



## In Short...

### END OF TERM

School will close at  
12 noon on  
Thursday 23 December  
and opens once more on  
Monday 10th January  
at 8.30 am.

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### STAFF MEETING

School will close at  
12 midday for all classes  
for a  
Staff Meeting on  
Wed 19th January.

### WEBSITE

Have a look at our fab 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 at the new pictures  
in our gallery and see what each  
class is getting up to.

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### 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

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### LOST PROPERTY

Please check all lost property as  
any remaining items will be given  
to charity next Tuesday (21st  
December). During the term,  
lost property is kept in the  
hallway.

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### WALKWAY CLOSED

METNS Pedestrian walkway will  
be closed because of QBC  
works by DLR CoCo for the  
week of 20th – 23rd December.  
Access for METNS will be at  
pedestrian entrance beside Blue  
Cube (east of Blue Cube) and  
will be clearly marked.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Welcome to the first  
newsletter of the 2010/2011  
school year. It is hard to believe  
that we have come to the end of  
our first term. On the other hand  
it seems as if we have already had  
four seasons! We have a lot to  
celebrate as an incredible amount  
of activities and learning has taken  
place in all quarters of our  
community.

At our assemblies which take  
place usually on Monday  
mornings, we have celebrated all  
strands of our Ethical Curriculum.  
Included in our celebrations have  
been the Islamic Ramadan and Eid  
al Fitr, the Hindu festival Diwali,  
the Christian saint St Francis of  
Assisi, Halloween, Growth and  
Harvest with fruit and vegetables  
from our bountiful school garden,  
Thanksgiving and Poverty. Last  
week we had a wonderful  
presentation on Disabilities from  
our 2nd Class children. Finally,  
next week we will complete our  
school term with our annual  
Winter and Christmas  
celebrations. We will have a  
Christmas Carol Service on the  
23rd December at 11 o'clock to  
which we invite the whole school  
community. This year we hope to  
have it in our school yard to  
accommodate all our parents/  
guardians and siblings. So wear  
your coats, hats and scarves and  
celebrate with us. I would like to  
thank all the staff and children  
who made our Assemblies so

special and inclusive especially for  
the little ones. I would also like to  
thank Chrissie Stokes for  
providing funny and entertaining  
visuals for our weekly Frasaí na  
Seachtaine. Tá an-suim ag na  
paistí sa Ghaeilge anois!

Throughout this term it is  
amazing to see the amount of  
learning and activities that have  
been taking place in (and out of)  
the classrooms.

Swimming, Drama and  
Gymnastics have started for the  
children and classes have had  
trips to places such as: Dublinia,  
Dun Laoghaire, The Fire station,  
Deansgrange Library and Marian's  
Wood (our woodland area  
behind Blackrock Education  
Centre).

Many wonderful  
projects have been  
taking place in  
METNS: 5th have  
done fantastic work  
on their towns from  
medieval to modern,  
please come in and  
see them displayed in  
the hall next week.  
Vikings and Egyptians  
have been enjoyed and  
explored in 3rd and  
4th classes and 6th  
have done a  
wonderful project on  
the Equal Status Act  
which they hope to  
present at our first  
assembly in January

2011.

There is beautiful Artwork  
displayed all over the school. It is  
a pleasure to see stars  
shimmering, snowflakes falling and  
snowy trees glistening amidst all  
the vibrant colour throughout the  
building.

As always, our Reading and  
Writing continue to be at a very  
high level. Our very successful  
Book Fair (thanks to Liz and all  
our parent helpers) inspired many  
children to pick up a book. We  
hope to encourage this even  
further when we open our newly  
vamped Library (thanks to Eilis,  
Chrissie and Rosie) in early

*Continued on back page...*



*A beautiful moment  
captured in METNS this month*

## FROM THE PTA...

As we approach the Holidays, it is fair to say the  
new PTA committee is well bedded in. We have been  
busy with the ever expanding myriad of After School  
Activities and a really enjoyable Christmas Shopping  
Evening. The annual Christmas Fair was a great  
success this past weekend with something for all  
members of the family. Whether you bought a tree,  
raffle tickets, books or cookies, visited Santa or  
whatever, your contribution helped raise over  
€3,000 for our school!!!!

The METNS Christmas Cards made a welcome  
comeback this year and are selling well. A lot of work  
went into the artwork, collation, scanning, printing &  
packaging of the cards but we think it was worth it!  
We hope they appear on many a mantelpiece in  
Ireland & abroad this year. Cards are still available in  
the school office.

A very informative talk on the topical subject of

Children & Homework was given by parenting coach  
Helen Sholdice to a full house of parents & guardians.  
We hope to hold further relevant sessions in the  
New Year. All suggestions welcome.

We have endeavoured to keep the school  
community fully up to date on what we are doing  
through the network of Class Reps, the PTA  
noticeboard, the website and the Notes In Bags (now  
bright green!). The activities of the PTA are voluntary  
and we very much appreciate all the help and  
assistance we get from parents, guardians, staff and  
others. We very much encourage and actively seek  
feedback from parents & guardians and hope that the  
PTA is seen as open, all inclusive and worthwhile.

We wish you all a very Happy Holiday and Peaceful  
New Year.

*Noelita Lane, PTA Committee 2010/2011*

## WHAT THE CLASSES ARE UP TO...

### Junior Infants (Ann Marie Kenrick)

September to Christmas has just whizzed by. We had hardly stopped talking about Harry the Hedgehog and autumnal hibernation when the little guy got covered with snow! It has been just as hard to keep up with the pace of work this great little bunch of children are capable of. By Christmas we will have learnt 24 sounds, blended them together and worked through 5/6 word lists. We will have practiced to form 10 letters and 4 numbers. We have laughed a lot, worked hard, jumped and danced at P.E, grown fond of our big and little buddies, sang songs. Ta alan Gaeilge againn agus bainimid usaid as gach la, listened with wide eyes



*AnnMarie's Junior Infants got a story in bed on Pyjama Day!*

to story after story and laughed some more. If Santa has been peeping into the classroom, he will be delighted with them. I'd love to wish every family in the class the happiest and most peaceful Christmas ever and I'm happy to return the children to your full time care for a little while!! Nollaig Shona dibh go leir.

### Junior Infants (Marie Kane)

Junior Infants have settled really well into "big school". It's so hard to believe we are coming to the end of the first term, and what a busy term it's been. We are enjoying learning our sounds and beginning to read words. We have been learning about An Aimsir agus bhi an-athas orainn nuair a thainig an sneachta. We had fun making snowflakes when the snow arrived and we also did fabulous snowy paintings for the wall. We are experts at sorting, matching and counting in



*Claire's Senior Infants went next door, to the Fire Station*

our class. We have been talking about ourselves and how each one of us is special and different to everyone else. A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Thanksgiving in our class. Now we are talking about Advent and how many people prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Our spiky hedgehogs are gone for their Winter sleep now in our classroom. That's about all for now from Junior Infants, we hope you like our picture!

### Senior Infants (Claire Cantrell)

A very big hello from Senior Infants, Well this term has been very exciting indeed. We have just said goodbye to the lovely Aedemar Cook, who was teaching the class for the last 5 weeks. She organised a wonderful trip to the fire station, which is right beside us. We went on the fire engine, all



*"We're gymnastic champs", say Claire's Senior Infants*



*"So are we," say Liz's Senior Infants*

had a go spraying the water hose and even got to try on their hats. It was so much fun and we would like to thank the fire station very much for such a great day!

Then the snow came down and gave us all a super surprise. We had loads of fun in school playing in the snow and listening to the different sounds the snow made when we walked in it.

Gymnastics has finished this week and I think we all agree that it was a fabulous opportunity for the children. They have learned a lot of new skills and had heaps of fun! We felt like real super stars when we were presented with our awards on Tuesday. Thanks Louise!

Now the holidays are creeping up on us and we are all getting very excited. We are making lots of cool decorations in school that will look lovely in all your homes.

Wishing you all a very merry & happy break,

Lots of Love from Senior Infants.

### Senior Infants (Liz Goodwin)

Senior Infants have had a wonderful first term in school! It has had so many highlights. We were so proud of our medals and certificates we received for completing our ten weeks of gymnastics with Louise. We also really enjoyed leading the Thanksgiving Assembly. We told all the children what we were thankful for and sang our funny song "I'm glad I'm not a turkey on Thanksgiving Day". More recently we've been busy learning about all the different houses people live in. We didn't realise that there are so many different types! We are also learning about money in maths. We know how to identify the

5cent, 2cent and 1cent coins and we've been practicing spending it in our class shop. We can't wait to get our Christmas holidays! We're looking forward to our second term and all the fun it brings with it!

### 4th Class (Helen Melvin)

Fourth Class recently completed group projects in which they investigated various aspects of life in Ancient Egypt. Topics explored were: pyramids and sculpture, hieroglyphs, gods and goddesses and childrens' lives. Wonderful co operation and collaboration were



*Gymnastics with Louise was very popular with Senior Infants*

in evidence while this project was underway, the experience of these processes being as important as the absorbing of new historical knowledge.

We are taking time to practice our acts for our in-class Talent Show which will take place in the last week of term.

Best wishes to Vishva who is heading to India to visit family and friends during the holidays.

### 5th Class (Chrissie Stokes)



*Fifth Class busy with a science project. We were experimenting to find the lightest materials to make the best parachutes*



We went to Dublinia and Christ Church Cathedral on Monday 6th

## ...WHAT THE CLASSES ARE UP TO

December. The trip was great, We learned about the Vikings and the Normans in Dublinia.

My favourite thing about Dublinia was the fair. The Christ Church Cathedral is a very good place for people who love art. My favourite place was Dublinia.

We had chips afterwards—yummy!

By Kelsey Duff

Over the weeks, Fifth Class have been discussing what we might include in our Class Charter Guidelines that may help us work together happily and with as few problems as possible. After several lessons spent discussing and voting, this is what

### 5th Class Charter

<p>I. Always try your best.</p> <p>II. Always be yourself.</p> <p>III. Speak up for yourself.</p> <p>IV. Accept praise.</p> <p>V. Stop and think before you speak.</p> <p>VI. Raise your hand to speak.</p> <p>VII. No rough stuff!</p> <p>VIII. If someone says stop ... STOP!</p> <p>IX. We won't be rude, we will include everyone and respect each other's differences.</p>	<p>X. We will be democratic.</p> <p>XI. We will listen to other people and co-operate with each other.</p> <p>XII. We are a green school and we will do our best to respect and protect the planet.</p> <p>XIII. We will always ask before we borrow something and be sure to return it as we got it.</p> <p>XIV. We will respect all property.</p> <p>XV. We will clean up after ourselves.</p>
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was agreed upon, and all members of the class will sign this, agreeing

to try and abide by these guidelines.



Sixth Class historians exploring Dun Laoghaire

### 6th Class (Eva Meredith)

In Sixth Class, we have recently completed a local history project on Dún Laoghaire. We have researched the history of the town, going back over 100 years! Our research project lasted for a month and we ended it by going on a history trail to investigate all the sites we had read about. We spent the whole day out and about, working as historians and also doing some sketching in the People's Park. We ended the day with a well deserved treat in Milanos!

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...

### Athletics

The ranks of METNS Athletics have swelled somewhat since last year having switched to Thursday from Monday afternoons when there was a clash with the ever popular Hockey. After the weekly big warm up, we have thrown shot putt, jumped a range of hurdles, run sprints, run many relays, and run lap after lap playing Fruit Bowl until our legs felt like jelly. Junior Athletics is going strong too and Eimear has us playing some super favorite agility training games like Cops and Saucers.

### Junior Soccer

Wow! We have some really wonderful soccer players in 1st and 2nd class in METNS. Junior soccer is ALIVE! The Friday match, played after a few drills and skill games, is both great fun and competitive. There are too many good players to mention all. Sam McGannon, Pierce Prendergast, Fionn Nagel Murray, Elliot Bouron, Emilia Velma, and Oran Keane O'Hagan are just a few who

regularly put on a display of dribbling, shielding, and ball passing, worthy of junior professionals.

Joe Whelan is the supreme goalkeeper. None but the rarest ball slips past this fearless young fellow; Joe will dive at the feet of any attacker to dare step into his box! Adam Pearlman Spencer, Mustafa Edris and Jack Morley are already muscling into senior soccer!

### Senior Soccer

The snow is finally clearing and at last play can be resumed; 45 senior soccer players are eager to conclude the heavily contested *Copa de Rey—Campeonato de España*, The King's Cup - championship of Spain.

All teams in have played their qualifying stage games and we are set for a thriller cup final day. *Malaga*, with players Morgan Moore (Capt), Conan Scanlan, Dylon Doyle, Antoine Carnec, Adam Pearlman Spencer, and Fionnan Coffey came out top of the table with 17 pts. However

only goal difference and one point separated Odette O'Beirne's *Deportivo* (15 pts) from Nathan Mooney's *Barcelona* (15 pts) and Joe McIntyre's *Real Madrid* (14 pts). *Malaga*, *Sevilla*, *Valencia*, and *Deportivo*, have all secured places in the Cup play off and *Barcelona*, *Real Madrid*, *Villarreal*, and *Atletico Madrid*, will contest for the Shield.

The finals will be held on Friday 17th December, the last soccer Friday before the Christmas holidays. All supporters are welcome!

### A Big Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has shopped in Grandstand Sports in Dun Laoghaire over the last year and mentioned METNS as part of their 10% loyalty scheme. Through this scheme we were able to obtain two sets of pop up goals, two sets of 25 cones, 20 twenty junior size bibs, and replacement senior bibs for the few that went missing last year - over €300 worth of equipment in all!

—Donal Norton

## In Short...

### 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.

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### CAROLS AT METNS

You are all welcome to join us for our annual Carol Service at 11 am on 23rd December in the school yard.

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### NO DOGS ALLOWED

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL OR ANYWHERE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AT ANY TIME, EVEN ON LEADS!**

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### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please bring in your Christmas cards for recycling in January to Rosie Doyle, 2nd class. We will put them to good use.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Molly Boydell on the birth of her baby boy, Sonny.
- Grainne Dempsey, (1st Class SNA) on the birth of her grandchild.
- Sean Brogan (SI Liz) on the birth of his new brother, Ruairi.

### CONDOLENCES TO...

- Juliet O'Brien (5th class) on the death of her grandmother.
- Teresa Doyle, our traffic warden on the death of her brother.
- Adam Winters (6th class) on the death of his grandfather.
- Sorcha Kearns (JI AnnMarie) on the death of her grandfather.
- Laura Murphy (5th class) on the death of her grandmother.

January. Look out for many more reading activities and events in the New Year and don't forget - keep reading to your children.

We like to encourage links with our neighbours the IADT and recently 5th and 6th collaborated with some students in a 'Media Studies' workshop. 4th class are making a film in January in collaboration with students from the IADT. We hope to see many more mutually beneficial partnerships.

Buddies continue to be hugely popular and friendships are flourishing between the Seniors and Juniors.

Our Green Committee have been busy giving us many ideas on water conservation and we are all trying very hard!

Our Student Council have also been very busy and our 6th class reps. have given you details about all their activities in the newsletter. We enjoyed a little treat in our final meeting last Tuesday.

As always the PTA are extremely active and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and commitment to our children in METNS. The PTA AGM was a great success with a fantastic turnout. Thank you to all who came and gave such positive feedback and support on the night. A new committee was elected, congratulations to you all with best wishes for the year ahead. A special thanks to Rhona Toal for all her work in the PTA Chair last year and good luck to Shane Kirwan who has taken over the helm for this year. The names of our new PTA committee, Parent/Class Reps, BOM and Staff are now on the website. Thanks to the PTA, our extra curricular activities have got off to a great start with many new exciting options for the children.

Thanks also to the BOM for their continued hard work in the background. Each member plays a huge role in keeping the organisational aspects of METNS running smoothly. I would like to say a special thanks to Amy Brooks who retired from the BOM earlier in the year. Amy has given many years to the BOM, and as chairperson during my

first two years as Principal, her advice and support was invaluable. A warm welcome to Clodagh O' Brien, our new Chairperson and also to Joe Gallagher and Emer Bergin our newest Board members.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your patience during the snow. It can be difficult making the decision whether to close or not and if at all possible we will keep the school open. However, it was wonderful that all of our parents appreciated the time off to enjoy the very rare snowfall with their children and I really believe that quality time to play in the snow is very special. I had not one complaint and I thank you on behalf of all the children who made all those snowmen, igloos etc. Thank you also for your considerate and careful driving and parking during the icy period. Please continue to park and drive carefully and remember it is for the safety of our children.

Keep reading notes and newsletters, surfing the web, using homework notebooks, attending meetings, coffee mornings and various other functions in the school. Please remember that good communication is a two way stream and we rely on your input, feedback and comments. Our Class Information Evenings were extremely well attended and I have had very positive feedback from many parents who found them extremely helpful. Thank you again to all the teachers who gave up their time willingly. It was much appreciated and extremely beneficial to all.

I hope the children have had a happy start to this year and that they continue to learn and create throughout the year.

Please remember that punctuality is essential to give your child a chance to start each day relaxed and ready to learn. They deserve it.

To all our Christian families, I wish you a happy Christmas and to all our community have a wonderful holiday and a peaceful New Year.

Le gach dea ghui,  
Rosario Kealy, Principal

## LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW



AnnMarie's Junior Infants and a wonderful snowman made by busy METNS children

## OUR LOVELY LOLLIPOP LADY...

We are delighted to welcome Teresa Doyle, our traffic warden into the METNS community.

Theresa has been helping our children cross Kill Ave safely since February this year and says that our children (and adults!) are very good and well-behaved when using the crossing lights when she's on duty.

### CROSSING WITH THE TRAFFIC WARDEN:

- When you reach the crossing light, wait for Teresa to stop in the middle of the road and indicate that you may cross before stepping off the pavement.
- Don't run across the road—walk.
- Cyclists must walk their bicycles over and not ride them as this poses a danger to other pedestrians on and around the crossing.
- Parents, encourage your children to cross with the traffic warden.
- Don't dally after school, Teresa leaves at 2.30, even though she may kindly wait for stragglers.
- Teresa's job is to help school children get over the road—adults are allowed to cross on their own!

Teresa is on duty at the following times:

MORNINGS: 8.10—8.50

AFTERNOONS: 2.10—2.30

Thanks, Teresa, you do a wonderful job!

## FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL...

We have been very busy with the student council. We hold a meeting every fortnight. We have

arranged to get playground markings set up and we have discussed many ideas for the lunch box policy like a fruit break, a treat day and what we should be eating. We had a very successful cake sale in aid of Educate Together and we raised over €1,000! We had a pyjama day on Friday 10th December and we raised over €300 for Euro for Zero to help put an end to poverty for children.



Junior Infants loved bedtime stories on pyjama day!

6th class reps, Student Council

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

**Visit our website: [www.metns.ie](http://www.metns.ie)**