



# St. Raphaela's Primary School

## September 2008

Dear Parents and Friends,

The month of September has flown by and it feels to me as if those of you who are new to our school family have been here forever. I hope you and your children feel the same way! Each month I hope to get a short newsletter out to you as a means of keeping you in touch with what is happening throughout the school. If you have any news items that you would like to have included, please leave them with Jill before the last Monday of each month.

Warmest regards,

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### Interactive Boards

Our boards are finally being installed over the next ten days in 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and in the Chess Room, where other classes can access it. A huge thank you to Pat Fitzpatrick and Landmark Developments for their hugely generous donation of €12,000, to Joseph Davy, Tracey & Thomas, and to you parents, who through the Megamix, sponsored the rest. A special word of thanks to Martin O'Gorman (father of Ali in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class) who played a vital part behind the scenes in supporting this project. It is our hope to raise a further €9,000 a year for the next three years to allow us to purchase a further two boards and laptops each year.

### Sports

Last week our school football team (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes) played their first Cumann na mBun Scoil match against Scoil Colmcille in Knocklyon. Tomorrow they meet St. Attracta's in Ballinteer. Our players have great spirit and stamina, and are really enjoying some tough competition. Watch this spot! A special word of thanks to parents Sheila Kehoe and Nuala Downes, our teachers Denise Toner, Laura Jordan and Lisa Hurson, and to the parents who have volunteered to ferry the children to and fro!

### Hallowe'en Celebrations

There will be a Hallowe'en Disco in our school hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 7pm until 8.30pm. Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class **only** are invited to attend in fancy-dress, and enjoy lots of dancing and fun! I regret that for safety reasons we are unable to accommodate Junior and Senior Infants, or siblings from other schools, as the hall has limited space and we would be breaching regulations. However, Junior and Senior Infants may wear fancy dress to school on the following day, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, which is the day of half-term. Special thanks to Alan Jones, our DJ par excellence, (and father of three of our girls!) for once again hosting the disco.

### Junior Infants Child-line Breakfast Party

All Junior Infants are invited to wear their best P.J.'s and dressing-gowns to school on this Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, when they will enjoy a breakfast party in their classroom. The school will make a donation to Childline, and if parents wish to make a contribution, you'll find, as Percy French put it, "a box convenient to the door"!

### Science Week: 9<sup>th</sup> till 16<sup>th</sup> November

We hope to celebrate Science Week with lots of activities here at St. Raphaela's. If you think you can help us in any way, please have a word with Miss Toner or Miss Culliton.

### Enrolment for First Communion & Confirmation

Congratulations to the children of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class who have now enrolled in the First Communion Programme. The Parish enrolment now supercedes the ceremony planned for here on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next dates for the "Do this in Memory of Me" programme in our Parish Church are Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 21<sup>st</sup> December and 18<sup>th</sup> January all at 12 Noon.

### Christmas Cards

This year, for the first time, each class has produced their very own Christmas Card. These will be on sale, hopefully after half-term. Please do support the school by buying your cards from us this year!

### AGM Parents' Association

The Parents' Association of our school will hold their Annual General Meeting on this Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, in the school hall at 8pm. The Association is made up of two parent representatives from each class. Together they support the work of the school in a myriad of ways, from organising social events, to parents courses, and making the very special days on our school calendar, such as Christmas, Sports Day, Megamix Day, and Graduation Day, to name but a few, truly memorable. Do please come and support them and consider putting your own name forward if you can.

### St. Laurence O'Toole Parish Council

Our school joins the whole parish in welcoming our new Parish Priest, Fr. Liam Lacey. Fr. Liam invites all parishioners to attend the A.G.M. of the Parish Council in the community centre on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm. We are also looking for new volunteers to come forward for the Parish Council - if you are interested, please see Sr. Mary.

### St. Raphaela's Secondary School

Congratulations to all of last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years on their OUTSTANDING results! Please note that the closing date for applications to our Secondary School was last Friday. There will be an Open Evening on Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7pm till 9pm.

*Things are done best in small steps - the time to start is now!*