



In Short...

MID TERM BREAK

School will close at the normal times on Friday 18th February and opens once more on Monday 28th February at 8.30 am.

NO EARLY CLOSING FOR STAFF MEETINGS

Please note that the school will NOT be closing early for staff meetings for the rest of the present school year.

SCHOOL PLANNING DAY

The school will be closed on Friday 18th March for a School Planning Day.

MISSING PURPLE SCOOTER

New Purple Micro Scooter missing from school. Last seen 9th February evening (Stay Safe Talk). Please check in case brought home by mistake. Santa brought it! Please contact the office if found.

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.

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

As I put the finishing touches to this message, I am filled with optimism, positivity and a great sense of pride in our future generation. We have just had a presentation on "Love & Friendship" from our 6th class in METNS and they have put a smile on all our faces and a spring in our step. With all the gloom and doom outside, it nice to listen to their message: **smiles are free, hugs are free, a kind word does not cost anything**. In this last few weeks, we have also had presentations on Equal Rights, Safety, St Brigid and Chinese New Year.

Music, Drama, Artwork and public Speaking have played a huge role in all our assemblies and enormous preparation has gone into them. The children have talent and creativity in abundance. You have reason to be proud of them, we certainly are. With their happy

music still ringing in our ears, I am assured that the future is in good hands.

I am not so sure however, that our politicians have the children as a priority and it baffles and enrages me to think that our children, our future are being penalised in our current crisis.

The Primary Schools in Ireland are already under-funded and under-resourced compared to other sectors in education and also compared to our European counterparts. This discrimination continued during the boom and now, the present government are cutting back on SNAs, Language teachers, Resource teachers and many other supports in Primary Schools. This will have a devastating effect on our children. How can we have a truly inclusive society if the Government refuses to give support to our children with special needs in primary

schools? How can we be truly inclusive if there aren't enough English language teachers to support children who do not have English as a first language and how can we be inclusive if the Traveller Children do not get the help and support they need?

Our children are our future and they deserve the very best. I would urge you to talk and write to politicians and ask them to provide our children with the supports they need. This is their right and we must come together as parents and teachers to insist that our children are looked after.

Our children in METNS know what is important. We need to remind the politicians, economists, journalists and all adults in our society of the same. Our children are important, let us do something for them.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Rosario Kealy, Principal

FROM THE PTA...

The second term of After School Activities is about to begin offering some new and exciting activities to an already packed schedule. The programme of events is one of the most important responsibilities of the PTA and a big thank you to coaches, teachers and volunteers but especially to Sara and Briege for all their hard work on our behalf.

As always, comments, suggestions and feedback regarding the activity list will be sought in the annual Extra Curricular Activities survey, which then allows us to pull together the new programme for Sept 2011!! It is important that we have a full and balanced programme to meet the needs of all our children.

On Feb 9th, Kathleen McFadden of the Stay Safe Programme gave a very insightful talk about how the Programme is structured and taught in schools. Parents and guardians present, found it gave them a better understanding of the programme as it took them

CELEBRATING SCIENCE AT METNS...

METNS is exploring experimenting and doing all things "Sciencey" in early April. The children - from Junior Infants to Sixth - will be getting their lab coats on.

Activities include the visit of the very exciting Sky Dome. This mobile planetarium gives the children a chance to interact with planets, stars, galaxies and other objects in our universe. The SkyDome visit means everyone can experience the wonders of the cosmos without having to travel astronomical distances!



LEGOeducation will also visit METNS. LEGOeducation provides children with an opportunity to invent and investigate like young scientists. Children will learn about mechanics, robotics, teamwork, communication and so much more. The sessions are age appropriate and tailored to each class group. The children's experience will be further enhanced as they will attend the workshops in groups of no more than 14.

through the five key topics covered and provided us with insight as to some of the Stay Safe language taught. All elements are covered at an age and stage level of appropriateness.

Next term, the PTA hope to fund some Dance Drama and Science workshops in the school for all classes. Details of which will circulate when finalised.

The PTA Committee

WHAT THE CLASSES ARE UP TO...

Junior Infants (Ann Marie Kenrick)

The honeymoon is over in junior infants and the real work begins!! We have started to introduce the characters from the Oxford Reading Tree, our reading scheme. Words will be introduced bit by bit and the books will go home. The person who drops the child to school can change the book from time to time. That would really help moving things along. We have been adding and taking away through counting (1-5 especially) and ta bhúr gcuid Gaeilge ag feabhsú gach lá. As well as all the 'hard' work, we'll find the time to jump and hop about. Thank you to all the parents who found the time to attend the parent teacher meetings. I hope you found them informative and interesting.

Happy Chinese New Year and Valentines Day to all

Junior Infants (Marie Kane)

We have had Emma O' Donnell, a trainee teacher in her final term of the Hibernia Teacher Training Course, in our class for the last few weeks and the children have had great fun learning with her. We have been learning about Water and doing experiments to check for water proof materials, a theme about Toys, People Who Help Us in our Community and we even had a very exciting visit from 4 firefighters from Dun Laoghaire fire station!! We have made Rockets, done fun printing with various objects, learned new songs and poems among lots of other exciting lessons. Junior



Fun with the visiting firemen

Infants will have great memories of having Emma in our class and we say a big thank you to her for all the fun we have had.

Junior Infants were extremely brave when they had their vaccinations a couple of weeks ago.

Now we are getting ready in our class to welcome the Spring and looking forward to some nicer, warmer weather.

Senior Infants (Claire Cantrell)

Spring is here! Senior Infants have been busy meeting up with our friends from next door in Liz's class, making Chinese new year lanterns, doing science experiments and making new friends. We have just begun a water experiment with our buddies using jam jars. We have left the jam jars outside to see how much rain water we can collect in a week and then put it to good use. We have discussed what we think will happen and come up with some

interesting ideas. Come and ask us what we came up with.

Senior Infants (Liz Goodwin)

Senior Infants learned about The Beatles for our history lesson. We really enjoyed looking at different photos and videos of the band. The best part was

listening to their music. We learned the song "Yellow Submarine" and we danced to songs like "Twist and Shout" and "All You Need is Love".



throwing. We had fun celebrating special occasions such as Halloween, Diwali, Hannukah, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also had fun playing in the snow and really enjoyed our Christmas holidays.

Term 2- We are now doing drama with Emer Casey every Friday afternoon which we really enjoy! P.E. is now on every Tuesday and Wednesday and at present we are doing dance and games. At the moment we are learning all about water and how important it is in our lives. So far this year we have celebrated Chinese New Year and we look forward to other celebrations coming up in the next few months.

First Class (Martha Lamont)

Ms Lamont's First Class have been very busy learning all about water this month in preparation for our Green School Water Flag. The children have been finding out where water comes

Eimear Foxe's SI's show off their models of homes from around the world



We've also been getting to know our friends next door. This week we met up and drew pictures of each other. It was a really nice chance to make a new friend and get to know our neighbours a bit better.

First Class (Eimear Foxe)

We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been doing in First Class so far this year.

Term 1- In SESE we learned all about different types of homes found in Ireland and all over the world. We then made a home of our own choice using lots of different materials. In P.E. we did gymnastics with Louise our gymnastics coach, who taught us different movements which involved balancing, rolling, turning and twisting. We also did Games and Athletics in P.E. which involved skills such as ball handling and kicking and also running, jumping and

from, how we use water, and how to conserve water at home and in school. First Class became historians as they looked at pictures and photographs from the past, and discovered how water was transported in Roman Times (by Aqueducts), and what old-fashioned baths, hot water bottles and even toilets used to look like!

The children have also transformed into creative authors this term, as they began The Story Writing Process of brainstorming, revising, editing, and publishing. There are exciting tales about evil dragons, princesses, Power Rangers, magic spells, a black swan, and



Marie Kane's JI's had an exciting trip to the fire station

...WHAT THE CLASSES ARE UP TO

many more adventures! (There may be a future J.R.R. Tolkien or J.K. Rowling in our midst!) The children are really looking forward to publishing their stories after the Mid-Term Break, and reading each other's imaginative works!

2nd Class (Rosie Doyle)

Ancient Egypt is the topic of discussion for the last two weeks. Second Class will be going to the RDS to see the Tutankhamun Exhibition on March 2nd.

At the moment we are busy learning all about Water and in particular the Waste Vortex in the Pacific Ocean- come to the Second Class corridor to learn more.

And sang our "Monsters Dance" song in front of the whole School. The class were fantastic! We had fun playing in the snow and we really enjoyed our Christmas holidays.

Term 2- WOW! –

Term two started off with a bang, with our Class talent show! Performances in singing, acting, puppet shows, poetry recitals, guitar and piano playing and break dancing to name but a few! (Photos will be on web page soon!) We are now doing gymnastics with our excellent coach every Tuesday!



Claire Cantrell's SI's doing water experiments with their 6th Class buddies

a model showing how an early settlement might have looked; the next group made a model showing how the settlement might have developed by the early medieval period; the third group made a model showing how the time might have looked by the late medieval period; and the final group designed a modern town, with the help of the whole class.

Have a look at the pictures showing our project's development from start to end on the school website. Note how some of the features change through the ages.

6th Class (Eva Meredith)

In Sixth Class we have been very busy this term so far! In art, we have recently studied the work of a Scottish artist, Eduardo Paolozzi, whose work has influenced Pop art. We looked at one of his mixed-media works called "Sack-o-sauce" and responded to it by creating our own collages. They are on display in the upstairs corridor and are well worth a visit! We have moved onto construction now and are currently designing and constructing our own "Dream Home".



Sixth Class collages, influenced by Scottish artist, Eduardo Paolozzi

3rd Class (Donal Patterson)

Hello and Welcome to 3rd Class! We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been doing in 3rd Class so far this year.

Term 1- In SESE we learned all about the Vikings! We found out about their heritage, customs and their important connection with Ireland! We then went on a brilliant tour of the Viking Museum – "Dublinia", where the class could see Viking villages for themselves and learn how boys and girls their age lived in Viking Countries. The class then got their goggles and swimming caps out for 10 weeks of Aquatics lessons in Castle Park! The class had great fun in Drama with Emer Casey.

We had fun celebrating special occasions such as Halloween, Diwali, Hannukah, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For Halloween, we all dressed up in our fancy dress costumes – (me included!)

3rd class put amazing work into our Chinese New Year preparations. We sang and acted in front of the school again and showed off our gorgeous art work! (Photos will also be posted!) At the moment we are learning all about the Ancient Romans and how they influenced our lives.

We had the local Fire Brigade coming into our class to do a workshop on Monday the 14th Feb with us on Fire safety and fire awareness! The class are doing great work in their English (James and the Giant peach) Gaeilge, Maths and Music (4 Beatles songs learned!) Keep it up everybody! A trip to the Ark on the 9th March to look forward to!

5th Class (Chrissie Stokes)

We designed and made models of one town as it may have appeared through history, One group started with

In Short...

PLEASE CHECK LOST PROPERTY

Please check all lost property as any remaining items are regularly given to charity. During the term, lost property is kept in the hallway.

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.

NO DOGS ALLOWED

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

In science we have been investigating forces. We firstly studied magnetism, designing and making our own compasses. We then turned our focus to investigating gravity, and how best to create an effective paper helicopter!

Táimid ag déanamh iarracht fhócasaithe Gaeilge a labhairt sa seomra ranga. Táimid ag cleachtadh ár nGaeilge an t-am ar fad agus beimid ag dul go dtí an Ghaeltacht i Mí na Bealtaine! Táimid ag tnúth le sin!



Liz Goodwin's SI's made some wonderful "Love Bugs" to celebrate Valentine's Day!

A FEW REMINDERS...

- CHILDREN SHOULD NOT USE THE STAFF CAR PARK TO ENTER OR EXIT THE SCHOOL. It is highly dangerous and recently we have had a few near accidents. Parents please do not drop children off near staff car park.
- Please note that children are not insured to enter the school grounds until 8.20 am when the pedestrian gate is opened.
- Children are not allowed on the grassed area until the DES have it drained and re-surfaced.

... AND A LITTLE OOPS

Last newsletter we incorrectly called our lollipop lady, Teresa Doyle, a Traffic Warden. She will not, of course, be giving you any traffic fines as she is actually a School Warden! Sorry, Teresa.

FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL...

The student council is a group of children from 2nd – 6th class who represent the pupils in the school. We discuss matters that arise in the school and give the pupils a voice. We organise events e.g. pyjama day and cake sales for charity. Recently we have been looking at the pitch timetable, organising basketball at lunchtime and new markings for the pitch have been ordered. As

the student council can't stay the same forever, we elect a new council each year. It is now time to elect a new one and the elections take place this week. We are very sad we are not going to be in the council anymore. We will miss the meetings and making decisions. It was great fun.

Good luck to the new reps!
5th class reps, Student Council



The outgoing Student Council

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...

Hockey

Well we are having a very constructive season. We have always found the players at METNS to be naturally good team players and this term we have really worked hard on focusing on developing stick and ball skills. Even our youngest players in 2nd and 3rd class can "sweep" the ball, "Indian dribble" and lift the ball and that is fabulous. Well done to all our coaches and more importantly the PLAYERS.

The 6th and 5th class hockey team have won their first league match. Elvira was the Captain and all played well and were great sporting representatives of the school. We have three more league matches to play. We hope they the players enjoy the experience of playing in a tournament and representing METNS. They are getting great coaching about tackling, dodging and positional play from our Australian coach, Dash.

Finally we hope to have a few more tournaments with neighbouring schools for all our players in the next couple of months.

Thanks to Ms O' Shea, Ben and Dash for their coaching, thanks to parents for their support and three cheers to all our players.

Christine Magee

FROM THE GREEN TEAM...

Our Trip to a Water Park with a difference.

The Green Team and some others from 5th and 6th went to the Waste Water treatment plant in Ringsend before Christmas. We learnt loads about where waste water comes from and how it all ends up in Ringsend. Before 2003, the water was put on

to a ship 2 or 3 times a week and brought out to the Irish Sea and dumped there, untreated. The ship was called the sludge boat. Now the waste water is treated and cleaned and piped out to the sea, clean. We saw the different stages of cleaning and saw the huge swimming pools full of water waiting for the heavy bits of sludge to sink. This is dried and turned into fertilizer pellets. Some countries treat their water so much it goes back into the drinking water, but we don't. We put the clean water out to sea.

We had a great day and learnt loads.

Written by Anna Murphy and Ali McIntyre

Green Team report

Our school is going to be reviewed on March 15th, by An Taisce. Every class will be discussing topics based on our water theme which is our 3rd green flag. Our 1st flag had the RRR theme and the second was about energy savings.

We did a survey on all the water usage in our school and the results showed that we use approximately 2,500-3,000 litres each day, most of which is flushed down the loo! We actually waste very little. So the important bit is to bring the message home. We will all be discussing this topic with our families over the next 2 months.

We save rainwater in our water butt in the garden and we use this to water the garden in the Spring and summer.

Written by Eve Buckley, Ben Fagan, Anna Cheesemore and Paddy Carmody.



Our Green Team inspected the Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Plant just before Christmas last

FROM THE AFTERSCHOOL TEAM...

Another term started off in afterschool with the arrival of some new children all of whom are very welcome.

We have purchased some new board games which make it easy for the children to interact with each other so both the junior and senior infants have been busy forming new friendships.

Last week, we celebrated Chinese new year - the children made dragon mobiles and tasted some Chinese cuisine which went down a treat!!!

Love is in the air this week as we get the room ready for valentines and both Edie and Tara are constantly putting their creative abilities to the test with lots of arts and craft ideas.

The children are encouraged to choose freely as regards what they want to play with whilst also respecting the wants and needs of others.

Our priority at the club has always been to provide a happy, safe environment in which your children can grow as individuals within a relaxed fun environment and we hope to continue in providing this service throughout 2011.

Thank you for your continued support.

Teresa, Edie and Tara- The metns afterschool team!

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

Visit our website: www.metns.ie