

## Grange Parent Council Meeting and AGM Minutes Sept 2021

### 1. Review previous minutes

**Update** - Grow Social packs arrived in summer so not in time for this season but are available to use in Spring next year for 1 class or as Parent Council input.

### 2. School Update from Mrs Will

Welcome back to Mrs Will. The start back has been busy.

#### **School Day**

Gradually, and in a safe way trying to get life back to normal. It is starting to feel a bit more normal. School have a CO2 monitor in the hall which they need to keep below a certain level. This, balanced with getting children through in time is proving difficult but possible with the changes to the school day. Tweaking break times and are nearly at the right level for it.

A positive thing is that children are happy to be back in the playground with their year groups and they have much more space to play. It is easier for adults to see what is going on in the playground with a smaller group outside and the same level of staff. Clubs starting to come back in, football, dance and basketball to name a few. Gradual steps. The last year has resulted in good learning and this chance to do things differently and take the positives.

#### **Primary 7**

Mrs Will met with primary 7s and what they would like to do to replace Dalguise trips. The sky is the limit, apart from no overnight stays. P7's came back with amazing ideas. Mrs Smith will pull together their ideas, then they will get a questionnaire to fill in. There was a lot of great discussion in p7 classes about What is the purpose behind activities? Making memories and helping prepare them with skills for high school were a couple of the emerging ideas. This will be shared with primary 7 parents and there is still discussion to be had around it being phased over the year or all condensed but it's a time to start new traditions. A P7 parent group will be set up to support all of this. Excited to see how P7 might look for all families going forward.

#### **Covid Absence**

Covid impact within school is not as much as it has been but it is very unpredictable from a staffing point of view. Managing to minimise impact.

#### **Scottish Learning Festival**

Started preparing for the Scottish Learning Festival. Taking photos, videos and interviewing people about what it means to be a learner in Grange. Hope these videos will be useful to share with parents, new parents and new staff. Involving children and staff as much as possible, great to share this nationally.

#### **Community garden**

Chat with Leanne. Hopeful can still look at that on school premises.

### **School Improvement Plan**

School improvement plan this year, all the great work prepared for this from last year. The strong message is positive relationships. School will take time to review what we have learned, what has worked and what is important. Over next week while reviewing visions, values and aims. All that reach the stars stands for. Are they still important? Keen to do with children and parents. Maybe different learner qualities? We've all been challenged in different ways over last couple of years. What do we stand for in Grange now? what is important for us after the last year? Everything will be up for discussion including stars and minions. There will be opportunities for pupil and parents to discuss and input to this.

### **Rights Respecting School**

We will become a rights respecting school, Scotland is set to become the first country in the UK to directly incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law within the year. The framework will allow grange to make sure that everything that is done is through the views of children and their rights - plan is to do this before christmas.

### **Curriculum**

After christmas look at curriculum. Look with staff, parents. Does it need to look different going forward? Focusing on positive relationships and social skills. Analysis of class by teachers for each class. Basis for planning activities and health and wellbeing to target social skills the children need. Learning for staff, inclusive classrooms, different needs that children have and keeping staff aware of what that is like for different children.

### **Playground**

So much learning happens there, and children are almost set loose in playground and it's less regulated than the classroom. Support staff and playground staff to receive relevant training to support inclusive relationships / zones of regulation. Inside and outside, best playground. Learning through landscapes report has been fantastic and a powerpoint was taken from this and shared with the children so see what they think in more depth. Mrs Oldham will pull all of the information together. Parents will be consulted next and the wider community in order to support fundraising. The plan is to think big and move forward with some things this year, the school are applying for funding. Better chance of funding when we include the community and get their feedback. Keen to take time and do it right but also try to take some things forward quite quickly. Money has built up in fund that could be used, parent council may be able to use their funds too. Waiting for 3 more funding bids that have been submitted. It is a community space and attractive (not a free for all but space that can offer lets to groups). It would be great to use the space as a community space too.

Scrapantics can provide loose parts and refresh regularly and provide training. Require shelter for the parts. Children are also keen for football goals, a castle of some kind (like longparke).

Angus alive coming in couple of afternoons a week to work with children to develop forest areas, work with children on outdoor learning and primary 7 transition too. Funding for that from covid recovery money.

**Parent council are keen to spend money on aspects of playground and supporting cinema trip over the next little while.**

**Any Parent forum agenda items requested**

### **Parent Council Update**

#### **Changes to Office Bearers**

-Lisa co-chair, Claire stepped down as vice chair. Mel stay as secretary and Kerry as treasurer.

-Lynne and Leon are happy to stay on as Fundraising Co-ordinators.

PC Annual Report - Circulated

#### **2021-2022 parent council planning**

Meetings every 6 weeks. Keep to different days and start 7.30pm.

#### **Ideas**

Discussion about potential pumpkin parade, decorate pumpkin or create pumpkin art for classroom window. It was thought we need to keep the cost of the school day in mind. Buying pumpkins might rule out a lot of families being able to take part.

**Update since meeting-** Mrs L has been in touch re purchasing wooden pumpkins from Made@94 and decorating the forest. We are looking into using recycled materials/ borrowed materials first but will take forward as long as allowed with regards to current COVID guidelines. If anyone has any cool decorations, they wouldn't mind lending, please let us know via FB message or email.

Tidy up of Jacks garden to be arranged, stripping back raised beds when allowed.

Apples to be harvested from school orchard.

**Update since meeting** - Apples to be sent home with children for Oct hols along with an open ended task to come up with creative ideas as families. Share on the Parent Council Page Grange Families get creative with apples!

**Kite Bag Kits for families**

Go to Scrapantics to get stuff to make kite kit bags. - We received a Microgrant from Monifieth Community Council on behalf of Seagreen for £200. Will launch with school focus on COP26. Focus on environmental education. 1 per family.

Christmas - hope to see if children can go to cinema. Even one or two year groups a day possibly. More chance to tailor movie more for upper and lower groups. Use part of the PC funds to support this and the rest for the playground. Fundraising events hopefully towards spring summer.

Mrs Will will find out if we can hold any kind of event outside at Christmas then if it is possible to speak to Lynne and Leon about a community christmas event in the school grounds, carol singing, fairy lights, hot chocolate. Parent council contribute to cinema. Sell remaining school buffs to Nursery /Primary 1's first.

Consider summer fayre / summer event going forwards.

**Next Meeting Date and any other business**

Wednesday 10th November 7.30pm The Milton