

NEWSLETTER – OCT 2011.

1. Child Protection.

The B.O.M. is currently in the process of up-dating its Child Protection Policy in line with the recently published 'Children First – National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011' by the Department of Education and Skills. When this update has been completed, parents will be informed of same. In the meantime the school's currently policy on child protection is available from the school on request or can be accessed on the schools' website www.peterandpaulschool.net The school's Anti-bullying policy is also available on request or can be accessed on the school's website.

2. School Closures.

Presidential Election: Thursday, 27th October

Mid-term Break: Monday, 31st October to
Friday, 4th November (inclusive).

3. Dates for your Diary.

Confirmation: 24th March 2012

Communion: 26th May 2012

Both celebrations are in Ss. Peter & Paul's Parish Church.

4. Contact Numbers/Addresses

Parents are urged to ensure that the school has at least three(3) up-to-date contact numbers in the event of the school having to contact you for any reason. Your co-operation in this matter is crucial. Up-to-date addresses are also required.

5. Enrolments.

The number of children being enrolled in the school continues to increase. If you wish to enrol a child for Junior Infants,

commencing in September 2012, it is advisable to do so as soon as possible. Enrolment Forms can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school's website:

www.peterandpaulschool.net

6. Attendance.

Every day missed in school by a child is an educational opportunity lost. Parents should keep children at home only under exceptional circumstances (e.g. sickness, bereavement). Otherwise parents are obliged under the law to ensure that their children attend school. Children should be in school by 9 a.m. sharp each morning.

7. Art & Craft/Photo Copying/Computers(1st to 6th Class only).

Sincere thanks to parents who have sent in the €35 for the above. If you haven't done so yet you are requested to make the payment as soon as possible. Thank you.

8. Mobile Phones

We would like to bring to your attention the small number of students who continue to bring mobile phones to class which is against school rules. Mobile phones, when used properly, are an outstanding resource. However, the latest generation of technologically advanced mobile phones can be seriously invasive of one's privacy and can often compromise the health and safety of others.

Cyber bullying is of great concern to parents and teachers at the moment. The widespread availability of inappropriate material is also causing much concern. Social networking sites can be very upsetting and distressing to those who are the unfortunate, unwitting victims of their thoughtless, inconsiderate attention.

Ss. Peter and Paul's school strives to create a happy, safe and protective environment for staff and students alike. To eliminate

the possibility of cyber bullying, hurtful pranks and unwelcome attention, the school authorities wish to again state that mobile phones are **NOT** permitted in school.

Unfortunately there can be no exceptions if we are to ensure your child's safety and guarantee a stress free working environment. If any child needs to contact home or be contacted for any reason during school hours, we will continue the time honoured practice of using the office phone and the principal's phone. This has served us well for generations and we trust you will understand why this position is desirable at this time.

9. New Board of Management.

A new B.O.M. will take up office in December. The Parents' Reps on the new Board are SEAMUS QUIGLEY and TRIONA WALSH.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing Parents' Reps on the B.O.M. for their wise and selfless contribution to the workings of the Board over the last four years, namely Terry Stafford, Johnny Downey, Julie McGuigan and Breid Greene. Sean Nyhan, our highly respected chairperson of the out-going B.O.M., is stepping down and the in-coming chairperson will be Siobhán Ambrose.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution other people have made to the Board over the past four years, namely, Canon Power (R.I.P.), Eamonn Lonergan, Mary Forristal, Mary Morris and Louise Horgan. Míle buíochas do chách.

10. Parents Council

The school community has been wonderfully served over the years by a very pro-active Parents' Council. On your behalf I would like to sincerely thank all those parents who have selflessly given of their very valuable time and skills to further enhance the quality of education to our children.

This year two parents finished their lengthy involvement with the Parents' Council – their children having now moved on to Second Level - namely Helen Ruth and Regina Power. To both I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks for their energetic commitment to the mission of the school over the years and wish them and their families the very best into the future.

The incoming Parents' Council, with Noel O Connell as chairperson, has already planned an extensive programme for the coming year. No doubt they will be calling on you from time to time to give a helping hand with different activities.

11. Computer Room.

The school has recently installed twelve new laptops in its computer room. We now have a state-of-the-art facility to further assist in your child's education. Each classroom has its own interactive white-board, computer and internet access.

12. School Website.

The school thanks Jimmy Fenlon (teacher) who has an extensive website up and running for a number of years, covering all aspects of school life and school policies. Well worth a visit www.peterandpaulschool.net

13. Prayer Room.

The school has its own beautiful Prayer Room, with the Blessed Sacrament reserved on the top corridor of the main building. Teachers and children visit the room for moments of quiet prayer and reflection.