



Parent Council Minutes – 28th November 2019

1. Welcome and apologies

Present – Jeanette Ross (chairperson of PC), Linda Swinson (PC secretary), Gail MacLean (Head Teacher), Laura Inglis (Principal Teacher), Rachel Kerr, Joanna Mclean, Ben Winger, Gosia Drewa, Kate Sher and Shilpi.

Apologies – None!

2. Actions from previous minutes

- Linda to contact p3 parents about setting up and running a football team – carry forward.
- Shiv to write a letter to parents to ask if the companies they work for have community help programs. – carry forward.
- Bikeability was advertised on the Facebook page. None of the parents who expressed an interest were able to do the training on the available dates. Rachel Kerr as managed to get some of the parents of children in her daughter's p7 child to help out.
- STEM room is finished!
- The parent helpers leaflet is all finalized and ready to hand out!
- The work packages have been created and all of them are moving forward.

Action 1 – Shiv to meet with Gail to create a letter to e-mail to parents and put on Facebook to ask parents if they companies they work for have community help programmes.

Action 2 – Linda, as the p3 rep, to write to the p3 parents to encourage them to set up a school p3 football team.

3. Headteachers update

- The Christmas Jumper swap was a new idea, so we will see how this goes as it was very last minute.
- Children In Need raised £452.78 so thank you to everyone who donated. The bagel/pancake/toast at breaktime also went down a storm and we are considering making this a monthly feature. P7 Glee club did a fabulous job in the choir on the night and a massive thank you to Miss Inglis for giving up 3 weekends in a row to accompany the children to rehearsals and filming for this.

Building Work update

- Almost done for now – entrance doors fitted and working; carpet tiles replaced.
- The curtains and blinds in hall still to be fitted; the boys toilets to be painted and plastered; the sound system in the hall to be fixed in the next week or so but rest of 'snagging' and further work will be done during the February week holidays. This will include;
 - Replacement windows in stairwells (hence the remaining scaffolding)
 - New gym hall floor
 - Crest on entrance hall floor

- In addition, meeting with CEC on Tuesday re replacement of gym hall doors Library will be able to be put back, seated area for visitors back into front entrance as soon as possible.

Staffing

- Michelle Smith is the new p3 teacher and she has met the class parents who were able to pop in after school
- Nicole Chuwen is Mrs Buchanan's maternity cover replacement.
- Laura Doig has started in her new role as the home school link worker.
So far, she has
 - held an introductory meeting for parents to explain her role and how she can help
 - supported families with attendance and other things
 - supported the Bookbug and RWC launches
 - worked with some children
 - been on the Families Connect training course along with Michelle Owenson (PSA) so they can run this course for families in the new year
 - signed up for LIAM training (Low Intensity Anxiety Management) to support children
 - run break club
 - introducing 'Biscuit and a Blether' sessions
 - attended CPMs for some children to support parents.....and many other things

Bikeability Update from Ewan Morrison

- He is currently running the second round of level 1 Bikeability.
- He plans to run either another level 1 session into the new year, or move on to Level 2, depending on interest.
- Michelle Owenson and Catriona Haddow (parent) have signed up to the course which is split over two afternoons in late January/early Feb. If anyone else is interested, they should speak to Rachel or Jeanette.
- Current limiting factor of the course is children not having bikes and/or helmets. A small collection of old helmets have been found in school which can be used if needed.
- Catriona is exploring funding for a collection of school bikes. Sustrans recommended contacting Active Schools as they helped another cluster school do this. This is still being explored but Shona said that we could also reach out to local businesses to see if they would sponsor (buy!) a bike for us? This is something the PC could definitely help us with.
- Police signs out consistently and JRSO out monitoring randomly. Very few people stopping when we were out during launch week. Children seem to have bought in to it (e.g. P3 recently getting upset when dropped off late on the zig-zags...)
- Chased Lorna @ Waverley over the refresh of the painting of the Zig-Zags.

January In-Service Days

- Tuesday 7th Jan – Outdoor Learning Strategy/ EDICT
- Wednesday 8th January – Restorative Practice/ RSHPE

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education – Parent Workshop

- Already a few parents worried about this area of the curriculum as they are hearing 2nd hand from parents at other schools.
 - Brand new curriculum for Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education within the current Scottish primary school curriculum.
 - This is being implemented in all schools as part of the Scottish National Curriculum, as part of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum.
 - There is a Parent workshop /Info session arranged for 23rd January – parents will have the opportunity to see exactly what their child will be taught and ask any questions they may have.
 - No class will begin using the resource until AFTER the parent's session
 - Mrs Iley has attended the curriculum training and staff will be looking at this resource etc on one of the January In-Service days

Playground Maintenance

- Trim trail – A parent, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated all the money required to pay for the repairs needed to keep the trim trail open for children. We are all extremely grateful.

Other donations

- Donations have been given to the school for some children to attend the p7 residential camp who wouldn't be able to go otherwise. These donators also wish to remain anonymous. Again, we are very grateful to these people for their kindness.

Icy Weather

- A local resident was sadly injured during recent unexpected icy weather on the pavement outside the school.
- The janitor has responsibility for school grounds and often grits a few meters either side and the crossing.
- Parent suggested fundraising for a ride on gritter as she accepts, we have extensive grounds and it would mean he could also ensure the pavement between the 2 gates was gritted.

Values Logo competition

- All the children in the school were involved. There were 11 finalists. A winner was chosen by anonymous staff vote. Kirsty King in P6 was winner. Costs currently being obtained to print a poster for each classroom and a visual for the main entrance.

Family Engagement for Improvement

- Gail & Catriona attended this training last week run by CONNECT.
- We did lots of reflecting about how we engage families in the school currently. We also looked at why family engagement is important and discussed the different types of family engagement.
- This could potentially be looked at further at the next Parent Council meeting?

Action 1 – Look into getting bikes for the children to use for Bikeability if they do not have their own bikes. **Not sure who is leading this.**

Action 2 – Jeanette to add family engagement to the next PC agenda.

4. Book week

This year's book week has gone down very well with children and staff. The school treat the week as a literacy week. Each class created their own story book character and wrote stories about them going on different adventures. The children really enjoyed the film afternoons. The sun was a bit of an issue for the older children as it happened to be a very sunny day so it was hard to see the screen. But just at the right moment the sun went behind a cloud so the pupils could enjoy the ending!

5. Treasurer update

Treasurer was not able to make the meeting so there was no update. We did agree to keep hold of all the money we have received from the council as it is not clear how much of that money we will have to use to pay for room bookings for PC and PTA meeting as we have not been sent a bill yet.

6. Year Rep update

It is important for all reps to remember to use the "bcc" box when sending group e-mails as there as been complaints that parents e-mail addresses are being shared, without permission, by mistake.

All the reps are happy with the new list of rep responsibilities that has been created so it can now be put up on the website.

Action 1 – Jeanette to e-mail the responsibilities list to Mr Morlay so he can put it on the website.

7. Work packages

Writing improvement – the working group have met and are keen to support parents in supporting their children's writing. The school staff have received training from James Clemant which involves looking at good writing practise within the school and creating a

ten point strategy from there. The working group would like to share their findings by inviting parents in to discuss writing and also by creating parent information sheets with useful web links. The school has a very keen literacy pupil support group who could be involved too.

Relationships & Sexual Health – Mrs Islay had some training she was waiting to go on on this topic before she met with Rachel, the work package leader. She has now completed this training so a meeting has been set up.

Outdoor learning – Ben, the co-leader of the work package, has met with Mrs Islay about the topic. She is very keen to find out how parents feel about outdoor learning and if they have any concerns or misunderstanding before this area of the school curriculum can be more developed. There is staff training on this topic happening on one of the January inservice days and it might be possible for one of the people on this working group to go on that training.

Communication – There are three areas within communication that this working group is particularly interested in.

1. What do parents want and expect from communication from the school. Where do they get information they are looking for about the school? How many parents are receiving the parentpay e-mails?
2. How can strategies best be communicated to parents to help them help their children with their homework?
3. How can we best promote the school to with wider community? For example – could the school show be performed to other community groups? To help the local community see the school in a more positive light!

8. Heathy snacks & juice

In the past there have been school incentives to encourage children to bring healthy food into school. Could the school do more to encourage healthy eating? A suggestion was made for Fruity Friday to be introduced with house points for every child who brought in fruit on Friday. There was a request made that jugs of water be put on the tables for children who do not like fizzy juice at the school parties.

Action 1 – Gail to discuss ways to encourage children to bring in healthier food with staff.

Action 2 - Gail to ensure jugs of water are put on the tables at the school Christmas parties.

9. Homework

A number of years ago a large project was undertaken by the school staff and the PC to find out parents' options about homework. This research focused on how much homework and when it should go home. There is no interest in revisiting this topic but there is an interest to look into the quality of the homework that is being sent home. This homework still needs to be manageable for the teachers to create and for the parents to help their children complete.

It was suggested that a group of parents could meet with Gail and Catriona to look at the homework that is currently being sent home and tweak it.

Action 1 – Create a working group to look at the quality of homework being sent home throughout the school. – **not sure who is leading this!**

10. Parent helpers booklet

The leaflet is now ready to go out. A copy will be e-mailed out to the reps to pass onto their address lists. It will also be put on the website and paper copies displayed in the entrance area of the school.

Action 1 – Jeanette to e-mail out a copy of the helper leaflet to the reps so they can e-mail it out to their address lists.

Action 2 – Jeanette to e-mail Mr Morlay a copy to put on the website.

Action 3 – Laura to print off copies for the entrance area.

11. Bikeability update

There was discussion about how to help children who are keen to do the bikeability course but don't have their own bike. We discussed whether we could get any second hand bikes, possibly by asking the High School parents if they have any good quality bikes their kids have grown out of. Also could we ask local bike shops if they would be able to donate us any bikes.

Action 1 – Rachel to talk to Ewan about whether the school could store some bikes for the children to borrow to do bikeability.

12. Gritter

We discussed a request made by a parent that we buy a gritter to enable the school janitor to grit the streets round the school to help children get to school safely. This was raised in response to a gentleman falling on the pavement near the school on an icy day. We decided that as we don't fund raise, it was best to pass the request onto the PTA, who can add this request to their other parents wish list requests for the school.

Action 1 – Jeanette to take the request to buy a gritter for the school to the PTA.

13. AOB

There was no AOB at this meeting!

Date of next meeting : 27th February 2020