



**School will close at 12pm for all classes on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

As we reach the end of yet another busy term we are sure that you are all looking forward to the holidays.. This year, in lieu of a Christmas concert for parents, the children have all been kindly invited to the Barbican on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December to watch a performance of “*Cinderella*” put on by the First Year students of Ballymakenny College. There will be an end of year performance by all classes for parents in June with more details to follow in the new term. Children will be taken by bus to and from the venue during school hours and there is no charge for the pantomime. However, there is a small fee of €2 to cover transport costs. Please send the money in with your child before the end of the week. Children may bring some treats with them if they like. *If for any reason you would prefer that your child does not attend then we ask that you put this in writing to your child's teacher before Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December.*

The hosting of Ballymakenny College has been a great success with John attending a celebration to mark the official opening of three Educate Together secondary schools in Wood Quay, Dublin in November and meeting with ET Chairperson Paul Rowe who extended his thanks for accommodating staff and students as they await the opening of their permanent building next year. Our children have benefitted immensely from the facilities of the college with many classes making use of the computer suite, home economics room and science laboratory. John and Dermot also attended the annual ET Ethos Conference on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and found it extremely informative

**Parent Teacher Association:** The Board of Management and staff would like to extend their thanks to members of the PTA who have recently stepped down – Sharon Adams, Donna Spencer, Jane O’Connor, Vivienne Brennan and Carolyn Delaney, for all the hard work and dedication that they put into their roles over the last number of years. Sharon, in particular, has contributed greatly of her time since the opening of AVETNS in Sept 2008.



The Parent Teacher Association has co opted some new parents to fill these vacancies. Co opting parents to the committee is in line with the National Parents' Council Guidelines for Parent Associations (*Working Effectively as a parent association – Guidelines for Parent Associations p.49*). The committee is already making lots of plans for next term. We would like to extend a warm welcome to new Junior Infant parent Louise O'Hanlon as Chairperson, Lisa Browne as treasurer and Sarah Duku as Secretary. The current members are: *Amy Alohan, Roisin Coughlan, Antoinette Dorgan, Gareth McBride, Gerona Jackson, Olga Duka, Louise Mahony, Jennifer Moonan, Pauline Quinn, Caroline Shaw, Anna Maria Stasiak and Jennifer Walker*. Please keep an eye on our website and our official Facebook page [www.facebook.com/avetns](http://www.facebook.com/avetns) for news and updates. We would also like to thank outgoing Board of Management members Sharon Adams and Sharon Kieran for their time and commitment and to welcome new board members Louise Mahony (Parent Rep) and Susan McKinney (Community Rep).

**Junior Infants Immunisations:** A reminder to parents of Junior Infant children that HSE nurses will be in school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December to administer the 4-in-1 vaccine to those children who returned completed consent forms to the office. On the day of vaccination children are asked to wear short sleeves and loose fitting tops and to have eaten breakfast. Very occasionally a child's parents may need to be contacted to collect them from school. If you have any concerns regarding a possible adverse event in the period post-vaccination you may contact the School Immunisation Office on 042 9381259 during office hours.

**Hour of Code:** Children throughout the school have been experimenting with and learning about computer coding. The children have been using a program called scratch to learn about the power and enjoyment of coding ([scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu)). Our school is one of relatively few schools in Ireland that have registered to take part in this great initiative. See the school website under **Students** and <http://hourofcode.com/ie> to learn more.

**E-Newsletter Subscriptions:** Thank you to everyone so far who has subscribed to our newsletter via email. We really would like to reduce our paper costs and the burden this places on resources not to mention the environment. Signing up can be done on the school website or by sending in a permission slip (peach colour) to us at the school (if you have not done so already - please request one from child's teacher). We will continue to provide printed newsletters for those of you that are unable to receive email.

**2015 Enrolments:** Offers will be made in January for places in Junior Infants commencing in September 2015. There is very strong interest for places for next year so please be reminded that our enrolment policy is strictly "first come first served" and we do not have a



sibling policy. If you have a child who is due to commence school next year or know someone who does, please confirm their pre-enrolment with Antonia or submit a pre-enrolment form immediately. Pre-enrolments can currently be accepted for the next 4 years with some names already on the 2019 list.

### **School News:**

- Pauline organised a food drive for Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge in October. A Food Collection Committee was set up with 4 members from senior classes – Aimee, Edgaras, Kristaps and Edgaras, and lots of children contributed by donating food and toiletry items.
- The school orchestra which is run by Claire and Liz were invited to the D Hotel in December to launch the local Childline charity. Children from 5<sup>th</sup> Class also attended and our musicians and singers performed superbly. The orchestra were also invited to perform at a Children's Concert in the Droichead Arts Centre in November.
- John and Dara will be bringing 6<sup>th</sup> class to the Young Scientists Exhibition in the RDS in January. 6<sup>th</sup> Class are also undertaking a very exciting venture in the New Year as they have registered for the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The programme will be launched by current Entrepreneur of the Year, Patrick Joy who is CEO of Suretank. The children will brainstorm and research an idea for a product/service and will learn how to design, produce, cost, create, market and sell it at a fun showcase day. Money raised will go towards their end of year school tour!
- Christmas Cards and Calendars were a great success raising much needed funds for the school. Many thanks to all who were involved. There are a number of calendars still available for sale in the office priced at €8 each, or 2 for €15 and 3 for €20.
- Hundreds of children turned out to visit Santa's Grotto at the weekend when he set up base in the the PE Hall. This was organised by the Residents Associations of Aston Village and Termon Abbey.
- Staff attended a number of upskilling and training courses this term in the following areas: MAPA (Managing of Actual or Potential Aggression), Fire Safety, Ethos Development, Finance, Board of Management, Relationship and Sexuality Education, Child Protection, Epilepsy, Asthma, Coding and Learn Together Curriculum.
- On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December our 5<sup>th</sup> class teacher Claire and two of our pupils, Megan and Philippa will be taking part in a beautiful orchestral Christmas Concert. Tickets are only €10 and are on sale now in the Droichead Arts Centre.

**As always we encourage you to check our website regularly for important news and updates – [www.astonvillageetns.com](http://www.astonvillageetns.com). A number of school policies have been**



extensively updated following consultation with the parent community and are available on the website.



# Movie Night

The children have been busy voting and this term's movie screening shall be Disney's "**Frozen**"! The movie night will take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm-8pm**. Children from all classes are welcome to attend and parents of children *in Junior and Senior Infants* are advised to accompany their children. Tickets shall be sold on the night for €3 and shall include a snack and a drink. A raffle will also take place on the night to win a Frozen Olaf with tickets on sale for €1 for a strip of 5. Parent volunteers are needed to help on the night and may contact the PTA via the school Facebook page or at 089 419 7087.

***\*\*Please note that children will not be permitted to leave school unaccompanied to walk home so we would ask that they are all collected promptly at 8pm and no later than 8.15pm as gates will then be locked. Thank you\*\****



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014

*On behalf of the BOM, our chairperson, Dr Conor Brennan would like to thank the staff and parent community for their continued support and wish you all a very enjoyable break.*

