

## Board of Management

### Chairpersons Report to the Annual General Meeting 2017

Dear Parents.

On behalf of the Board of Management I would like to welcome you all to our Annual General Meeting / School Information Evening

As has become custom and practice the annual reports will not be read out. The reports are posted at the rear of the hall for your perusal.

The Financial Report, Principal's Report and the Chairperson's Report from the Board of Management can be accessed on the school website [www.scmj.ie](http://www.scmj.ie) by mailing [noreen@scmj.ie](mailto:noreen@scmj.ie) or calling to the office for hard copies.

We intend to make this meeting informative, interactive and fun. As always we thank you for your attendance this evening and your continued commitment to the school.

This evening our focus is on

- Healthy Living
- Active Flag
- Home School Community Liaison .
- Fun Day Video
- Mindfulness activity

### Who are the Board of Management and what do we do?

The Board of Management is a corporate body made up of eight members who act together as a unit. Our function is to manage the school on behalf of the Patron and we are accountable to both the Patron, Bishop Denis Nulty and the Minister for Education & Skills Richard Bruton TD. We operate in accordance with the policies of The Department of Education & Skills. We ensure that the Christian ethos and vision of the school is protected and fostered. The decisions we make are for the common good which must at all times supercede individual interests and demands. The Board are responsible for the smooth running and administration of the school. It will always have the best interest of the 408 pupils foremost in its mind when making decisions and acting upon them.

The members of your Board of Management are as follows;

- **Maria O'Dwyer**                      **Acting School Principal, CEO & Secretary to the Board**
- **Aisling Browne**                      **Teacher's Representative**
- **James Crudden**                      **Community Representative and Treasurer**
- **Gerry Burns**                      **Community Representative**
- **Orlaith Logan**                      **Mother's Representative**
- **James Somers**                      **Father's Representative**
- **Fr.David Barrins O.P**                      **Patron's Representative**
- **Eileen Hall**                      **Patron's Representative & Chairperson**

We are all contactable on the school website [www.scmj.ie](http://www.scmj.ie) and will be glad to respond to any queries or suggestions that you may have.

This Board of Management was inaugurated in December 2015 and will serve a four year term of office. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month with the exception of June and July. On occasion extra meetings may be necessitated.

**The school year 2016 / 17** was a very busy one. After long negotiations and planning the joint project between the Junior & Senior School finally got the “go ahead” Our thanks go to all those who worked determinedly, patiently and constructively to get the project off the ground. Mr. Gerry King, (Principal Senior School) our now retired Principal Mr. Bryan O’Reilly, Acting Principal Ms. Maria O’Dwyer and the team at Fitzgibbon Mc Ginley Architects . If everything goes to plan our Special Education Needs Unit should be open for September 2018. Please see Principal’s Report for a detail of the construction and the architectural drawings in the hall.

**At the end of May** the Board received a letter of resignation from Mr. Bryan O’Reilly. With great sadness and regret his resignation was approved. For almost 20 years Mr O’Reilly was the Principal and CEO of the school. His dedication and commitment was immeasurable. He worked hard at ensuring the children in his care were given every opportunity to be, in his own words “their best selves” He was a lover of language literacy and numeracy and all his decisions were child centered. He knew each of the 423 children by name and interacted with them on the yard, in the corridors and in the classrooms. He was happiest taking assembly or indeed anytime he got back into the classroom. He was ably assisted by the school staff whom he held in very high esteem and respect. We thank him sincerely for all his dedicated work. He has left a great legacy and a huge void.

Prior to his resignation and during his absence Ms. Eileen Hill and Ms Maria O’Dwyer shared the role of Acting Principal. On behalf of the Board I want to extend our gratitude to them both. The transition has been smooth and the usual high standards maintained. Indeed to all the staff tremendous credit is due. Change, though difficult was embraced. Sincere thanks to one and all.

A Selection Panel has been approved by The Patron Bishop Nulty. The vacancy has been advertised and the interview process will commence shortly to find a suitable successor. As soon as the appointment is made the parent body will be informed. In the meantime Maria O’Dwyer continues the role of Acting Principal assisted by Eileen Hill Deputy Principal.

### **Budget Management**

Despite the political perception that our economy is on the up and up, austerity still reigns in education. Managing the school budget requires meticulous and constant auditing and accounting. We as a Board are very fortunate to have James Crudden, Chartered Accountant as our treasurer. On examination of the financial report you will see the transparent accounting. Each month James completes a variance analyses and adapts the budget according to our expected income and expenditure. He then presents the accounts in a concise and intelligible way. A Board of Management is not allowed to have a bank overdraft and careful budgeting is compulsory and at times a very onerous exercise. My sincere thanks to James for his time expertise and scrupulous financial eye.

### **Requisite Payments**

Budgeting is an essential and difficult part of all our lives. Primary school budgeting is no exception. The government fall very short of providing an adequate capitation fee for the children in its care. If it were not for the Requisite Payments paid by parents the school income would be much less. In conjunction with School Fundraisers organised by The Parent Council we have the resources to provide extra to the children in our care. Additional income is sourced by hiring our hall in the evenings. This exercise is taken not out of greed but basic need. It entails additional work for our office staff, Noreen & Margaret and I applaud them for the time they spend in this capacity demonstrating their entrepreneurship. I thank you very sincerely for your continued support in supporting the Requisite Payments.

### **The Parent's Council 2016 - 2017**

I would like to pay tribute to our very active and effective Parent Council. Under the baton of Fionula Farragher (chairperson) the council worked hard for the welfare of the school and our tiny students therein. Through their hard work and commitment life in the school is better. All the activities that are run, i.e Witches Walk, Santa's Grotto, Bunny Hop to name but a few are great fun for the children and provide the school with much needed additional funding. I would like to take the emphasis away from the funding, important and all as it is. Parent Council is much more than a fund raising committee. It provides opportunity for friendship and gives parents a chance to share their skills within the school community. It affords new people to the area the opportunity to make friends and be included. Often those friendships last through life. Parents get to know the staff and vice versa. It is a great way to get an insight into your children's school day. Children love their Mums and Dads to be involved in the life of the school. Their pride is overt.... Registered on their faces when a parent is spotted on campus. So parents .... find your class representative and join up. I would like to wish our new chairperson Louise Morbin and her committee continued success for this coming school year. We look forward to continuing the excellent relationship between the Parent Council and the BOM. To Orlaith Logan and James Somers a very sincere thank you for your time, expertise and intelligent contribution as Parents Representatives to the board.

## **Volunteers**

We currently have 28 registered volunteers. Your presence in the school, in the classroom, on the bus, on the tour, everywhere you are, makes an enormous difference to the boys and girls and indeed the staff. Children read better faster because of you. Teachers have more time to deploy their expertise in the needed areas. School tours are safer, the benefits of your presence are endless and the impact of your presence unquantifiable. We have tremendous respect and gratitude for you. Thank you.

## **Our Staff**

The team comprises Cleaners, Caretakers, Kitchen staff, Secretarial & Administrative staff Special Needs Assistants and the Teaching Staff. Working together they provide a clean friendly safe and inclusive environment for the children in their care. A center of excellence where a love of learning is fostered and nurtured. Maths is fun. Reading is a tool used to open a wealth of knowledge and discovery. Honesty, gentleness, kindness, respect for each other is promoted and hard work and giving of your best self is the order of the day. Each child is taught not every child..... as staff strive to address each child's individual needs.

Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and actions. A Christian ethos is lived. The staff support each other in their different roles and support the children in the complexity of their needs. The bond between the community and the school is strengthened by the role played by Home School Liaison officer. School supports community and vice versa. The BOM commend you for the work you do and the school you have created. Thank you.

Eileen Hill is our Deputy Principal,.We are cognisant of her many roles. She deputises in the absence or unavailability of the Principal. A valued member of the Learning Support and Resource Team and has just completed training in Reading Recovery. Mrs Hill has a passion for maths and seems to be gifted in the teaching of the subject. She is instrumental in the development and use of Aistear in the school. It is very reassuring to have such a competent and enthusiastic Deputy available to take the helm when the need arises. A sincere thank you Mrs. Hill.

Noreen & Margaret provide the administrative and secretarial services. They are the first members of staff visitors encounter when visiting the school. Always gracious friendly and helpful. No matter how busy they will always oblige and consistently have the solution to the problem. Their interaction with the children is lovely to witness. Professional secretaries to the core but much more. Many skills are demonstrated on a daily basis in their busy hive called the office. Thank you to you both.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for the privilege of working with them. For their insight, integrity, time, expertise and patience.... it is a pleasure to be part of this wonderful school.

