



## in short

**STAFF MEETINGS** All staff meetings take place after school hours at 14h10.

**CONTACT DETAILS** If you have moved house or your contact details have changed, please let the office know as soon as possible at office@metns.ie.

**DOGS** Please note no dogs are allowed on the school grounds at any time, even on leads.

**METNS CLOTHING** Hoodies still available – check in school office.

**MID-TERM BREAK** Monday, 31st October to Friday, 4th November inclusive. School closes at the normal time on Friday 28th October.

**LOST PROPERTY** Any abandoned clothes will be displayed in yard at the end of each mid-term and any unclaimed items will be sent to a charity shop.

www.  
metns.ie  
Have a look at our fab website for school policies, event dates, school calendar, photos and lots more!

## The PTA committee

Chairman **Shane Kirwan**; Treasurer **Mark Quinn**; Secretary **Noelita Lane**; Class Rep Liaison and National Parents Council Rep **Teresa Kavanagh**; National Parents Council Rep **Hellen Dalton**; **Bairbre O'Sullivan**, **Vanessa Robinson** and **Matt Kingsley**. Principal **Rosario Kealy** Staff Representatives **Marie Kane** and **Karen Bolger**.

To contact the PTA, speak to any committee member, use the PTA box in the lobby, go through your class rep, or e-mail metnspta@ireland.com.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**OCTOBER 24TH – 28TH** Educate Together Awareness week  
**EARLY NOVEMBER** Book Fair  
**NOVEMBER 30TH** Annual Christmas Shopping Night  
**DECEMBER 11TH** Christmas Fair

## From the Principal

On behalf of all here at METNS, I welcome you all to another year. We are especially delighted to welcome the new members of our staff, Kate, Audrey, Helen, Emma, Victoria, David, Karen and Dervla. Eva and Donal are now permanent members of our staff and Caro is now teaching 4th Class. A full staff list for 2011/2012 is on our website and you also can meet the staff here in our first newsletter. A special welcome to all the new children this year, (including 59 Junior Infants!), And of course to all the new families in our community. Please don't forget to come along to all our wonderful events. Remember you are all very welcome to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of school life; we'll always be delighted with the extra help and we hope you will become part of our great tradition of working together as a community.

We have been very busy since the beginning of term. With welcome support from DLR Co. Co., 5th and 6th class are undergoing a six week course on 'Cycling Skills' which they are thoroughly enjoying. Swimming, drama and gymnastics have got off to a flying start and we have had assemblies to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Harvest. The photos of our garden harvest are amazing, thank you Ann Marie.

Our Student Council are busy at present helping Liz with a project called 'Cairde' (Friends). This is a yard-based project designed to make yard time more inclusive and exciting for the children. Liz has many wonderful ideas for yard time and, with the help of all our 'Cairde', SNAs and teachers, the children should be telling you about all the fun and games really soon.

Last week was Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Social Inclusion Week and we were delighted to take part this year in hosting coffee morning with entertainment from the children at METNS' for the Senior Citizens in our area. By the time you read this I hope we will have had a memorable morning.

Educate Together is having their annual fundraising day on Friday, 28th October. This year we at METNS, are celebrating our ethos with an Educate Together Awareness week and we will be inviting you, the parents/guardians, in to meet some representatives from Educate Together and share a cuppa. The children will also have a chance to learn about the organisation and ask a few questions. During the week we will have many exciting activities for the children based around all aspects of our ethos culminating in our usual dress up day on Friday, 28th October, with a games playing fundraiser for Educate Together. We will give you more details nearer the time.

Our PTA is up and running and the new committee was elected at the AGM on 28th September. I would like to express my thanks to all who gave of their time and support last year on the PTA and give a warm welcome to the incoming committee. They have great plans in store for us! Thanks to Zeine and the PTA for the wonderful night at the clothes swap last Thursday.

A new Board of management will be put in place at the end of November and the 2 parent representatives will be elected at an EGM on Wednesday 19th October. A big thank you to those members of the Board who will be stepping down, your hard work behind the scenes is much appreciated.

Great events are already being planned for the rest of the term. Keep an eye out for our Book Fair (helpers needed by Liz), Science Week (Chrissie has some astronomical ideas in store), and straight after the break we are all going healthy as we launch our reviewed Healthy Eating Policy with the Food Dudes Programme. Thank you to Lorraine and Riona for co-ordinating the review. They are also helping with our Food Dudes Programme, alongside a group of parents who will be busy giving out fruit and veggies to all our hungry children for the first 3 weeks after mid-term. More details to follow on this.

Finally, I would like to thank Lyn Duff who has passed the METNS Newsletter into the capable hands of Marlene Moloney, mother of Lea in Senior Infants. Lyn has designed and produced our newsletter for the last 7 or 8 years and we are extremely grateful for the wonderful job she has done. I am delighted to introduce Marlene in her first edition of our METNS newsletter.

I wish you all a wonderful year at METNS.

Le gach dea –ghuí,

Rosario.



# What are the kids up to?



**JUNIOR INFANT CLASSES** MARIE AND KATE Junior Infants have settled amazingly well into “big school”. We are so proud of the children as they wave goodbye to Mum, Dad, grandparents or minders each morning, with mostly smiling, happy faces. We have started learning our Jolly Phonics sounds; we are busy sorting, matching and counting everyday; and we have picked up lots of little phrases and words as Gaeilge, which we are hearing everyday. In September, Junior Infants were introduced to their Buddies, there was great excitement and “Buddytime” continues to be the highlight of every busy week! Earlier in the month, Junior Infants presented their very first assembly to the whole school. We celebrated World Animal Day on October 4th. They got a big cheer for their fantastic song about “What the animals say”.

**SENIOR INFANTS** EMMA Welcome back to all the Senior Infants. I would like to welcome a new girl Beulah to our class. I am sure we will have lots of fun with her in the coming year. We have had a busy first few months back to school, from learning



From learning Jolly Phonics and painting like Mondrian to studying the Normans and getting familiar to using the online encyclopedia, the kids have had a busy start to the new year! Here's a selection from some of the classes:

all about our school community to creating paintings inspired by Piet Mondrian and drawing beautiful self-portraits. We have been exploring Autumn during October and have created a nature table. We also did a variety of autumnal art and learnt all about trees. We became nature detectives and identified many of the trees we learnt about on our nature walk.

## **FIRST CLASSES** HELEN AND VICTORIA

We are pleased to report that our two First Classes are settling very well into their long school day. Many children are also taking on after-school activities and enjoying the opportunity to mix with children from other classes whilst learning new skills. First Class boys and girls are embracing their homework assignments with enthusiasm and becoming so good at managing their homework notebooks and all of the new classroom routines that they encounter. Our Gymnastics sessions have started with coach Louise and great progress is being made with the forward rolls! We would like to welcome Mukilson Deepson who started in First Class on September 1st. We look forward to a happy, fun and busy year in First Class.

**SECOND CLASS** DAVID Welcome to Second Class A! This year we have 27 children in our class: 14 boys and 13 girls. The boys are Oscar, Malachy, Óran, Colm, Kai, James, Sam, Eoin, Liam, Cian, Pierce, Reuben, Matei and Joe. The girls are Blaihtín, India, Chloe, Lauren, Nikki, Maëlis, Eva, Niamh, Masie, Lea, Abby, Jasmin and Karolina. We are delighted to have three new girls in our class this year: Lea, Maëlis and Karolina.

In the past week we have gone on a “Litter Walk” around the school to see if there are any areas of the school grounds affected by litter. We are also doing an experiment in Science to see if materials that we saw on our

“Litter Walk” such as crisp packets, plastic bottles, apple cores and banana skins will rot or not. Look out in the school corridors for the results of our experiment and tips on how to keep our school litter free!

**FOURTH CLASS** CARO Fourth class started the year by thinking about their own identities. We thought about how we wanted to be as a class, made patterned initials and identity cards as Gaeilge complete with fingerprints! The children painted portraits of each other which were particularly striking. Our current theme is Autumn and the changes which take place at this time of year especially regarding trees and woodlands. The children visited the small native woodland on the campus and spotted and identified many living things and signs of Autumn. Fourth class have also been looking at the history of our own homes and our local area, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown.



Jess by Mabel; Eabha by Sophia; Oliver by Saoirse



## snippets

**FIFTH CLASS EVA** We had a very busy September. We have an exciting new responsibility – “buddies” from Junior Infants! We met up twice and are enjoying getting to know each other. In history we have been studying the Normans, which integrates with our novel “Strongbow” by Morgan Llywelyn. We learned about many different aspects of Norman life and will finish our study with a trip to Dublinia. In geography, we are working collaboratively on projects on European countries. We went to Deansgrange library and borrowed some books and are already busy planning, researching and writing our projects. We also learned how to use an online encyclopaedia which we are finding very useful!

## Health and Safety Issues

**CAR PARKING** Please drive carefully and park in designated car parks only. **SCHOOL WARDEN** Please try and avail of the service provided by our wonderful school warden, Teresa. **STAFF CAR PARK IS FOR STAFF ONLY** Please do not use this as a pedestrian/cycle entrance for children as it is highly dangerous and has only vehicular access. **ARRIVAL /DEPARTURE** School starts at 8.30 am each day and ends at 1.10pm for infants and 2.10pm from first to sixth class. At arrival time the children line up in the designated areas and the class teacher brings them in. At going home time infants are handed over to their parents/collector and the other classes wait in the yard until they are collected unless otherwise directed by their parents. If a parent/collector is late for any reason your child should return to the class teacher or to Rosario until collected. **WELL DONE TO ALL WALKERS, SCOOTERS AND CYCLISTS!!** Please dismount at the gate, you may not cycle or scoot within the school boundaries. **MEDICAL PROFILE FORM** Please make sure that you have filled out a form for your child. If there are any changes to existing ones, they will need to be updated. **HEAD LICE** Please check your child's head regularly as this is a particularly busy time for them! **MOBILE PHONES** If your child has a mobile phone coming to school, you must complete the appropriate permission form available from the office. Mobile phones must be turned off (**not on silent**) during school hours and on the school premises unless permission is given by a staff member to use it. Any breach of this will result in the mobile phone being confiscated. Parents can retrieve phones from office and must sign for them. Messages for children in school can be left at office during school hours.

## SNOW PATROL SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

We are looking for volunteers who can get to the school at short notice, to help clear snow in the event of heavy downfalls – all that's needed is your shovel (and maybe some muscle-power!) If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office. Notices will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

**GRANDSTAND** Just a reminder to all if buying sports wear or equipment – consider Grandstand Sports in George's 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 when purchasing goods. Credit built up can then be used by the school to purchase sports goods. [www.grandstandsports.ie](http://www.grandstandsports.ie)

**YOGA WITH FRANK** Chill Out and Wind Down. Tuesday Evenings 7.30 - 9.00pm at METNS. Classes are €12 to drop-in or €10 per class for 4 or more classes. If you would like to try a class, please call Frank on 087 415 8989 or email [fbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:fbrooks@gmail.com).

**CÓRUS IN THE SCHOOL** Open to everyone, come and sing your heart out to the music that's been the soundtrack of our lives: Pop, Rock, Country, Irish and Gospel. Tuesday Evenings 7.30pm - 9pm at METNS. Contact Córús in 01 278 1990, 086 811 5854, 087 943 9380 or email [info@corus.ie](mailto:info@corus.ie); [www.corus.ie](http://www.corus.ie).

**HO-HO-HO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NIGHT** takes place on November 30th. It is a great evening to do some Christmas shopping, support the school and to socialise with other parents. If you are interested in a stand, please call Teresa on 087 677 0855. Stands are €50. (Stand profits go to each stand owner).

## Extra activities

**SOCCER** Footie on Friday kicked off with gusto for our 38 senior and 32 junior players. Coaches Franco, Craig, and Donal P, are working with the senior players in three groups spread around the further end of the pitch from the school. Drills, games, and plenty of action are the order of the day and the goal tally is mounting quickly. At the nearer end of the pitch Christine, Jamie, Liam, and Donal N are steering the junior players through the essential basic skills and playing mini matches. As we approach our third week everyone seems to have settled in and the play is beginning to flow.

**SENIOR ATHLETICS** After a fabulous first week with the most pleasant of weather, we got rained off in our second; it had to happen eventually, three years without it raining on the METNS runners would have been too much to ask. Still we have already recorded our 30m sprint times and we're going to work to improve our personal bests each week.

**NO NUTS!** Please note that nuts are banned from the school at all times.

Please remember this for school bakes, fairs etc.

**Clothes Swap Evening** A very enjoyable evening was had by all who attended the first PTA fundraiser of the year. The school hall was awash with dresses, shoes, coats, bags & hats. Everyone who came left with something “new” and it was a good opportunity for all to catch up. What a success for the environment and the pocket! Over €340 was raised that is going towards sport tops for school teams - clothes for clothes!

# meet the staff

**JUNIOR INFANTS** Kate McCarthy and SNA, Audrey Hanney **JUNIOR INFANTS** Marie Kane and SNA, Helen Nolan **SENIOR INFANTS** Emma O'Donnell and SNA, Edie McDonnell **SENIOR INFANTS** Liz Goodwin and SNA, Niamh McCann **FIRST CLASSES** Victoria Stuart and Helen Melvin; SNAs, Teresa Kavanagh, Jill Steer, Emer O'Brien and Maria Scully **SECOND CLASSES** David McGivern and Deirdre O'Shea; SNAs, Sarah Goodwin, Kieran Dalton and Gráinne Dempsey **THIRD CLASS** Donal Patterson and SNA Dervla Bergin **FOURTH CLASS** Caro Condon **FIFTH CLASS** Eva Meredith **SIXTH CLASS** Chrissie Stokes and SNAs, Tara O'Reilly and Dee Dooley **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS** Ellis Kendlin, Dolores O'Donnell, Ann Marie Kenrick, Emer Bergin, Rachel Coughlan and Annette Fay (part time, two days per week) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT TEACHER** Karen Bolger **ADMINISTRATOR** Joan Zeevy **SECRETARY** Ailish Grant **CARETAKER** Joe Fitzpatrick **HOUSEKEEPER** Monica Kane **PRINCIPAL** Rosario Kealy

**METNS**  
Our school  
has 323 kids  
and 35  
staff

## COMMUNICATION AT METNS, A FEW REMINDERS

Our methods of communication with the parent body include the following:

- Mail in schoolbags, usually on a Thursday
- Homework notebooks
- Newsletter every 4 to 6 weeks
- Texting (please let us have your mobile numbers, as it is a very time and energy efficient way of communication)
- Website: [www.metns.ie](http://www.metns.ie)
- Newsboard (the newsboard is located inside the main door, don't forget to check it). You are welcome to post any items provided you have checked with the office first
- Notices
- Meetings, AGM, Parent/Teacher etc.
- Class information evenings.

Please don't forget that communication is a two-way process and we welcome any input or queries that you might have. Please remember to read all information and retain any that you will need for the year.



Our website is a popular tool for communicating with parents, students and the community. Kelly Price, who looks after the METNS website, told us that August was the most popular month for people to visit our site, but during June people took the time to look at more pages.

## thinking green **Green School Programme**

As you already know last year saw the awarding of our third green flag, based on the subject of 'water'. We now launch into the next topic which is 'transport'. We will be looking at different methods of transport in our lives and how we can make positive choices, both



for our own personal health and the care of the environment. It is a topic that the parents will obviously be involved in because you are the ones who take the children to school and back home, and we will be asking for your help and co-operation in WOW days (Walk on Wednesdays) If it's not possible to walk or cycle to school, we will be asking the parents to park a little bit away from the school and walk the last few hundred metres. Lots more about this over the next two years. We will also be consistently going over our green themes of RRR, energy saving and water conservation. We hope to have a very positive ethos in the school, thinking 'green' all the time and allowing that ethos to inform our school community decisions and hopefully your domestic decisions too.

I am thrilled to be offered the fun job of designing the METNS newsletter. To tell you a bit about myself, I'm South African and my husband is Irish. We have two kids, our eldest, Lea is in senior infants, and Joe is looking forward to starting big school next year. I would love to hear from you. If you have any ideas or interesting stories that you would like to be included in the newsletter, please email me at [monkeyplum@gmail.com](mailto:monkeyplum@gmail.com). (The editing committee can't promise that it will be included, but we will try our best). Looking forward to hearing from you.  
Kind regards, Marlene



Harvesting the crops in the school garden in September