



Swords Educate Together  
National School  
Roll Number 20145 O

## Board of Management Newsletter March 2018

Welcome to our SETNS Board of Management Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the school year so far. This newsletter is to give you all an update on the Board's activities this school year.

Firstly and most importantly some huge thank you's. To everyone who helped clear snow from the school grounds last week, it was very much appreciated and ensured we were back up and running on Monday morning.

To the PTA for their tireless fundraising activities that contribute in such a big way in making SETNS such a great school. The soft play area which was completed over last summer is a huge success, allowing the children to run on yard and also provides year round accessibility.

### 2017-2018 Focus on Health and Safety

One of our key focuses this year has been on health and safety. To this end all the school staff have attended first aid and fire safety training since the start of the school year.

We have also completed a fire safety audit which was requested by our patron body following on from concerns in some schools last September. We are happy to report that there were no major concerns identified during our audit. Next on our list for health and safety is a review of our risk assessments

### Board of Management Parent Representative (male) vacancy

After many years on the BOM and PTA Mark Harvey is stepping down. This decision has been taken for personal/work reasons. On behalf of the board and the school community I would like to thank Mark for his hard work over the years, it is very much appreciated.

This leaves a vacancy on the Board for a male parent representative.

In brief this role involves

- Being the link between the parent body and the board of management and bringing the parental perspective on all issues
- Ideally we would like a candidate with a general knowledge of Health and Safety Matters and/ or Human Resources Management.

The Parents' Representative does not have to be member of the Parents' Association or have any involvement with the association up to this point but once elected to the board will be expected to attend PTA meetings and provide feedback to and from the PTA to the board.

It is envisaged that there will be an EGM to elect this representative. In the meantime if you would like any further information on the role please contact Karl, Cathy Blake (parent representative) or myself.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

The next voluntary contributions collections will be scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and you will separately receive a reminder letter nearer the date. For the school year 2016 -2017 we switched from our previous envelope collection to the electronic banking option. Resulting from the change we saw a drop in contributions made by over 24% on the previous year. Firstly we would like to thank all the parents who have embraced the electronic banking option. The voluntary contributions are a vital source of funding that enables the school to provide the best facilities, educational / activity resources and learning environment to the children. Year on year like all households we experience increases in utility and other general costs, this year alone our insurance costs have increased by 30% alone. We would ask for your renewed support on our next collections date using the electronic banking option.



The SETNS Facebook page was launched last May and has been a great success. We hope all of our online visitors are enjoying the photographs and updates posted on the page. The page has also proved invaluable as a means of communication during the severe weather events we experienced in recent months. We would like to remind all visitors to our Facebook page that under no circumstances should any child be named on the page. In the event that a child is named in a comment by a visitor to the page, the comment will be immediately deleted and the user will be notified.

### **Traffic Management/ Rathbeale Road Closure**

It has been tirelessly communicated to parents/guardians the parking problems encountered by the school on a daily basis. With the opening of the road outside the school, linking the Rathbeale Road to Millers Glen Road, we fear for our children's safety. The road is due to be opened temporarily over the coming months with significant traffic circling the school campus. Parking restrictions will be in operation and we are urging parents to use the set down areas for drop and go and we are encouraging families living locally to walk to school. Karl and the Board of Management are in negotiations with Fingal County Council and the Developer to ensure the safety of our school community, nevertheless, parents/guardians must adhere to responsible rules of the road and parking etiquette.

### **Child Safeguarding**

The Dept of Education and TUSLA have updated policies and procedures in dealing with Child Protection over the past number of months. Schools have been issued with guidance in updating policies and procedures in preventing the risk of harm to children. The Board and staff have been busy updating policies and procedures, carrying our risk assessments

and receiving professional development on these guidelines. The new procedures provide guidance on the legal framework in relation to child protection, outlines statutory obligations that apply to all mandated people, outlines reporting procedures to be followed by school personnel. The Guidelines also contain information for schools on role of TUSLA and an Garda Síochana, directions on dealing with allegations and statutory obligations under Children First Act 2015.

**Another ½ Day School Closure for this training will be held on 21st May 2018.**

**Junior Infants leave at 11.30a.m**

**1st-6th Class leave at 11.45a.m**

## **Board of Management**

### **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**

- *Cathy Blake (PTA Nominee/ICT)*
- *Vacancy*

On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to wish all parents/guardians and children a happy St. Patrick's weekend and a healthy and happy Easter Break.

**Yvonne Coakley,  
Chairperson, Board of Management**

