

St. Thomas' Senior National School Board of Management – Annual Report June 2015



Board of Management 2014/2015

Chairperson – Mary Dalton

Patron's Nominee - Fr. Jimmy McPartland

Principal – Eithne O Shea
Teacher Rep – Matthew Campbell
Parent Reps – Tracy K. Singleton

Daragh Donovan

Community Reps – Paul Godson

Michael Murphy

The Board met six times as follows - in October, November, January, February, March and June

School Ethos

We are a Catholic Primary School and take part in Catholic Schools Week every year. Pupils in 6th class made their Confirmation in May. Mass in the local Church is on Tuesday and Thursday at 10.00a.m. and on Sunday at 11.30a.m. We had a Religious Inspection during the year and the examiners were very happy.

Summer Works/Buildings

The prefabs have been demolished and are being replaced with 3 permanent classrooms which are expected to be ready by end of September.

Repairs to the roof of the 4th class corridor will take place during the summer holidays.

Retirement

We would like to wish Brian Smith the school caretaker years of good health and happiness on his retirement as caretaker. Brian has worked in the school for the past 21 years. We thank Brian for his commitment and dedication to the school during that time.

Staffing

We wish Ms Cody the best of luck as she starts s new job in Kilkenny in September. Ms Gallagher is also leaving having secured a permanent position in another school. Four teachers will be on career break next year –Ms Rohan, Ms. McGillycuddy, Mr Dwan and Ms Mernagh.

We will have one classroom teacher less next year and have had to make a very difficult decision to split a class because of this. Next year we will have 5×3^{rd} classes, 5×4^{th} classes, 4×5 th classes and 5×6 th classes. There will be lots of support for children should they require it.

Visit by Inspector from DES

An inspector from the Department of Education and Skill spent the day in the school in June and visited three classes. She was very impressed with the teaching and learning and by the excellent behaviour of the pupils and the atmosphere in the school.

Policy Development

The following policies were reviewed this year: Child Protection Policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour; Relationship and Sexuality Policy; Internet Acceptable Use Policy; Positive Working Relationships Policy; Credit Card Policy

Curricular policies were also endorsed. The Board would like to thank all the members of the school community who were involved in this work.

Thank you

The Board would like to thank and congratulate all the staff for their hard work and dedication during the year. Thanks also to teachers and SNAs who have given up their time to facilitate before, during and after school clubs. This commitment to the school is deeply appreciated.

During the year pupils took part in lots of different activities such as tag rugby, swimming, hurling, football, soccer, chess, yoga, athletics, traditional music, cookery, gymnastics, hip-hop, and homework clubs free of charge as the teachers gave freely of their time.

Curricular Development

A Guided Reading Scheme is in place from 3rd-6th class. The English books are banded at the children's reading level. Pupils are tested at the beginning and end of the year. Many classes are also reading class novels. It is important that children get an opportunity to read at home.

As part of our school self-evaluation we will be focussing on numeracy next year and in particular the teaching of problem solving skills.

Parents' Association

We would like to thank all the parents who helped out in any way during the year. The Parents Group meet every week in the Parents Room. Ms Keogh will be hoping to involve more parents in the work of the school next year.

School Opening

Pupils return to school on Thursday 27th August

Keep an eye on our website www.stthomas.ie for up to date information on what is happening in the school.