



ST. JOSEPH'S BNS



NEWS UP-DATE NOVEMBER 2009

Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 1st**, **Wednesday 2nd** and **Thursday 3rd December**. The school will close at normal time for infant classes (1.30 p.m.) and 2.15 p.m. for all other classes. **Thursday's meetings may be deferred if further industrial action takes place.**

Early Closing: The school will close early on **Friday next 4th December** at 12.00 noon (Jun & Sen Inf) and 12.30 p.m. for a staff meeting.

Sacraments: The boys in 6th Class will be confirmed on **Friday 19th March 2010** and the boys in 2nd Class will receive their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 8th May**. More details will follow.

Football League: The Football League for 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes ended in October. Having been very lucky with the weather, everything went according to schedule. The Kerry Teams were the outright winners. We wish to thank the staff of the VEC Grounds for their cooperation, all the teachers and referees and, especially, the boys who provided such quality entertainment over the weeks.

Junior Infants: If you have a child for Junior Infants next year (Sept. 2010) who has not been registered, it is important to contact the school immediately. Applications for Junior Infants for September 2010 will be processed in January 2010.

2nd Level Schools: The High School, Templeogue College and Terenure College process their applications while boys are in 5th Class. **Please note the closing date for completed application forms for entry in 2011 for Templeogue College is January 15th 2010.**

Book Fair: Thank you parents and boys for supporting our Book Fair. We raised €5,000 of which 60% of which can be used to purchase books for our class libraries. The Fair couldn't have happened without the huge input and

careful planning provided by Ms. Barr, Ms. Hand and Ms. Martin. Well done!
(M. Úi Loingsigh)

ICT: As you may be aware we officially launched our Comenius project 'Making Europe Greener' on October 21st. Representatives from our partner schools, Sant Ignasi-Sarria in Barcelona and Meadowside in North Yorkshire visited St. Joseph's for two days. The official launch of the project was attended by pupils from each class, representatives of the Board of Management, Parents' Association, staff of many local schools and local politicians.

The project is now underway and the boys are in the process of exchanging emails with their epals, designing logos and creating Christmas decorations from recycled materials. We will also be recording some carols in Irish. The project website is www.makingeuropegreener.eu where you can get further information on our activities. This is a very exciting project for us and we hope to be hosting children and teachers from the partner schools over the next two years.

On November 16th we were honoured to have the Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen and the Minister for Education & Science, Mr. Batt O'Keefe visit the school. The occasion was the launch of the 'Smart Schools = Smart Economy' report by ICT Ireland and the very welcome announcement of €22m. for ICT in primary schools in Ireland. The model proposed for each primary school is very much in line with our ICT infrastructure in St. Joseph's. All ICT equipment in the school has been funded by the generosity of the parents and local businesses with the exception of a grant for networking and broadband which is provided free.

The Taoiseach and Minister visited classes to see ICT in action. He was accompanied by a large press entourage. We were honoured to have been chosen for this launch. Some of the RTÉ news, Irish Times and Irish Independent articles covering the event may be accessed at www.stjosephsterenure.ie/events_'09_-_'_10.htm.

We are in the process of providing laptops for pupil use in the classroom. These will be stored on a laptop trolley and each teacher may bring them to the classroom for project work etc. Accelerated Reading Programme is

now in action throughout the school and has been very warmly welcomed by pupils and teachers. It is a very comprehensive programme and has certainly enthused the pupils and increased the level of reading in the school. We will have more details on this next term as the boys will be more familiar with the system. We can then advise parents on how they can access and monitor their son's progress and scores.

News from the Parents Association

First and foremost I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your support. Huge thanks to all parents for the generous response to our annual call for voluntary contributions. If you have not yet contributed and would like to, it is not too late! Cheques should be made payable to the St Joseph's BNS Parents' Association. Contributions can be left in the school office or posted directly to the school. As you know all money raised ultimately benefits all the boys.

St Josephs Calendar 2010: The Parents' Association's latest fund raising venture is the St Joseph's 2010 Calendar. This calendar will be on sale in the school from Monday 30th November and features each boy's photograph on the month of his birth. The calendars will cost €6 each and will make great Christmas presents for all the family! Special thanks to Mr Donnelly for taking all the individual photographs of the boys.

Christmas Cake Sale - Friday 11th December 2009 in the Parish Hall

Our Christmas Cake Sale will take place on Friday the 11th December in the Parish Hall. We are hoping that you will all be able to help us in two ways:

1. By baking or buying cakes and sending them in with your son. It doesn't matter how sophisticated or simple - shop bought or home-made - all will be gratefully received.
2. By joining us between 9.30 a.m. and 3p.m. for coffee and cake. There will also be a raffle with great prizes - tickets will be on sale on the day.

Cakes can be left with members of the committee from 8.00 a.m. onwards. We welcome donations of prizes for the raffle. If you would like to donate a prize, please contact any member of the committee or donations can be

left in the school office. The boys will be given an opportunity to come over to the sale during the morning - cake prices start from as little as 50c.

Plans for this school year: As always the Parents' Association is busy planning events. After the success of last year, we are planning a Quiz Night in the spring. We are also keen to sponsor the Art Competition again. We have some other ideas for next year but as always would welcome any suggestions for events or comments from you.

After-school service for infant boys: We are still trying to progress the development of an after-school service for the infant boys between 1.30 p.m. and 2.30p.m.

Annual General Meeting: Thank you to all parents who attended the AGM in September. Amendments to the Constitution were passed and new committee members elected. A copy of the Constitution and details of all members of the committee and their contact details can be found on the parents' page of the school website. This site is password protected username: 'parents' password: 'dublin6'. A calendar of events for 2009-2010 will also shortly be posted on the parents' page.

As usual, you can contact us at parents@stjosephstereenure.ie or via any member of the committee. **Julie Ling, President, St Joseph's BNS Parents Association**

Dates for your diary

<i>Parent/Teacher Meetings:</i>	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th December
<i>Staff Meeting:</i>	Fri 4 th Dec. Closing 12.00 & 12.30p.m.
<i>Christmas Cake Sale:</i>	Friday 11 th December
<i>Toy Sunday:</i>	13 th December
<i>Christmas Holidays:</i>	Tues 22 nd Dec at 12.00 & 12.30 p.m. Re-open Thurs 7 th January 2010
<i>Feb Mid-Term:</i>	Closed Mon 15 th to Fri 19 th Feb inclusive
<i>Confirmation:</i>	Fri 19 th March

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