

Parent Council Meeting

22nd June 2015

Present: Terri Brady, Susan Burrell, Jaclyn Marrant, Gillian Taylor, Helen Laidlaw, Lyndsay Proc, Gillian Gordon, Joanne Corris, Alan Stables, Steven Readie, Louise Mitchell, Debbie Lawson, Larinda Ramage

Apologies: Pauline Spence, Lynne McDermott, Lynsay Renwick

AOB:

- PTA/Fundraising
- Planters
- Sports Day
- Report Cards

Chair's Report

There have been many changes within the school and hopefully things are settling down. The new management team should be in place soon. Chair stated that it was good to see so many people at Parent Council. Also nice to see happy children within the school.

Head Teacher's Update

Larinda Ramage (LR) said she had been very busy with the staffing for next term. Midlothian Council had taken over placing teaching staff and 1 teacher has been appointed this way. There are still 2 teaching vacancies, LR will be appointing these and interviews would be taking place on Monday 29th June. The letter detailing the teachers for next year have been sent out so that the children know and are settled before the end of term.

2 deputies have been appointed – LR will need to liaise with their schools before an announcement can be made. LR stated that it will be good to come back after the summer with a full management team.

A Support For Learning Teacher has also been appointed.

P1 inductions went well.

Twitter is up and running (@woodburnps) Website is almost there.

School improvement plan is underway LR has focused on what she felt was needed

Priorities are:

- Raising attainment in Literacy – Reading
- Raising attainment in Numeracy – basic number handling
- Social studies
- And improving the learning experience
- Building a positive ethos

Treasurer's Update

The is currently £6500 in the back however some of the money is awaiting invoices.

- £1000 to the school – need invoice for school fair
- £2000 to the school – teachers are currently looking at catalogues

Advice is being sought about installing a speaker and PA system in the school.

Summer Fair

This was our most successful yet. Thanks to Jaclyn Marrant for organising the raffle and getting donations for the prizes. It was spoken about the possibility of getting a face painter next year.

Parent Councils Donations for Trips

Every year the PC gives a donation to both the nursery and P7 for their end of session trips. This year £400 was donated to both.

The nursery went to East Links Family Park. It was discussed that this trip this year was very expensive at approx £18 and what could be done to lessen the cost. School are looking at alternative venues for the trip.

The P7s are going to Dunbar Pool, for their lunch and a walk along the harbour.

Dates for next year to be circulated at AGM

AOB

PTA / Fundraising

The possibility of setting up a fundraising committee to run alongside the parent council was discussed. A few of the parents said that they would rather fundraise that be involved in the running of the school. It was discussed wither it should be a PTA or a committee and committee was the preference. Steven Readie will check this out with Kevin Maguire (in charge of PC at Midlothian Council) to weigh up the pros and cons of both.

Planters

The planters are overgrown with weeds. These were put in by Midlothian Council, although they are not responsible for the upkeep. There should be one planter for each class but there are not enough planters now. The question is now, how do we look after them?

- One of the parents has mentioned that their work could do it.
- Flyer out to parents looking for volunteers to help after the summer?
- Newbattle Abbey in conjunction with the p6s

Sports Day

Concern was raised that the weather for Wednesday was to be overcast with rain. It was wondered, for future years, could the sports be moved to the afternoon if the forecast was for rain in the morning? It was also suggested that we could use the running track at the high school. LR said that it would have to be arranged with the campus but that she could look into it as a possibility.

Report Cards

Coming out end of this week beginning of next

Children's University

Gillian Gordon & Lyndsay Proc said what a good experience their boys had had with the Children's University program and how good the workshops that QMU had organised were. Steven Rennie agreed and said that they were looking forward to the Graduation on Friday

Date of next meeting to be sent out at the beginning of next term