



**ST. JOSEPH'S BOYS' SCHOOL**  
**NEWS-UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2011**



**The school will be closed from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> inclusive for mid-term. The school will close at the usual time of 1.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no swimming on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

***Fun Quiz:*** The Parents Association Fun Quiz will take place on ***Thursday night 17<sup>th</sup> February*** in the CYM Sports Grounds at 8.00 p.m.

***School Building/Maintenance:*** The Board of Management would like to thank all the parents who contributed so generously to the voluntary appeal for school funds. The school building fund continues to expand and contracts have been signed for the commencement of works over the mid-term break. Unfortunately, the building works will cause considerable disruption and will pose problems for everyone accessing the school. We are hopeful at this stage that the former Sunday World site will be made available to the builder for the purpose of accessing the school site. Special instructions will be sent to all parents regarding the building programme when more details are available.

We have seen exceptional expenditure incurred by the school this year, in particular the special polymeric playsafe surface which has been put in the junior yard. The resurfacing will be completed when the building work has finished.

***Water Conservation Measures:*** The Department of Education and Skills funded special water conservation measures for the school during the Christmas holidays. This involved the replacement of cisterns and the removal of coldwater taps in the wash-hand basins. This work has just been completed at a cost of €5,500.

***Summer Works Scheme:*** A proposal to upgrade the single glazed windows at the school to double glazing as a Summer Works Project has been submitted to the Department of Education and Skills. We should know in March if we have been successful.

***Croke Park Agreement:*** Under the terms of the Croke Park Agreement all staff meetings will now be held outside of official school hours. **This means that we will no longer close early for staff meetings.**

**Cor Fheile:** Boys from the 4<sup>th</sup> Class, Ms. McCabe's 5<sup>th</sup> Class and Ms. O'Riordan's recorder group will make their way to the Basketball Arena to participate in Corfhéile na Scoileanna on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30p.m. More details to follow.

**Confirmation and First Holy Communion details:**

**Confirmation** - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00 a.m.  
Service of Light - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 8.00 p.m.  
Meeting for Parents - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 p.m.

**First Holy Communion** - Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00 a.m.  
Sacrament of Penance - Tues 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 p.m.  
Meeting for Parents - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 p.m.

**Credit Union Quiz:** Well done to our school quiz teams who have collected two victories recently. Just before Christmas our team, made up of Oisín Quinn, Cathal Deveney, Dylan O'Brien, James O'Brien and Hugh Pendergast won the Marty Nevin trophy in a quiz held in Zion National School. Last Friday in Rathfarnham our junior team with Oisín, Sean Heeran, Barry Corish and Kevin Black were successful in the annual Credit Union Quiz and won a laptop for the school. This quiz is organised and generously sponsored by Rathfarnham and District Credit Union. They now go on to take part in the South Dublin area final with a place in the All Ireland final at stake. One of our senior teams (Jonathan Burke, Sam Keane, David Croke and Daniel Mitchell) were unlucky to lose out to Ballyroan in a playoff for first place. Also representing the school were James O'Brien, Evan Byrne, Oliver Kelly, Jack Townsend, David Durkan, Ciarán Dunne, Rory Clark, James Byrne, Ben Doyle, Tom Muldoon, Ciarán Nagle, Michael Carey and Brian Barrett.

**Senior Football Team:** Tuesday January 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 went into the annals of school history when our senior football team defeated a strong St. Pius' team at Croke Park, to bring home Corn na nGearaltach. This trophy for Senior Division II was first contested in the 1940s and we were continuing a long standing tradition in the school, as our first Cumann na mBunscol trophy was won over 75 years ago in 1935. After a campaign stretching back to September when we were defeated by St. Pius' last minute goal, this was a deserved reward for months of hard work. The stand out memory from our path to the final was the quarter final over three games v Ballygall when our team refused to accept a seemingly inevitable defeat on at least three occasions, before coming out on top.

After the coldest December on record we had a few valuable training sessions early in the New Year. January 11<sup>th</sup> was still dawning mild and bright as we met up in the carpark of the Croke Park Hotel at 9.20am. Soon we were on the famous pitch doing

our warm-up just around where Daniel Goulding kicked three 45s in the last 10 minutes of the 2010 All Ireland final. The early stages of the game Conn O'Riordan netted two fine goals to cancel out a goal and four points from Pius. Just before halftime we got an important break when a great shot from Graeme Carroll found the top corner of the net to put us into a one goal lead at the break. St. Pius restarted strongly and cut our lead down to one point. However, we struck back with points from Conn and Gavin Brady, and when Conn flicked in Graeme's cross to complete his hat-trick we had a winning lead.

Superb defending and blocking throughout the pitch was one of the key factors while injury to our outstanding captain Jack McVeigh for the last ten minutes was not felt as Neil Bennett came on and stormed into the game. David Lynch performed superbly all through the final, setting up several scores while at the back Jack Gallagher, Sean Heeran and Conor Doyle stood out in helping turn the tide in our favour.

Overall, a job very well done by everyone, including the very supportive parents. Our thanks are due to CDVEC and Faughs for the use of their facilities for training. We also wish to thank Mr. Gary Gleeson, Mr. Mark Monaghan, Mr. Colin McKeeman and Mr. George Kelly for their excellent photos which can be seen at [www.stjosephsterenure.ie/mrring](http://www.stjosephsterenure.ie/mrring).

**Junior Football Team:** Finally we have reached the Holy Grail and won the Junior League. It has taken us a few years but we have achieved our goal. We began our journey in September against St. Mary's and after a hard fought victory we were on our way. Subsequent victories against Knocklyon, Bishop Galvin and St. Pius ensured that we had the success we craved. Great credit must be given to the whole panel for their dedication and commitment which they gave throughout the campaign. They were a credit to their parents, teachers and school and a major source of encouragement to the seniors. Five of the junior panel had the distinction of winning the junior and senior (Corn na nGearaltach) leagues, namely Sean Heeran, Tom Muldoon, Robert Moran, Brian Barrett and Harry Boyden. With so many talented footballers currently on the junior panel, the future augurs well for, not only St. Joseph's but for Dublin. No doubt we will see many of these boys wear the blue of Dublin in the very near future. To celebrate the fact that it is the first time that both junior and senior football titles were won in the same season we had the honour of Dublin midfielder, Michael Daragh McAuley coming to the school on Tuesday last, to present the medals to the boys of both the junior and senior teams.

**Swimming:** Swimming continues in Terenure College. We have had great fun learning to swim and improving our techniques. Swimming classes takes place on Saturday nights in Terenure Swimming Pool. We have two lessons of 45 minutes duration. The first lesson is at 6.00 p.m. and the second lesson begins at 6.45 p.m. Our new session began on February 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue until June 25<sup>th</sup>. There are currently a few places available in the second session for any children who may be interested in joining. Thanks to all the parents and children for their continued support. As usual the Junior and Senior Galas will take place in June.

**Golf:** Preparation for the Junior Golf Champion Cup in May continues. The boys have completed one golf lesson with the pro at the Spawell Driving Range and more sessions will take place once the weather picks up.

**Comenius Project** [www.makingeuropegreener.eu](http://www.makingeuropegreener.eu)

Making Europe Greener, involves pupils and teachers from the partnership schools looking at issues of environment, sustainability, community, health and well being and how these issues will affect our future lives. The project includes exchange of emails between pupils, development of a website [www.makingeuropegreener.eu](http://www.makingeuropegreener.eu), exchanging creative objects and ideas and cultural exchanges. Our European partners in this project are Sant Ignasi-Sarria School in Barcelona and Meadowside CP school in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. The most important aspect of the project is the cultural exchange between the schools. To date we have hosted pupils and teachers from Barcelona and Knaresborough in our school over the past year. We recently travelled to North Yorkshire with six boys from 6<sup>th</sup> class. This was the first time in the history of St. Joseph's that we travelled outside of Ireland with pupils from the school. In Knaresborough we met with the pupils and teachers from Barcelona. We joined the Year 6 pupils in Meadowside for various activities, visited the science museum in Sheffield and took an open top bus tour of York. It was a very enjoyable and educational experience for all. You may get a glimpse of some of the activities on the project website [www.makingeuropegreener.eu](http://www.makingeuropegreener.eu)

We will be hosting pupils from Barcelona in St. Joseph's during the first week of April. In May, pupils and teachers will travel from St. Joseph's to Barcelona for the closing ceremony and completion of the project.

There are many other classroom activities scheduled for the rest of the year in relation to the project. Full details of the work being done are available on the website. The project is funded by Léargas, the National Agency in Ireland for the management of national and international exchange and cooperation programmes in education.