



As it has been a while since there was a newsletter from the BOM, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the members of the SETNS Board of Management and explain our roles.

Board of Management Composition and Roles of Responsibility 2016/17

Patron Representatives

- *Yvonne Coakley (Chairperson)*
- *Mark Fagan (Building Maintenance)*

Teacher Representatives

- *Karl Breen (Principal)*
- *Fiona McKiernan (Recording Secretary)*

Community Representatives

- *Michael Delaney (Treasurer)*
- *Bryan Campion (Energy/ Environment)*

Parent Representatives

- *Mark Harvey (PTA Nominee/Health and Safety/ Energy)*
- *Cathy Blake (PTA Nominee/ICT)*



Each member of the Board serves a minimum 4- year term. With the exception of Cathy who joined the board last month, the current board began its term in December 2015. Our role is to oversee the running of the school, we are accountable to Educate Together and the Minister for Education as well as overseeing school policy, school finances and recruitment.

Board of Management Focus 2016/17

One of our priorities for this school year is to improve communication between school and parents/ guardians. One of our main priorities is to develop the school website and to integrate a school Facebook Page into our communication practices.

Our focus as a Board is to work in consultation with the school management team on updating core curricular policies. The Board of Management's role in this process is to review and ratify the relevant policies before September 2017. This initiative we, as a Board fully support and look forward to working closely with Karl, Eoghan and the Management Team within the school. The staff have been busy standardising their Long Term Plans to promote collaboration and cohesiveness throughout the area of Whole School Curricular Planning. This has been the focus for 2015/16. 2016/17 focus will remain on Whole School Curricular Planning with particular emphasis on Literacy & Gaeilge and, in particular, the implementation of the new Language Curriculum. The staff will be receiving training on this throughout the academic year and there will be a provisional school closure on Monday 27th March 2017 to facilitate In-Service training for staff. Karl will communicate the details of this closer to the time.

Election Fever in SETNS

It has been a busy time with elections being held for a Parent Nominee for the Board of Management, a new Parent Teacher Association and Representatives for the Student Council. Cathy Blake was elected to the Board of Management as the parent representative at the recent school Annual General Meeting.

Congratulations to the newly elected Parent Teacher Association and Student Council. Particular congratulations to the chairpersons and vice chairpersons; Susanna and Sinéad (PTA) and Bharat and Patricia (Student Council). I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks.

Voluntary Contributions

As you are aware we ask for a Voluntary contribution twice a year, and are extremely grateful to you for your support since 2001. This year, for safety/security reasons, we will not be collecting cash but are asking you to send donations through online banking or in Branch. Details regarding payment options were provided in an email/ letter sent to all parents and guardians recently. Any questions please contact Catriona.

Fundraising

The school relies heavily on the generosity of parents/guardians in supporting our various fundraising initiatives. So far we have raised €750 towards a new school sports kit and our Student Council have been busy digging in the suggestions box to come up with our "Mad Hair Day" Fundraiser to take place on Friday 18th November 2016. They will be in contact with you in due course with the details.

The PTA are also busy preparing the Christmas Cards/School Calendars and the Winter Market which will take place on Friday 2nd December. Susanna and Sinéad will be in contact in due course.

Parking

As detailed in Karl's recent newsletters we have been having serious issues with parking. Please park safely and be considerate of other people, do not park in parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities or on the pedestrian crossings. The safety of your children is our priority at all times.

School Inspection

As you may be aware, the Department of Education and Skills oversee the running of all schools and as such are required to complete Whole School Evaluations (WSE), Management Leadership and Learning (MLL) and Incidental Inspections regularly in schools. In September the school was incidentally inspected by the school inspector. Observations took place in various classrooms throughout the day and an informal report was concluded with the Inspector and Karl at the end of the day. The report was presented at the September Board of Management meeting and well done to all involved. Within the feedback, the school was described as a "***Creative, Happy environment where creativity flourishes in the classrooms and this can be seen in teaching methodologies, planning and overall school culture***", "***an environment that promotes impressive student and teacher creativity with a happy content school culture evident in staff and students alike***", and where there is an ***Atmosphere within the school (that) positive, calm and creative.***

Finally, I wish all Children, Staff, Parents & Guardians a happy 2016/17 school year. Thank you all for making SETNS the place it is today and please continue to support your child/children's education in the way that you have.



Yvonne Coakley
Chairperson, Board of Management.

