

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK, OCTOBER 2015.

Congratulations and Many Thanks to everyone on the successful start of the School Year 2015-2016. We welcome all the new Junior Infants, Pupils who have joined other classes as well as the Six Children in our new ASD Early Intervention Class

- **STAFFING:** We welcome Mr. O'Brien as a Permanent member of Staff, Miss O'Connell to work in Reading Recovery, Miss Nolan to teach 1st /2nd class and Miss Olivia Egan to teach Junior Infants . We congratulate Ms. Russell on the birth of a baby boy. We welcome Ms. Lee back on staff and wish Ms. Corcoran well on her Career Break. We thank Ms. Leahy for teaching 1st class at short notice as substitute teacher for Ms. Ní Laocha. Mrs. Murphy has been diagnosed with a serious illness and will be out of school for the rest of the year. Mrs. Broughan will move from Junior Infants to ASD Senior Primary Class after Mid-Term Break with Ms. Leahy teaching Junior Infants when Ms. Ní Laocha returns. Ms. Free will be substitute teacher for Ms. Greene while she recovers from surgery.
- **SWIMMING:** Thank you to all parents for the payment of Swimming Fees. Group 2 Swimming Programme is almost full. There is a significant shortfall in swimming payments as we never have the full number of swimming places filled. The Board will consider our school swimming programme and may decide not to make swimming available for the next few years
- **SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION:** A report is published as part of the SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT. As from last year, there are some requests for more Teacher/Parent communication re Pupil Progress. With this in mind, an account will be circulated regularly to update parents on programmes covered in main curricular areas. Our School Inspector, Mr. Leo Kilroy visited our school recently to review our progress on the recommendations of the Whole School Evaluation. Mr. Kilroy reports that we are making good progress in the areas of assessment, school self evaluation and variety of teaching methods. Our full WSE report is published on our school website.
- **CAR PARK:** An appeal again re correct procedures for the use of the Community Centre Car Park. A little patience and understanding is required when entering and exiting Car Park. NO CARS to stop on approach road to School. NO CARS in St. Joseph's Centre AT ANY TIME. STAFF CARS ONLY IN JUNIOR & SENIOR SCHOOLS. Space MUST be left for BUS PARKING in designated Bus Area. Thanks to our Parents' Association for organising a Pedestrian Crossing at Junior School and the painting of Yellow lines on the Road.
- **SCHOOL OPENING & CLOSING:** Many Thanks to parents and staff for co-operation with new procedures, necessary under Health & Safety, particularly in JUNIOR SCHOOL BUILDING. **ALL CLASSES will be dismissed from SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS even on rainy days. In times of inclement weather, children only, will be permitted to enter the buildings at 8.50am when Mrs. Keyes/Mrs. Dempsey and/or Senior Management Team will supervise. No Parents/ Guardians need to accompany children into the buildings before school starts. Collection on Rainy Days will be from playgrounds with teachers accompanying children out of building as on dry days. Unfortunately There is no facility for parents/guardians to shelter in school buildings before home time. Early Collection on Rainy Days can cause disruption to class Teaching at times when children are organising books for homework.**
- **Under Health & Safety, School Premises and School Grounds must be SMOKE FREE ZONES. This means that those wishing to smoke must leave the premises/grounds. Your co-operation in this regard would be much appreciated. This rule also applies to parents, who can be cautioned re smoking on school premises/grounds**

- **SCHOOL LUNCHES:** CARAMBOLA are once again our school lunch providers with funding from the Department of Social Protection. Families who opt out of the School Lunch Scheme are going against the School Healthy Eating Policy. Lunches will be provided on ALL SCHOOL DAYS except the half day closing for Christmas, Easter & Summer Holidays.
- **FUNDRAISING:** Your support and generosity would be much appreciated for the variety of FUNDRAISING PROJECTS underway during this school year: Christmas Cards, Art Exhibition, Springtime Draw, Pantomime, Copper Friday. All donations this year will go towards remedial building works & resources for our new ASD Early Intervention Class..
- **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:** We have simplified our Code this year by concentrating on FIVE SCHOOL RULES. We have a revised Anti-Bullying Policy in line with new DES Guidelines. Under the new Guidelines, Prevention of Harrassment refers to the responsibility of parents in conducting meetings with teachers in a professional manner. Parents are reminded of the need to make appointments to meet with Class Teachers and /or Resource Teachers after school time as the DES insists on maximum Pupil-Teacher contact time. Under Child Protection Guidelines, All Visitors must report to School Secretary in each building who will bring children from classrooms, deliver messages etc
- **SCHOOL EXTENSION:** The Design Team has now been appointed by the Department of Education for our FIVE CLASSROOM EXTENSION which will be built in the next few years. Sincere apologies to Teachers, Pupils, Parents for water damage problems in The SENIOR SCHOOL. The ROOF has been examined on numerous occasions yet no point of entry for water can be found. The Board is concerned under Health & Safety and has consulted with the DES re emergency funding. Groups using the Senior School Building and Grounds are reminded that NO ACCESS to this site is available from now until the completion of Building Works. This applies to Soccer Clubs, Football Clubs etc. Thanks to the Scouts for successfully relocating to the JUNIOR SCHOOL BUILDING.
- The SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014-2015 is now available. Copies were distributed at the SCHOOL AGM and can be requested from the School Secretary.
- **SCHOOL CALENDARS:** School Calendars detailing Dates to Remember for all months of the school year are now available as part of the School Book Scheme. Very positive comment has been received about the inclusion of Children from the ASD Classes with their Mainstream Classes for Photos.
- **BUILDING WORKS** in the vicinity of the school: Kinéide Developments have engaged SM Morris to complete works to the bank and create a footpath with ancillary works on the back road. This work should have been completed before the new school year. The work is now almost complete. The Board is deeply concerned re Health & Safety of our pupils, parents & school staff while all the Construction Work happens around the school. Meetings have been arranged and issues raised with the Developer, Wicklow Co.Council & local politicians.
- **STUDENT of the YEAR TROPHIES:** Special Thanks to the Doyle, Healy & Connors Families for a donation to the school for the purchase of STUDENT of the YEAR TROPHIES in memory of DION DOYLE. There will be a short ceremony later in the year to present new trophies to the school.
- **BOARD of MANAGEMENT:** Congratulations to Parents who have been nominated & have agreed to go forward for election as Parent Nominees on the new Board. Ballot Papers will issue shortly .
- **DATES for your DIARY:**
 Parent/Teacher Meetings: THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd 2.00pm to 5.00pm
 Whole School Assembly: Thursday October 22nd at 9.30am
 Mid-Term Break: Friday October 23rd from 2.40pm to Monday November 2nd at 9.00am

