish rugby team training out on the pitch. They waved at us! Thanks to parents Ger (Laura) and Rose (Felix) who accompanied us.

6th Class and their Buddies



Nature walk to look out for signs of autumn.

6th class have been mentoring their buddies since the younger children started school in Junior Infants. We meet up to do art activities or science or reading or dancing or just playing around. The 6th class children become the teachers.... and the teachers feel like the grandparents!!!



Above: Combining RE and art, when we help senior infants to decorate their Diva lamps for the Hindu festival of light. Below: Science: Mixing different materials to makeplay dough! M is for 'Messy'!



Creativity Week

Hunt the masterpiece

6th class made clues and laid clues, then we all went out to find the clues! At the end of the trail we each got a piece of a picture.

Which we then put together to make our masterpiece!

