



St. Joseph's Boys' School, Terenure NEWS-UPDATE — FEBRUARY 2009

The school will be closed on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th February for mid-term. There will be no swimming on Saturday 21st February.

Change to the School Calendar in May and June: The Board of Management has decided, following consultation with staff, Parents' Executive and the Presentation Convent to change the school closings which were planned for May '09. This decision was made following communication from the Sheriff's Office that the school will be used for election purposes on either 4th or 5th June. This would mean that the school will be open for only two days of the week of 1st to 5th June. In view of this it has been decided that the school will remain open on Friday 1st May and Friday 29th May and close for the full week of 1st to 5th June inclusive.



Would you like the school to change its opening and closing times?? In order to facilitate parents who have children at St. Joseph's and the Presentation Convent and other schools, the Board of Management and staff are willing to change our school opening and closing times provided the majority of parents are in agreement. The proposed changes are as follows: The school to open at 8.40a.m. instead of 8.50a.m. and to close at 2.20p.m. instead of 2.30p.m. The closing times for infants would be 1.20p.m. instead of 1.30p.m. A survey will be carried out later to find out the views of our parents.

Cór Fheile: Our annual Cór Fhéile will take place on Wed 4th March at 7.30p.m. in the Basketball Arena. Approximately 120 children are involved including the Junior and Senior Choir, Recorder Ensemble and the Tin Whistle Band. Teachers involved are Ms. Maher, Ms. O'Riordan and Ms. McCabe.

Rock climbing: The boys from 6th and 5th Class are attending Westwood Climbing wall presently. Places will be available on Wednesdays for 5th and 4th class in March. Mr Ó Riain will be circulating leaflets to the boys who are interested in participating.

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.



Credit Union School Quiz: Congratulations go to Mr. Ring, Ms. Bleahene and their teams in taking 1st Prize in the Junior A category at the Credit Unions Schools' Quiz in Rathfarnham. We wish them well in their next round.

Junior A Team: Conor Evans, Sam O'Leary, Brian Moran and Ciaran Dunne.

Junior B Team: Neil Seery, Sean Conroy, Patrick Griffin and Niall Maher.

Senior Teams: Ruairí Gallagher, Diarmuid Gallagher, Anees Niazi, Luke Gilligan, Conor Seery, Seán Lowney, Brian Gillespie and Fergal Moran.

Speech and Drama: The Irish Board of Speech and Drama will hold their annual examinations in communication skills, public speaking and choral verse speaking on 30th March and 31st March. More details will follow.

School Play: Shortly before the Easter holidays Mr. O'Flynn's class will perform their play "A Shopping Experience" in the parish hall. The exact date has yet to be fixed but all parents, pupils and friends are welcome to attend. Proceeds will be in aid of the Smile Train Foundation. More details will follow.



Young Scientist Exhibition: The 2009 Young Scientist Exhibition was a big success for Mr. O'Flynn's 6th Class. Their project was an experimental one with a practical demonstration to illustrate how the Titanic might have survived hitting the iceberg. The boys were exemplary in their work and conduct. They displayed their stand for two full days. They worked hard over Christmas preparing for the event and preparing the stand and illustrations. Well done to all 30 of them.

IT: We have now introduced our Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, to 2nd and more recently to 1st class. Each pupil from 1st to 6th class has his own unique username and password. This is a very safe environment for boys to send messages, access resources, upload their work from at home or school. We have many interactive exercises and quizzes available and the scores are recorded. Each pupil may monitor his own progress. Moodle also allows

us to publish material that may not be suitable for the school website. All pupils have access to this facility on the internet.

We are in the process of introducing an Accelerated Reading Programme that will monitor each pupil's reading. This along with a new Comenius project with a selection of other European schools should be in place by September. Please check out our website at www.stjosephsterenure.ie for examples of pupils' work, podcasts, music etc. There is now a new secure area for parents' issues as mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter. We would ask that the username and password would be kept within the school community.

Handball: The boys from 5th and 6th Class took part in the Cumann na mBunscol competition in Croke Park on Thursday 5th February. The boys performed very well, winning the majority of their games in singles and doubles. This was a great achievement considering it was the first time some of the boys had played on a proper court. A special word of thanks to Mr. Joe Varley for promoting handball in the school.

Team:

- U13 Singles:** Daniel Varley, Captain
- U13 Doubles:** Rian Doyle, Diarmuid Gallagher, Ruairí Gallagher
- U11 singles:** Conor Evans
- U11 Doubles:** Killian Prendergast, Killian Ambrose.

NB Green News: The Greenhome theme this term is energy-saving. You are asked to discuss this important topic with your child and to read and fill in the 8-page booklet (which your child has already received) before the end of this term. On completion, each participating household will be awarded an Energy-Saving Certificate. As part of Art class boys are producing energy-saving slogans which will form a display on our greenboards. Remember, saving energy doesn't just make sense ... it also makes cents!!!



Hurling: Both the Junior and Senior Hurlers have commenced training every Monday at 3.00 p.m. The Junior Hurlers will play their matches on Tuesdays and the Senior Hurlers will play their matches on Thursdays. Lifts and support would be greatly appreciated, especially for the matches. A big word of thanks to the Parents' Association for sponsoring the junior hurling jerseys and to the VEC for letting us use their pitches.

Important Dates:

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| Confirmation: | Meeting for Parents: | Tues 17th Feb |
| | Prayer Service of Light: | Wed 18th March |
| | Confirmation Day | Wed 25th March |
| 1st Holy Communion | Meeting for Parents: | Tues 24th Feb |
| | Sacrament of Penance: | Tues 10th March |
| | First Holy Communion | Sat 9th May |

News from the Parents' Association

The Christmas Cake Sale on the 19th December 2008 was a huge success. Lovely cakes of all types, sizes and descriptions were delivered to the Parish Hall. It was a very sociable occasion with customers coming from far and wide with many staying for coffee and a chat. Thank you to all the bakers, buyers and sellers for helping us to raise over €2,000. This money has been allocated to buy jerseys for the hurling and football teams and to purchase some new musical instruments. We hope to hold another Cake Sale at the end of the summer term on Friday **26th June 2009**.

Our next event will be a **Quiz night** will take place on **1st April 2009 at 7.30pm at CYM in Terenure**. More details will follow closer to the time. The Parent's Association is sponsoring an **Art Competition** for the boys which will take place during the summer term. More details will follow.

Website: The Parents' Association has updated the parents' page on the school website. It contains information on the activities of the Parent Association, names and contact details of committee members and even a copy of the constitution. To ensure that you are kept up-to-date on issues currently being addressed by the committee, minutes of Parent Association meetings will also be available on this site. Access is via the school website www.stjosephsterenure.ie/parents The password is protected to ensure only parents can access the page. The username is **parents** and the password is **dublin6**. If you wish to contact us please feel free to speak to any member of the committee, or email us at parents@stjosephsterenure.ie We look forward to seeing you at our next event and would like to thank you once again for your support. *Julie Ling, President, Parents' Association*