

18<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Dear Teachers, Parents & Staff,

### **Update from the Board of Management**

The Board of Management had five further meetings since our last update in June due to the appointment of the new Principal and the uncertainty surrounding the opening of the Special Needs Unit .

#### New Comers to the Board

We would like to welcome Aedin Ni Thuathail and Niamh McEvoy as new members to the Board and thank JP for all his hard work and wish him well in his travels.

#### Special Needs Unit

After many months of negotiations and fighting for proper and full services for the children and school, we are delighted to finally announce the opening of the Autistic unit as of 5<sup>th</sup> November and welcome all the new children parents and staff to the school. The opening of this unit has been no mean feat and we would like to thank sincerely all those who have been involved along the way, not least of all Dermot, Sean, Lucy and more recently and who have brought it to it's successful conclusion Aedin , Julie and Caitrin.

#### Mobile Phone Masts

It came to the attention of the Board of Management earlier in the year that there might be mobile phone masts near the school. The Board commissioned a company called Vilicom to carry out an emissions survey (that company was recommended by a Green Party local representative). The results of the survey are now on our website at: <http://www.cetns.ie/bom.html>.

In summary, the results of the survey show that there is a mobile phone mast in the Castleknock Tennis Club and in Farmhand (the company directly opposite the school). The emissions from those mobile phone masts are well within the safety levels from ICNIRP (International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protections) which in Ireland is a legal requirement. That is the current scientific position.

The Board also investigated Fingal's position on mobile masts being placed near a school. Fingal's Development Plan 2005-2011 has a particular objective (reference ITO3) which effectively states that a mobile phone mast should not be within a 200 meter radius of a school premises/site. On this basis we wrote to the Tennis Club and Farmhand bringing their attention to this point and expressing our concern. The Tennis Club has replied to the effect that they believe the mast to be safe; Farmhand has not yet replied.

It appears that in the case of the Tennis Club, the application by Hutchinson 3G (the telecommunications company who own the mast) to Fingal was in 2004 (reference F04A/0130) and therefore predates Fingal's objective ITO3. However, the permission on that application expires on 19 March 2009. The relevant company would have to re-apply and a public notice would have to be put in place. From our communication with Fingal, we think it unlikely that permission would be granted. We will look closely at this when the time comes. The situation for Farmhand is different. Since it is a commercial venture, apparently it was not required to apply for permission from the Council (Class 31 of the Planning and Building Regulations 2001); and therefore Fingal's objective ITO3 does not apply. We do not know how long it has been there, but suspect it has been there for quite some time. However, there is an approved planning application relating to that site (reference F05A/1646) for residential development. If that goes ahead, the mobile phone mast will be removed. However, in the current climate it may be some time before this happens (if it goes ahead). The Board, therefore, will continue to seek a response from Farmhand.

The Board has been careful in obtaining all of the relevant facts so that the school community is fully and properly informed.

#### Finance Update

At its most recent meeting the Board of Management considered the overall income and expenditure account for the period August 2007 to July 2008. A detailed report from our Treasurer Ann Kelly is attached.

#### From Educate Together

For those of you who have not yet done so we would encourage you to sign up to the Educate Together newsletter. You can sign up via the Educate Together website [www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie) There is also a petition for a second level school on-line on the website and all the latest news on the Educate Together Schools and initiatives throughout the country.

For and on behalf of the Board of Management,

Anne Rush  
Secretary

#### **Board of Management**

Marian Flanagan	(Wider Community Rep.)
Cormac Healy	(Wider Community Rep.)
Aedin Ni Thuathail	(Principal)
Sean Jennings	(Chairperson & Patron Rep.)
Ann Kelly	(Treasurer & Patron Rep.)
Niamh McEvoy	(Teachers Rep.)
Derek Reddin	(Parents Rep.)
Anne Rush	(Secretary & Parents Rep.)