

Dear Parents,

My name is Claire, the Chairperson of the re-established Parents Association, at St Catherines Special School. Myself and four other parents have been afforded the opportunity of representing you – the special and dedicated parents of our special children, whom are lucky enough to be attending St Catherines. We would like to first and foremost thank you for allowing us to be your voice over the next few years. We feel each and everyone of you deserves a voice and a constructive platform to continue to support St.Catherines and help maximise the great work they do each day for our beautiful children.

What is our goal?

- ✓ *Our goal is to be your voice and to collect ideas and suggestions to continue to better our school. We would also like to invite parents to be part of this wonderful school by participating in meetings and events we have lined up for the future.*
- ✓ *To create a platform between parents and the school. In order to keep you informed of what is happening in the school but moreover what key ideas and plans are for the future.*
- ✓ *To continue to generate and execute fundraising ideas and plans that we all may have.*
- ✓ *To help lobby and be part of wider voice to support St.Catherines as they embark upon the design and build out of the new School.*

What have we done so far?

The new PA has created a strong committee which we hope has been a positive support network to all parents. Since the committee was started in October we have had several training sessions with the National Parents Council. We have successfully coordinated, with your tremendous support, a halloween bake sale, raffle and golf day. With the help of family and friends we also arranged for a very bright and cheerful make-over to the playground in Kilmullen Lane. Separately, but through the contacts and work of the committee a very generous donation was made by the Northern Trust Company before christmas which has already been used for educational equipment in the school. More recently we have had meetings with Bray Wanderers FC and they have kindly taken on St Catherines as a charity. The committee have been asked to give their input into policy developments within the school and have met with the chairperson of the Board of Management at St.Catherines to discuss the new school and we are confident that this is now a priority.

How can you help?

- ✧ *Fundraising idea – We need your creative ideas please! All ideas, whacky and wonderful will be considered.*
- ✧ *Volunteers – For future events and to use the Bray Wanderers as an example, we will be looking for Volunteers on specific Charity days to help collect donations.*
- ✧ *Your views/opinions – All general feedback and constructive ideas around the work carried out by St.Catherines would be appreciated. We will collect and prioritise these and use them as a basis for our meetings.*
- ✧ *Website – we need your support so please keep checking the website page for updates.*

Finally on behalf of Jane Dillely (Secretary), Gillian Brady (Treasurer), Valerie Kavanagh, Clodagh Murray, and myself Claire McClean I would like to thank you in advance for your support and look forward to working with you to help this wonderful school into the future.

Thanks – The PA Committee