



In Short...

MID TERM BREAK

School will close at the usual times on Friday 12th February and opens once more on Wednesday 17th February at 8.30 am.

STAFF MEETING

School will close at 12 midday for all classes due to a Staff Meeting on Wed 24th February.

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).

NO DOGS ALLOWED PLEASE NOTE:

No dogs allowed on the school premises at any time, even on leads.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to a new term and best wishes to all our community for the new decade. We have begun this year with a few hiccups. Between weather, water shortages, and now drainage works, there have been many disruptions and I thank you for your patience and co-operation. Put in perspective, we have a school, we have water and we have roads. We are in the privileged position of being able to help the people of Haiti in their time of crisis and I would like to thank you all for your contributions to our school fundraising efforts for Haiti in our Have a Heart for Haiti project. Congratulations to Fidelma and the Catholic Instruction classes. They raised over €1800 for Haiti in the recent cake sale.

As we look forward to Spring, we can also look forward to the METNS Musical which will be performed at the end of April and

will involve the whole school. We will be looking for help with costumes, stage, make up etc., so keep an eye out for details of which you will be informed in the near future. We hope also to collaborate with the IADT Stage Production Department which will be of huge benefit to METNS.

Assemblies so far have celebrated St Brigid's Day and the Jewish holiday Tu B'Shvat. The children have also shared their wishes for the people of Haiti in our Have a Heart for Haiti. We have also revisited our Positive Behaviour Policy and discussed specific aspects. I would ask you to remind your children of this and to keep encouraging Respect for Ourselves, Others and Property.

I remind you that our school day starts at 8.30. Children who are late should sign late book. I am asking parents who are extremely late (after 8.50.) not to interrupt the class teacher as this is very disruptive for the children and

staff. I am especially appealing to continuous latecomers to make a big effort to have your child in on time. This is really important for your child now and for forming good habits in the future.

A traffic warden for METNS has finally been approved. I would like to thank Mary Mitchell O' Connor for her help in this. The traffic warden is currently being trained in and will be starting on Monday 8th February. Please check our website for details. This is wonderful news and it will be a big help for parents who want to drop their children at a convenient place on the other side of Kill Ave. We will confirm starting date as soon as we know.

Finally, thank you all again for your co-operation during the drainage works. Thank you for your help in keeping METNS a safe place for our children. I hope that we have a wonderful term.

Le dea-ghui,
Rosario Kealy, Principal

FROM THE PTA...

Back a few weeks and the mid term is nearly upon us!! Firstly let me thank all those who helped with the Christmas Fair - it was a great success and Theresa, Grainne and co. did trojan work in the Cafe.

All the kids are back at extra curricular activities and we have a few additions to the schedule for the new term including Tennis and Gaelic Football. Thanks to the extra curricular team and Orla in particular. Extra curricular activities start from the week of February 22nd.

Get the ol' grey matter going with our PTA Pub Quiz on Tuesday Feb 9th in Bakers Corner. We're hoping there will be one or two tables from each class and we have lots of prizes to keep you keen. The quiz is in aid of the Laura Lynn children's hospice, as well as the school. Last year it was a good fund raiser - lets keep it that way!

Keep Friday May 21st free in your diaries. The PTA are in the process of arranging a parent's social night in the school with food, drink and music. A sub committee is convening shortly and if you have ideas and can help with logistics then contact Ziene (2nd class). Details of other events including the Sponsored walk and the Summer Fair will follow in subsequent newsletters.

Rhona Toal

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!!! and tea and biscuits.....

Wake up to the MET Coffee Morning on the last Tuesday of each month - dates are confirmed in the Newsletter and Website www.metns.ie.

Freshly Ground Coffee, Tea and Biscuits are served by your friendly Comms Committee in the ambient surroundings of the School Hall from 08.45 to 10.30. The coffee's so good even Rosario tries not to miss it!

This is a great opportunity to meet other parents from your child's class and others who are well experienced in the day to day workings and running of the school.

Why not put some names to the faces you see regularly around the school.

There's no substitute for the invaluable experience and advice of other parents.

Come along, find out what's happening.

Perhaps you have some good ideas you would like to air or put into action. Or maybe just come for a chat and the social aspect.

Either way it's a great way to get involved in the school.

Our school is growing very fast and it would be easy to drift into the habit of the rushed car drop off and pick up.

So, for one morning each month, if we can spare the time in our already busy and hectic lives, lets get together and remember why we and our children come here every morning.

It'll be a pleasure to serve you all!

Comms Committee.

And remember, don't forget to pay and display

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...

Hockey

Despite freezing conditions our hockey players continue to be very enthusiastic. We have had a few matches and although no wins recently the players have played very well as a team and represented the school in a way that would make you proud – committed, kind and inclusive. Well done.

Sadly our senior coach of 4 years, Peter Murphy, has had to retire due to ill health. He was very sad to resign as he has enjoyed working with the children from METNS. He always reports on their remarkable teamwork skills. We would like to say a huge "thank you" for all he has given to us over those years. He has been a mentor to all of the other coaches and an inspirational coach to the 5th and 6th class players.

A new temporary coach has been recruited – Annie Lawlor. She has played at the highest level for Pembroke and coaches in a number of schools. We feel very lucky to have found her. She observed the players at their recent tournament and was very complimentary about their skills – so good work to all.

We had a great "Christmas tournament" in January when we created 6 teams of children from 2nd – 6th class. Everyone had 4 matches and only the 2nd and 3rd class players could score. Wow those younger players were so gutsy – tackling the older players. And the older players were encouraging of the newcomers. Well done – it was a very enjoyable afternoon and some great hockey was played.

Past pupil news – A number of the 6th class hockey players from last year are now representing

their secondary schools on league and cup teams. Two girls are playing for Newpark and are through to the quarter finals of their league. One of our past pupils of 4 years ago is now representing Ireland at under 18s level as their goalie as well as playing for his school team – Newpark.

Any queries or suggestions about hockey please contact Christine Magee at 0868335091.

Christine Magee

Soccer

FAI Schools Soccer team. February is entry time for the FAI schools competitions. This will be the third year that METNS have entered. The games are highly competitive but METNS have been contended well each time. Please come out to support the team if you get a chance. The side line supporters are a part of the team and make a difference.

New Soccer Coach!

We would like to give a big welcome to new soccer coach Jamie Gerraghty who has been working with the Friday soccer groups since Christmas. Jamie is taking over from the ever popular Shane Fitzpatrick who regrettably could no longer make the Friday

sessions. Thank you, Shane, for all your energy, from all the footballers.

Athletics

Santry calling; Santry calling... June may still seem a long way off but now is the time to get out there and train. Tryouts to make the METNS athletics team will begin shortly and the only way to improve your chances of making the team is to get out there and practice your running. So far this year our fastest METNS 100m sprint was completed by Ciaran "the Bolt" Heuze in 15.5 seconds while our fastest 80m sprinter is Oisín Connolly. *Speed Bouncing & Shotputting Bests!* In our end of term Monday athletics competition Eilis Prendergast out jumped everyone in the Speed Bounce recording 64 jumps in 20 seconds. Speed Bounce is a plyometrics drill involving jumping over a small raised barrier as often as possible in the limited time. Another athlete to look out in METNS is Fiachra Behan Halpin who threw 10.6 metres in the Shotput. Well done everyone, we look forward to seeing everyone back in Athletics in the new term.

Donal Norton



Patrick Kelleher on for goal with Naosie O'Chonluain, Finn Mulcahy in pursuit. Goalkeeper Odette O'Brien holds steady.

OUR WEBSITE...

We are glad to report the website is proving to be a valuable communications tool between the school and the wider community. Training has been given to teachers and many have already filled their class pages with news about what they are doing in class, including images of artwork and projects. These pages are a great way for teachers to tell you about up and coming class trips, productions and even birthdays!

Prospective parents are now downloading the Application Form directly from the sidebar, which frees the office staff from related

phone calls, printing and additional trips to the post office. Fifteen hundred people accessed the site in January, most of those during the big freeze to find out if there were going to be extra sledding days! Many thanks to Ailish for keeping us updated over that time.

Looking at the statistics since the site was launched at the end of September, there are, on average, 950 visits per month. If you include visits from machines (bots & spiders sent out by search engines) the average goes up to 21000 hits per month.

Most people who visit our site

are from Ireland, but we also get visits from the US, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Canada and Australia.

The website is constantly evolving and we hope you find it easy to use and visit often. Your feedback is very important and any suggestions are welcome via the web email form (Contacts page) or email directly to office@metns.ie.

Kelly Price

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

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.

Have a look for the new pictures in our gallery.

GRANDSTAND

Just a reminder to all if buying sports wear or equipment - consider Grandstand Sports in

Georges Mall in the Dun Laoghaire Shopping centre - they credit METNS with 10% of the value spent by parents and children who mention the school name while purchasing goods.

Credit built up can then be used by the school to purchase sports goods. Over the past year, the school has been able to purchase balls, bibs and whistles to use in school sports activities.

HAITI APPEAL...

Congratulations METNS! Our Cake Sale for Haiti raised €1654.42.

Two amounts of €827.21 were each sent to Trocaire and the Irish Red Cross. Many thanks to Fidelma Healy for organising the fundraiser, and to everyone who contributed so generously with time, money and cakes!



Visit our website: www.metns.ie

WHAT THE CLASSES ARE UP TO...

Junior Infants (Marie Kane)

We welcomed Springtime into Junior Infants last week when we sang our song for St. Brigid at Assembly. We also made beautiful flowers to brighten up our classroom wall.

Taimid ag foghlaim ainmneacha na rudai sa seomra ranga agus ta na paisti abalta iad a aithint agus a ainmiu anois.

Junior Infants are trying really hard at listening when an adult is speaking and we are practicing lining up nicely and using kind hands and words in our class. We would love if Mums and Dads could remind us of our school rules and practice them at home also.

Junior Infants (Ann Marie Kenrick)

Back from the snowy start to the term to St. Brigid bringing the spring! Both Jun Infs performed the spring song at assembly on Mon 1st and they looked and sounded delightful. Ask them to sing the song for you as it really is lovely. We are starting into the

Christmas holidays. We had so much fun in the snow and now Spring is here. We made some nice printing pictures of flowers for St Brigid's day on the 1st day of February. Also we are talking all about ourselves and finding out how our bodies work, and what we need to keep them healthy.

We have just put together a time line using photos of ourselves from when we were babies to us today. Come and have a look.

2nd Class (Molly Boydell & Nell Regan)

Second Class have become pop artists! We have had great fun looking at the work of famous pop artists and especially that of Andy Warhol. He did some portraits of well-known people of the time. Come and see our pop art portraits of the 'well-known' faces of Second class!

When we came back after the holidays we wrote some fantastic stories about our snowy adventures. And keeping on the theme of adventures we then read and illustrated some Irish legends and Greek myths - they sure were dramatic back in those days!

These are lots of significant days coming up in the next couple of weeks - St Brigid's Day, Setsubun, Nirvana Day, Darwin Day, St Valentines Day and Chinese New Year and we have begun preparations for learning about and celebrating some of these... expect to see some colourful corridors around the school.

Second Class have been working very hard in maths recently and have been shooting for the stars when it comes to fractions... well done to everyone!

We have also been researching the countries involved in the 6 Nations... Come on Ireland!!

The children don't know yet but the teachers have been busy planning a class trip for the end of the month where we will be going to a writing centre called Writing Words and writing a real book - wow!

4th Class (Helen Melvin)

4th class are looking forward to working on "The Wizard of Oz" with our friends in 3rd class. Parts have been allocated and practices are under way. We have also been



4th Class made pinatas (above) and held a Talent Show (below)



In addition, GAA training is still on-going and the children are making great strides in improving and acquiring new techniques. The plan is to continue this development 'as seo amach'. Within the classroom setting the children have made great effort researching topics such as the holocaust and aspects associated with Brazilian life and culture. Future projects shall include 'Adopt a Tree' which the children shall investigate experimentally and write poetry using a native tree as inspiration. Observing and recording the changes as we progress through spring to summer should prove interesting. Other plans include a tour of 'Croke Park'. A very busy but exciting term awaits us!!!

6th Class (Chrissie Stokes)

Sixth class have been working (extremely well) with a visiting teacher Eva Meredith who remains with us until the mid-term break. Among other things they have designed space vehicles from lego some of which you can see below.

We would like to send a big

WE MISS YOU

to our class mate Emily who is still in hospital after her operation, we think that she is probably the world's bravest superwoman!!

Finally we would like to announce that 5th and 6th class together will be performing the musical

Aladdin

Rehearsals have just started after auditions for singing, dancing and acting!!! Congratulations to all you parents and guardians, you have some extremely talented children!!



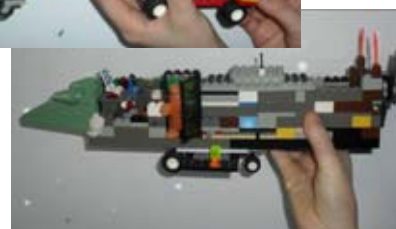
business of reading and will be introducing the characters and stories from the Oxford reading tree scheme. I think both children and parents will get a kick from the new books and the exciting new adventure into reading. Apart from that, everything is ticking over nicely and everyone is in great form!! Happy Spring to all.

Senior Infants (Claire Cantrell)

Happy New Year to you all. We had lots to talk about when we returned to school after the



6th Class Lego space creations



VINCENT MACDOWELL MEMORIAL DRAW

DALKEY SCHOOL PROJECT/MONKSTOWN EDUCATE TOGETHER LIMITED DRAW

On 1.2.10 the 80th Draw was held in the DSP NS; this was the January Draw 2010:

1st Prize: €200 16 Angela O'Reilly
2nd Prize: €100 65 Kieron Guilfoyle
3rd Prizes (5): €40 29 Gerry Griffin
€40 33 Jennifer Johnston
€40 7 Margaret Power
€40 34 Brian Stephens
€40 23 Pat Johnston

€250 each to METT and to DSPT, in association with this Draw. The Draw made by Miriam Hurley, Principal of the DSP NS, supported by Ruth Lyons, SNA in the DSP NS.

Congratulations to winners, and many thanks to you all for your support, both continuing members and new ones who have recently joined.

New subscribers wishing to join the Draw can get forms from the Administrator, tel: 280 2003 or <emjay@eircom.net>, or from the Principals at either school.

There was no December 2009 Draw, funds being just below the necessary threshold. Next draw: February 2010; just a few more subscribers will take us to a draw a month.

Micheal Johnston, Administrator

TRIBUTE TO FLORRIE ARMSTRONG...



Florence, Florrie, Miss Armstrong; the first principal of the Dalkey School Project, one of the guiding lights behind the child-centred curriculum of 1971 (laying the foundation for the current National Curriculum) of the Educate Together movement and of teacher training in Nigeria and West Africa, died in December 2009.

My mind flashes back to the autumn of 1978, the first year of the DSP and the basement of a large Georgian house in Dun Laoghaire where 8 or 10 4th class students, squeezed snugly into an annex, pore over Grease albums at break time; to a tooth immersed in a glass of coke in order to test decay; to first poetry publications in the school magazine; to the building of bookshelves; to a trip to the archaeological digs at Wood Quay and the Dail; from a talk about Bah'ai religion, to the hieroglyphs of long division on the board.

Miss Armstrong (which she will always be for me – too much to breach that first name divide!) taught me for three years. As a writer I thank her for early encouragement and space to try; as a teacher I thank her for showing me how you can teach if you trust children and as a person – well, I spotted this in one of the tributes and although I do not recall her saying it, I know that she imbued the classroom with it; "Ships are safe in harbours but that is not what ships are for"

See also Florrie Armstrong Memories Book on www.educatetogether.ie

Nell Regan

JAK DOES US PROUD...

Dublin City Council is bidding to have the capital designated as a Unesco City of Literature. As part of Dublin's application, a book has been published which includes entries from the 2009 Pushkin

Prize writing competition.

We are delighted to announce that one of our pupils, Jak Farrell, has had his poem about the Vikings, *They Came on the High Seas* published in this book.

Jak was presented with a copy of the beautiful book on completion of Dublin's official application to Unesco at the end of last year.

Well done, Jak, we're proud of you!

SPRING GARDENING...

We are entering into the work time of the garden for another year. This year should more or less see the completion of the heavy construction work and leave us with a garden that we can plant from year to year. We will be finishing off the 'patio area' which will turn into a great outdoor classroom and the work will mostly be done on a Saturday, so if you are in a position to offer your labour for a few hours some Saturday(s) I would really appreciate the help. The project is being managed by Aaron Wooton and will look great when finished. Please let me know if you can help. I also need shovellers and weeders before the potatoes get sown... the real sign of the arrival of spring!

Ann Marie Kenrick

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Seamus (4th) and Liam (1st) on the birth of their brother, Cal

CONDOLENCES...

Lennon (2nd) and Caitlín (Jl) Doyle on the death of their aunt
Ruan and Naoise o Conluain(6th) on the death of their granddad
Omar Corbachi (Jl) on the death of his grandmother
Liz Goodwin (teacher) on the death of her grandmother
Aoibhinn (4th) on the death of her grandmother

BEST WISHES TO...

Emily (6th) who is in Crumlin hospital. We're thinking of her and her family
Thomas (2nd) and August (4th) Adams who are with us for a few weeks before they go back to the USA

DRAINAGE WORKS...

I would like to thank you all for your patience and good humoured co-operation over the last few weeks of drainage works.

Child Safety, specifically in relation to Parent/Guardian parking of cars/vehicles, is particularly important during the 6 weeks of drainage works. The greatest danger to children is at drop-off and pick-up times.

The matter of some Parent/Guardian irresponsible/dangerous parking is an on-going concern for everyone who puts children and child-safety first. In the next few weeks it is particularly important that all drivers adhere to the speed limit, parking regulations and short term arrangements.

It would be a good idea to leave 10 minutes earlier and to leave enough time to walk from Car Parks C and D without feeling under pressure. However, we understand that there may be some timekeeping problems. There will be temporary pedestrian access to the Staff car park during these works. We will keep you informed on a weekly basis of any changes in arrangements.

Once again, I wish to reiterate the following and request the fullest cooperation of all Parents/Guardians in relation to Driving/Parking and Child Safety:

- No parking on the roundabout.
- No parking on or blocking vision at pedestrian crossings.
- No parking on double yellow lines
- No parking in or at gate of Staff Car Park
- No parking in designated CUBE spaces.

Rosario Kealy, Principal

**PLEASE KEEP OUR
CHILDREN SAFE!
SPEED LIMIT ON IADT
CAMPUS AND AROUND
THE SCHOOL IS
10kph**