



As the school year draws to a close at St. Joseph's BNS, parents and teachers alike comment on how fast it has flown. Perhaps the week of good weather made us forget the cold winter and wet spring. However, whatever the weather there were so many highlights this year to brighten the duller days.

The victory in Croke Park was paid for in toil and sweat by a team that did not know the meaning of the word defeat. The athletes in Santry Stadium had their best year for a long time. The Comenius visit by the Spanish children and teachers from Barcelona and Italy was a roaring success as was the return visit by the boys from St. Joseph's who did us proud. To top all events was the victory of the Junior Quiz Team in the All Ireland (yes you did read correctly) Final at the RDS. These are just some of the events that made the year a great success and you can read of other events further on in detail.

Sadly we will have to cope with the departure of two fine teachers – Ms. Mary Keane is retiring and Mr. Eoin Reilly who has finished his temporary position here in St. Joseph's. We welcome back Ms. Serena Mulhall who will return to the school in September.

The success of this year is due to the collaboration of many forces, teachers, pupils, parents, SNAs and management. The positive atmosphere in St. Joseph's is born of a creative enthusiasm to further the development and growth of the boys and instil a desire to learn and discover. We hope, as we do every year, to take this to the next level starting in September with fresh ideas and projects for the boys.

At the back of this newsletter you will find the calendar for the school year 2013 – 2014 to help you plan for holidays etc.

Lidl: As you are aware Lidl are planning to build a store in the former Sunday World site. We have been informed by the property manager of Lidl that the building will commence Monday 24th June and the expected completion date is December 2013. We have been assured by the company that they will make every effort to keep disruption and noise to a minimum and that the safety of the children will be of utmost importance to them. We would ask for your patience and understanding during this phase of construction and we will keep you informed of developments.

Board of Management: We extend a special word of thanks to all members of the Board who commit themselves in such a selfless manner on behalf of our school community. School management is a complex process which demands wise and consummate skills and we are most grateful to Fr. McDonnell, our Chairperson, to the parents, teachers and community representatives for their voluntary commitment to the management of our school.



Members of the Board:

Very Rev. F. McDonnell, Mr. Gerard Whyte, Ms. Carmel Durkan, Ms. K. Sweeney, Mr. Sean Kenny, Mr. John Grant, Ms. Ros Quinn & Ms. Anne McCabe.

School Attendance and the Education Welfare Act 2000: Parents are advised of the following requirements regarding school attendance under the Education Welfare Act. Section 21 of the Act obliges the Principal of the school to maintain a record of:

- (i) ***all pupil absences for each school year and***
- (ii) ***the reasons for each absence.***

The school Principal is obliged to notify the school's Education Welfare Officer when a pupil is absent for twenty or more school days and when a pupil is not attending school regularly. In order to implement these requirements the Board of Management has decided that when a pupil returns to school following absence, the class teacher should be informed

in writing of the reasons for the absence (email is not acceptable). The school is obliged to keep the written records which may be inspected by the school's Education Welfare Officer.

School Uniform: Thank you to all parents for your co-operation in implementing the school policy on school uniform. It is still important to remind some of our pupils that they are requested to wear a plain white tee-shirt – logo free – with their track-suit on PE days. It is important for the boys to have an identity mark on items of clothing such as tracksuit top and bottom, sweater, tie and coat.

Mobile Phones: Children with mobile phones must have them switched off during school hours. Mobile phones with photographic or recording capability may not be used in any way which will offend the privacy of any school individual and/or be damaging to the reputation of the school.

Dogs: Parents are advised that dogs should not be taken into the school premises as the Board of Management is concerned that an accident could arise if a dog became upset or stressed for any reason while in the school grounds or classroom.

Insurance: The Board of Management is concerned in relation to its duty of care to the large number of pupils who come into the school premises before the official starting time of 8.50 a.m. The school insurance applies to pupils within school hours and during teacher supervised activities outside of school hours. **The Board cannot accept responsibility for pupils arriving before 8.50 a.m. A similar situation arises in relation to caring for pupils after school hours. The Board does not accept responsibility for pupils who await collection after 2.30 p.m.**

Personal Accident Insurance: The Board of Management requests all parents to subscribe to the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. Details of the scheme are outlined below at a cost of €6.00. This premium has been included in the children's school expenses payable in September.

- **Operative Time:** 24 HOUR COVER i.e. while participating in school related activities, including travel to and from such activities and also in the course of social and leisure activities outside school hours, to 31st August 2013.

- ***Schedule of Benefits***

Death by Accident	€30,000
Permanent total loss of sight in one eye or use of one limb	€100,000
Permanent total loss of sight in both eyes or use of both limbs	€150,000
Permanent total disablement	€200,000
Total and irrecoverable loss of hearing in one ear.	€40,000
Total or irrecoverable loss of hearing in both ears.	€100,000
Medical expenses (including ambulance) not recoverable from any other source	€50,000
Dental expenses not recoverable from any her source	€50,000
Loss of Speech	€40,000
Hospital confinement payable per complete day (24 hour period) which shall continue whilst confined but not beyond 90 days from the day on which the insured person was confined.	€20.00

Parent Association: Once again a very special thank you to the Parent body for their great work on behalf of the school. St. Joseph’s School would be much diminished without their wonderful work.

This summer Ms. Julie Ling (former President), Mr. Liam Gleeson, Ms. Catherine Byrne and Ms. Grainne O’Brien will resign from the committee. They have given years of outstanding service to our school community and we are most grateful to them. Thank You!

We also say thank-you to all our parents who contribute so generously to the maintenance and upkeep of the school. The tangible response by parents to our school appeals and functions is a great source of support and strength to us all.

Message from the President, Parent Association.

“On behalf of the Parent Association Committee, I would like to thank you, the parents and boys of the school, for your support and practical help over the past year which ensured that all of our organised events ran smoothly. I hope that they were an enjoyable experience for all involved. I’d also like to thank the PA Committee for all their hard work and dedication, in particular those parents who are now leaving.

Our main fund-raising activities this year included sale of personalised Christmas Cards, the Christmas Cake Sale, Annual Quiz Night and Raffle, Bag2School clothing collection and Summer Cake Sale.

In spite of the challenging economic climate, we still surpassed our target of funds, all of which will go to enhance the social and educational development of our boys. The money raised this year has funded: Wildlife Nature Studies (Andrew Flemming-‘Mouse’), Music Teacher (Julie Lowry), Accelerated Reading Programme, Sports Day and sports-related equipment, Prizes for Art Competition, Extra art materials for class, Refreshments for a variety of events, T-shirts for 6th class boys at end of year, Dry-cleaning or replacement of blazers and contribution towards professional advice regarding Lidl planning application.

Other events: Annual Social Night, Blazer Rental Scheme for communion and confirmation classes, Communion Party and preparation of the Church, Talk on ‘Concussion Awareness and Pitch-side First Aid, Art Competition, Talk for 5th and 6th class parents from Accord, Inaugural St Joseph’s BNS Art Exhibition, Uniform exchange at the Christmas Cake Sale, Issuing of receipts for Voluntary Collections, Talk for 5th and 6th class parents on Transition to Secondary School, Provision of the After-School Service in conjunction with Manor Montessori Nursery, Provision of refreshments at the New Parents’ Meeting, 6th class Mass, etc.

This year there is also a new Parents’ notice board in the main corridor with updated newsletters from the PA about upcoming events and plenty of space for other relevant notices. We would welcome any

suggestions or comments from the parents either at parents@stjosephsterenure.ie, the suggestion box or via any member of the Committee. We are also in the process of updating our webpage on the school website with the help of Mr. Donnelly.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th September 2013 and we hope to combine it with an invited speaker and topic that will be relevant to all parents so please put the date in your diary!"

*Deirdre Smith,
Chairperson*

School Activities

Confirmation and First Holy Communion: Congratulations to the boys from 6th Class who were confirmed by Bishop Eamon Walsh on 7th March and also the boys of 2nd Class who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 11th May. These were very special occasions for their families and we thank all those involved for the great work in preparing the boys for their special day.

Charities: The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has once again extended a special word of thanks to all the children and their parents for the wonderful gifts that were presented at our Toy Sunday Mass. Thanks also for the wonderful response to our 2012 Christmas Shoebox Appeal and the Trocaire Lenten Campaign. Your generosity will make a real and lasting difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

Credit Union Quiz: To win a local event is a fairly big deal for a school. To win a regional event is bigger again and to win a national event is headline news. The boys of St. Joseph's - Jacob Hudson, Eoin Meenaghan, Gavan Coyle and Fionn Moynihan, won 1st prize in the All Ireland Credit Union Quiz held at RDS. The road to the final involved tough rounds but the team shone through and they are eligible for next year's senior team. A quick look at the questions would put most adults off competing (they may be on the school website at a later date). Well

done to the team, the manager Mr. Ring and all the boys who competed. Our thanks to Rita Cullen and all at Rathfarnham Credit Union for organising the local heat enabling us to go on to become champions.

Drama: The annual Terenure Drama Competition held in Terenure College was a competitive event in 2013 with four teams competing for the coveted trophy. Mr. O’Flynn’s Class represented the school with a play called “Pup Fiction, le Royale”. A comedy based on a story of a Dublin man who inherits what he believes to be a champion greyhound but turns out to be a food loving Irish wolfhound! The boys gave a stellar display of acting and delivery of comic lines and were rewarded with 2nd place to a deserving win by Our Lady of the Wayside, Kiltarnan. Gracious in defeat the boys gained a wealth of experience for the event and the Oscars may never be safe when they hit the big screen in the future.



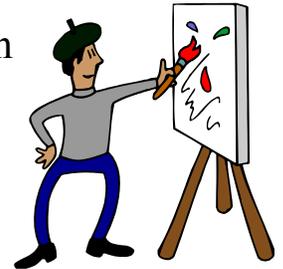
Comenius www.windowoneurope.eu

We have completed the first year of our second Comenius project. A Window on Europe – Learning to Learn. Our partner schools on the project are from Spain, Norway, Italy, France and Poland. The two main aspects to the project are classroom based exchange activities and travel between schools in the partner countries. This year we exchanged emails, designed logos and compared traditions, legends, lunches and daily routines. Teachers from St. Joseph’s visited partner schools in Poland and Italy. Pupils and teachers from Italy and Barcelona came to visit us at St. Joseph’s. We would like to thank the many parents that hosted Spanish or Italian pupils for an evening during this time. In return, eight boys from St. Joseph’s visited Sant Ignasi School in Barcelona on June 10th. There they were joined by pupils and teachers from Italy, Poland, Norway and France.

We are delighted to be hosting the closing ceremony for the project in St. Joseph’s in May 2014. This will be attended by pupils and teachers from the partner schools and should be one of the highlights of the next school year.

The project is funded by Léargas, the National Agency in Ireland for the management of national and international exchange and co-operation programmes in education.

Art Exhibition: St. Joseph's inaugural Art Exhibition which was held in May and sponsored by the Parent Association was a wonderful event, enjoyed by all. The standard of art work was extremely impressive across all age groups. Many thanks to all the boys, parents and teachers for all their hard work.



School Council: In 2012/2013 the very first School Council in St. Joseph's was established. Members were elected in every class from 3rd upwards. Council members were actively involved in school events like the Comenius visit, Christmas Card Project and Art Exhibition throughout the year. A huge thank you to all our school council boys. Elections for next year have already taken place.

Our Musical Year 2012/2013: As usual this year, classes continued the tradition of in-school mini concerts, so all of the boys got to perform for a selection of their schoolmates on a few occasions.



At Christmas the infant classes, took to the stage in fabulous costumes to sing and act the birth of Jesus. Many events of the school calendar were beautifully enhanced by choir performances this year. 6th Class sang at the beginning of year Mass, the boys of 5th and 4th Classes rang in Christmas at Toy Sunday and both 4th and 5th Classes helped the recipients of the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion make their days extra special.

Córfhéile na Scoileanna is an annual non-competitive music festival involving approximately 2,000 primary school children. In March St. Joseph's was once more represented by almost 120 of our pupils, to the great enjoyment of all present. Ms O'Riordan's Recorder Ensemble played classical and swing with beautiful true tones. Ms. Maher's 4th were joined by the two third classes and the early morning Offbeat Club

for a sweet lullaby, some jazzy singing, and a lively variation on What Shall we Do With a Drunken Sailor. All of which included a tuned percussion band and a string / flute ensemble. Well done to all of our pupils and keep up the music.

St Joseph's BNS A Capella Choir: The first rehearsal for the St Joseph's A Capella Choir took place last Wednesday 16th January. (Don't worry if you missed the first rehearsal). The choir's membership comes from within the parent group of the school and the music of the choir will be based at least initially on Irish, English, Scottish and North American folk repertoire. There are still some places available for members. We still have some spaces for sopranos and altos but in particular we need some dads to fill the tenor and bass lines. This is a chance to get to know other parents and have some fun along the way. Also this is an amateur choir so please do not worry about whether you are good enough. All necessary coaching will be provided! If this sounds interesting, please contact Ciara at 0877487786.

Reading: Lots of boys participated in the St. Joseph's/ESB/INTO Handwriting Competition and the winning entries from each class were displayed along the school corridor. Their different writing scripts displayed great personality and style. Well done to all participants.



Writing workshops were held for the two 1st Classes. At Marie Burlington's workshop the children were encouraged to develop their creative and wonderful imaginations. The two 5th Classes enjoyed a visit from the author Aubrey Flegg. He discussed his novel "The Cinnamon Tree" and he enthralled the boys' as he told them about his youth and how he became a writer.

The Inter-Class Paired Reading was very successful again this year. The senior boys read to the junior boys once a week for 30 minutes and they all loved the experience. Next October we look forward to the Celtic Book Fair visiting the school with many new and exciting publications.

Accelerated Reading: Congratulations to the boys who read and took quizzes on over 11,681 books during the year to date. 98,061,414 words were read.

Our Accelerated Reading program was launched in September 2009 and it has been going from strength to strength. Each pupil from 1st to 6th class was tested at the beginning of the year and was then assigned a range of books that were appropriate to his age and his reading ability. Growth is measured by further testing during the year.

This has been a highly successful project in which technology is used to promote, develop and monitor reading levels of each boy in the school. Information on how you can access **Home Connect** which gives you access to your son's progress and parents' guides on the programme may be found on the school website <http://stjosephsterenure.ie/ar/>. By entering your email address in Home Connect you can receive emails with your son's score each time he completes a test.

ICT - School website: We use the school website to display and publish pupils' work, celebrate achievements in all aspects of school life and inform parents and the others of school activities. It is regularly updated and can be accessed at www.stjosephsterenure.ie. Please add it to your favourites and keep informed.



Contact Details: It is very important that we have your correct email address and mobile number for a least one parent in each family so that you will be able to receive emails and texts from the school and newsletters and other notifications delivered electronically during the year. To update your contact details log into <http://stjosephsterenure.ie/parents-info/contact-info/>.

All pupils from 1st to 6th class have accounts on our Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle. As you are probably aware the pupils upload assignments, (creative writing, projects etc.) as well as using the message facility for communication. This year boys from 3rd to 6th classes created their own interactive exercises to develop vocabulary skills. As each exercise is completed Moodle records the scores and analyses the answers given. Moodle is only accessible to pupils from St. Joseph's.

Pupils and parents may access this software 24/7 by logging on to the VLE at <http://moodle.stjosephsterenure.ie>. Your son can give you his username and password to access the site.

Voluntary Groups: We are extremely lucky to have the expertise of the following Clubs who coach the boys in the school during the year: Faughs Hurling Club, Leinster Rugby, Synge St/Temploeague Football Club and CYM Cricket Club. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the variety and novelty of new sports.



Tennis: Well done to the boys who represented the school in the Leinster Junior Primary Schools Tennis Championship with dignity and good sportsmanship. They did us proud. Thanks to all the parents who assisted with lifts and practice sessions and a special thanks to Ms. Aideen Quinlan (parent) and Ms. Lalor who made it all possible.

Golf: The school participated again this year in the Junior Golf Ireland – Castle Schools Cup 2013. The boys performed really well and did St. Joseph's proud.

Athletics: The London Olympic effect filtered through to St. Joseph's this year with renewed interest in athletics. Mr. O'Flynn's and Ms. Harte's classes ran daily laps of the school yard to keep fit and this paid off when it came to our performance in the 85th edition of the Dublin Primary School Sports in Morton Stadium, Santry at the end of May. Competing with 41 other schools in Section A, the standard was very high in all events but overall the boys did the school proud and really enjoyed themselves over two days in Santry, with eleven of them returning with medals. Hugh Prendergast ran the race of his life in the 100m sprint and took the gold and then the silver in the 500m long distance race. The U 10 and U 12 relay teams took bronze in very competitive fields. Mr. Ring was instrumental in our relay win with a number of coaching sessions which help perfect a clean changeover, the key to winning a relay. Before you ask team USA, he is not available! A special word of thanks to all the boys who came along as helpers over the two days as they all played a part in ensuring the smooth running of the



events. We hope to step up our preparation next year with more regular training in the run-up to Santry so all interested athletes from 2nd class to 5th should get out and run to stay fit over the summer! Photos and video clips of Santry can be seen <http://stjosephsterenure.ie/mrring/>

Autumn Football League: Having been lucky with the weather our 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class Football League went according to schedule. We wish to thank the staff of the VEC Grounds for facilitating us yet again in the use of their grounds and to all the teachers, referees and especially the boys who provided such quality football over the weeks.

Cup Success in Croke Park. Our league campaign involved games against Scoil San Treasa, and St. Pius. We then beat St. Olaf's in an inspired performance at the quarter final stage in Marley Park. We followed this up with a great win in the semi-final against St. Helen's, Portmarnock. This set up a mouth-watering final against our neighbours St. Pius in Croke Park. This turned out to be a match of the highest order with very little separating the teams at the final whistle. There were great performances from all players on the day and they did us proud. Well done to all the parents for their commitment and support throughout the year.

Junior Hurlings/Junior Football: This year in the hurling we entered two teams in two separate competitions. Our Junior A Team came upon stiff competition in the shape of St. Laurence's, St. Mary's, Scoil San Treasa and St. Pius. However, we did have one victory in seeing off Scoil Colmcille's. Four of the Junior Team were on the victorious Senior Team and many more of this team will be playing senior hurling next year. Our Junior B Team found life difficult coming up against formidable opposition but as some of the team were only in 3rd Class the future looks bright. The Junior Football team, coached by Ms. Byrne (assisted by Mr. Hallinan) played in five closely contested games but were unlucky to register just one victory. A special word of thanks must go to the parents for their support and lifts to and from the matches.

Senior Football: Our two Senior Football Teams distinguished themselves during September and October with several fine, sporting displays. It was great to have over forty boys representing the school every week, all hoping to emulate past pupils Dublin Seniors Denis Bastick (class of 1993) and Eoghan O’Gara (1998) as well as Niall O’Sullivan (2007) and Brendan Bentley (2006) who were on the Dublin Minor Squad which won the 2012 All Ireland Final. We started the season with a good friendly victory over local rivals St. Pius X. Competing in the Div 1 Corn Kitterick is always tough and our first league game ended in defeat to Drimnagh Castle (5-5 to 9-9) following a poor second half display. Our next game was a heavy defeat by St. Brigid’s, Castleknock and our third league loss v Kilmacud saw us into the Shield section of the competition. A good friendly victory over St. Michael’s restored confidence and the quarter final of the Shield v Scoil Eoin Bosco played in Castleknock saw one of the most memorable comebacks in St. Joseph’s history. Another great effort in the semi-final v Malahide was not enough to qualify for the final.

Our second team also enjoyed a great season and recorded a good win over Knocklyon. A special word of thanks to all the parents who helped us with transport and washing of jerseys.

Annual Sports Evening: Our school sports evening was held on Thursday 23rd May. The evening was cool but thankfully the rain held off! Our 5th and 6th class boys got the evening off to a speedy start with their well-run relays and long distance races. On the inside, infants were preparing themselves to grab their skittles and run like the wind. Our 1st class boys flung themselves through their assault course, while the 2nd classes carefully guided their ball and spoon towards the finish line. Our 3rd and 4th class stealthily moved towards the finish line. Three legs in 5th class and wheelbarrows in 6th all made for fun novelty races.

Due to imminent rain, the Moms’ and Dads’ novelty races had to be abandoned. We would like to congratulate all the boys for participating so enthusiastically. Our thanks to Nick and Ken in the VEC Grounds for all their help and the many other school events during the year. Well done to everybody and looking forward to 2014 le cunamh De!



Message from Mr. Hallinan:

“We have just finished our swimming lessons for the year which began way back last September in Terenure Swimming Pool. On 15th June we had our Junior Gala and then on 22nd we had our Senior Gala. There were numerous winners in the Infant Section and the Senior Gala again had some nail biting finishes amidst great excitement. Over the two nights, a huge number of parents and children were entertained by some marvelous swimming and we were treated to some fantastic competitive races.

A special thanks to coaches, Bobby, Darina and Andrew for all their work during the year. Also, I’d like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the parents for their continued support and dedication throughout the year and I hope their efforts and coaching were evident in the galas. Ms. McCabe has kindly allowed me to continue organising the swimming next year. I’m very grateful to her. In September I will visit the school to take the names of those who would like to do the swimming next year.

I look forward to seeing you in September when we will again begin, not only our preparations for next year’s Galas but more importantly teaching more children how to swim and improving those who can already swim. If you are interested in your child swimming next year please let me know in September 2013 or let Josephine in the office know. Thanks again! In the meantime -

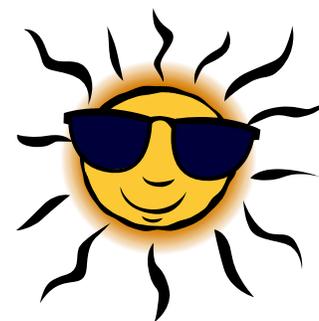
REMEMBER: ALWAYS BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU ARE SWIMMING, SWIM ONLY IN A SAFE PLACE, NEVER ALONE AND ALWAYS WITH ADULT SUPERVISION.”

E. Hallinan

After School Activities: Much fun was had by all in the after school activities of chess, drama, art and music. Classes will resume in term 1 of the coming year. New faces are always welcome.

Camp Joeys: Camp Joeys will run for the first two weeks of July. Looking forward to having lots of fun with our campers!! Fingers crossed the sun will shine for us!

Finally: We look forward to the school holidays which begin on Friday 28th June at 12.00 noon for infant classes and 12.30 for the rest of the school. We hope everybody in St. Joseph's School Community will have an enjoyable and safe summer. We re-open on Monday 2nd September at 8.50 a.m. 'Till then – Slan.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2013 – 2014

School opens on Monday 2nd September

Halloween: Closed Mon 28th October to Fri 1st Nov incl.

Christmas: Closed Mon 23rd Dec to Fri 3rd January incl.

Feb. Closed Thurs 20th and Fri 21st Feb.

March: Closed Mon 17th and Tues 18th March.

Easter: Closed Mon 14th April to Fri 25th April

June: Closed Mon 2nd & Tues 3rd June

Summer Holidays – Closing Friday 27th June