

# St. Anthony's Special School, Humbert Way, Castlebar.

## Board of Management Annual Report of School Activities 2015 - 2016

### New Board of Management for 2016-2019

Chairperson	–	Johnny Mee
Treasurer	–	Caroline Gordon
Secretary	–	Fiona Byrnes
Teacher Rep	–	Anna Sweeney
Parent Reps	–	Eamon Connor
Patron Rep	-	Michael O'Brien
Community Reps	–	Joe Staunton Helena Boylan

### School Events

- Stay Safe taught to all classes as per policy in Spring Term
- Happy Week 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016: great success ☺
- Proclamation Day 15<sup>th</sup> March – Pageant & raising of Irish Flag commemorating 1916.
- Confirmation in school with Archbishop Neary 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Congrats to Cliona Abberton.
- Ian Burke won national prize for Credit Union Art
- Memorial Picnic Day 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Active Flag achieved and raised June 2016
- Tina Browne Room 5 was examined in music exam for Comhaltas Ceolteoiri Eireann in May – 1<sup>st</sup> pupil ever to take part in such an exam.
- Pupils from school represented Connaught in FAI National Soccer challenge in Dublin Feb 2016

### Policy Development

- New BOM established January 2016
- Child Protection Policy reviewed by BOM Jan 16
- Staff Leave of Absence/Jobsharing Policy Feb 16
- School PE Plan and Policy reviewed April 16
- Health & Safety Policy & Statement and all risk assessments reviewed and approved May 2016
- Policy on use of Specialist Equipment by pupils at home approved May 2016

### School Initiatives 2015 – 2016

- Music Generation Mayo Project in association with Mayo County Council and local musicians tutoring 10 pupils in Music Therapy sessions over the year. Candlelight Ball Donation €1500 towards this project
- Active Flag successfully renewed 2016 - 2019
- Trolley Dash Fundraiser Dec 2015 – funds raised refurbished the Sensory Room
- Lions Club & Mayo Vintage Car Club annual Santa Party
- FORBAIRT leadership training for Principal & Deputy Principal over 2015-2016

### School Staffing 2015/2016

- New Music Teacher Fiona Lavin started Sept 2016
- New Home Economics teacher Eva Beirne appointed but left mid-year and was replaced by teacher Elaine Kelly
- New Woodwork teacher Kevin Ruttledge started Sept 2016
- New part-time SNA's appointed – Elaine Kirby & Belinda Masterson
- Kitchen Assistant & Bus Escort Mary Gilhooley retired mid-year.
- Sincere thanks to all staff in the school-teachers, SNA's, Nurse, Chef, Kitchen assistant, Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaner, Bus Escorts – for all your dedicated work supporting the pupils of the school.

### School Works/Buildings

- School was used as Polling Stations for General Election 2016
- Heating System completely renovated and changed from oil to gas
- Annual inspection of catering kitchen produced excellent reports
- Sensory Garden revitalised by Class 5 and parents as part of ASDAN work.
- New front door entry security system installed May 2016 as well as recording facilities for external cctv camera – more can be added.
- New acoustic and decorative notice boards installed around school.
- New refurbished Sensory Room opened in Feb 2016
- New recycled plastic seating and memorial wheelchair friendly picnic table installed in sensory garden and junior play yard
- New second ceiling hoist installed in Gross Motor Resource Room

### RIP

- **Julia Joyce (school chef) died 21/10/2015**
- **All relatives & friends of pupils, staff & BOM**
- **Memorial for Julia, Thomas & all deceased staff/pupils unveiled on 3/6/2016**

### Curricular Development

- Year 3 of **Numeracy** SIP (School Improvement Plan) commenced 2015 – 2016: all going as planned but review on hold as part of INTO directive not to engage with SSE until further notice
- **Literacy** SSE (School Self Evaluation) Oral Language & Communication Skills year 1 started 2015-2016. Special ISL booklet designed and produced by Literacy Team and distributed to pupils and parents as part of 3 year plan. Again further development of this area on hold.
- **ASDAN**: Classes 5 & 6 continued their ASDAN Towards Independence & Workright Programmes and 20 pupils gained certification in June 2016. ASDAN will continue in class 6 in 2016 – 2017.
- **New Junior Cycle Level 2**: A second full day of staff inservice held in January 2016. Teacher Anna Sweeney developing work on Level 2 programmes to pilot from September 2016 with group of pupils.
- **IT Training**: All SNA's received updated IT training on internet resources and using freeware on school laptops from Camara Ireland in Feb 2016
- **Mini-Me Yoga**: All SNA's and some teachers were trained in yoga for children as part of our Happy Week and emphasis on Wellbeing in Feb 2016.
- **Psychology**: we managed to arrange and get 6 pupils re-assessed through NEPS and HSE supports
- **New Primary Language Curriculum**: full day closure on 20/6/16 to familiarise teachers with new curriculum. Further inservice for teachers to take place during 2016-2017

### THANK YOU!

- ✓ To all the members of the Board of Management for their work and support for the school over the past year
- ✓ To all the staff for their hard work and dedication to the pupils and the school
- ✓ To all who fundraise over the year for the school – you are amazing and we really appreciate it!
- ✓ To parents who work alongside the school – your partnership really benefits your child: we thank you for your co-operation and support.
- ✓ To Mayo Sports Partnership & Ray McNamara for their continued support in 2015-2016
- ✓ Breaffy Swimming Pool staff for their fantastic assistance with swimming over the year
- ✓ To all the Friends of St. Anthony's who support the school in many different ways – may you be blessed and rewarded for your support!

### Child Protection

All associated policies that link in with Child Protection were reviewed as required over 2015-2016 including:

- **Child Protection Policy & Procedures – annual review.**

**New Garda Vetting Procedures** came into effect from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and the school follows all Child Protection/Garda Vetting procedures as per Department of Education guidelines.

### Staff Training & Inservice Development

- All teachers participated in various professional development training over the 2015-2016 year. Substitute cover was provided by the DES allowing teachers to attend this valuable Inservice training.
- Teachers completed their annual requirement of 36 extra hours as per the Croke Park Agreement.
- A new system for recording SNA 72 hours was introduced over the year.
- Staff Training took place over the year for the School Nurse linked in with the HSE, more to follow next year
- All SNA's, Teachers and ancillary staff such as Bus Escorts received training in Manual Handling and First Aid in August 2014. This was part of their Croke Park hours.
- **NEW PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM** – staff attended inservice seminars as well as closing school for a day to educate and inform teachers about the new curriculum which will be rolled out for Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class from Sept. 2016/2017

### Parents Assoc & Fundraising Needs.....

The Friends of St. Anthony's Fundraising Committee was revitalised with the addition of new parent members and they have a plan of activities for the next year ahead – more details as they arise. Main events for 2016-2017 include

- Concert on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- Trolley Dash in Nov/Dec 2017
- Race Night in March 2017
- Flag day in May 2017

Now we have that done the PA revival is next!!

**The school will reopen on Thursday  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 for all pupils.**