**Portpatrick Primary School**

**Pupil Council Minutes – 29th September 2023**

Present: Layo, Zak, Arran, Stephen, Rebecca, Carter, Max & Mrs McHarg

1. Welcome by Mrs McHarg

* Mrs McHarg welcomed the new Pupil Council reps to their first meeting of the year. We went over the role of a Rep – Stephen said it’s to help others; Max said they need to set a good example at all times; and Carter said to help make the school a better place. Mrs McHarg explained what the word ‘rep’ means and how they are representing the ideas of their peers too, not just their own.
* We discussed where the Pupil Council display is in our school – directly opposite the photocopier. PC Reps are responsible for the upkeep of the display and can put up pictures/posters to raise awareness of things. They should encourage pupils to use the suggestion box to put their ideas in here for our next meeting.
* Mrs McHarg went over the agenda for today’s meeting – this was created using the pupil consultation sheets that we completed a few weeks ago at assembly.

1. Health and Safety

* Stephen said there are nettles all over the mound and they are catching people’s ankles when running. Arran suggested we could ask Kim to cut these back.
* The issue of after-school clubs was raised – Mrs McHarg explained that unfortunately, Alison Murray (Active Schools) can’t offer every school in the area and after school club as there are only 5 days in the week and 12 primary schools in our area, hence we are currently getting a lunch time club instead. Max likes the idea that the club is open to all of P1-7 pupils. Pupils were glad to hear that Alison Murray has been booked for further clubs in terms 3 and 4. Information about this will be put out nearer the time.
* Rebecca said that there is hardly any play equipment left in the toy box. She said that all of the toys have either been broken or lost. Mrs McHarg explained that they have lasted a while as we last sought funding for the toys back in 2018. Max said pupils would like footballs and cones. Carter suggested rugby balls and Arran said that they’d like more equipment for den building. Mrs McHarg explained that there is tarpaulin in the electrical cupboard, as she asked Mr Brawls (back when he was janitor!) to cut it up as it was too large to work with. We will ask Kim to look this out. Rebecca suggested we could ask the parent council for some funding to help purchase playground toys. We will make a wish list and pass it onto them to consider.
* Pupils said that litter is an ongoing issue in the playground. Carter said that the Eco committee sent a letter away last year asking for bins with smaller openings, as the gulls pick the litter out of the bear bins. Mrs McHarg explained that the Eco committee have a litter rota whereby pupils are responsible for doing regular litter picks in the playground. She suggested that Pupil Council reps could set a good example by picking up any litter that they see (only if it’s safe i.e. no sharp items) and they need to wash their hands afterwards.

1. Learning and Teaching

* Mrs McHarg explained that every year, Mrs Baillie has to write a report on how we are going to improve our school – this is called the ‘School Improvement Plan.’ In previous years, the Pupil Council have created a pupil-friendly version of this to share with pupils so they can have their say on how we can get better. All pupils agreed that this was a good idea and should continue with it.
* Our assembly theme for this term is our new school Vision, Values and Aims. Last week pupils were asked to name the new characters. The next 2 weeks will look at what each of the values mean and look like in school, so everyone is clear on this. Carter suggested that next term, we could go back to looking at Rights since our new P1 pupils won’t know much about this.
* This week is Maths Week Scotland, and Ms Whorlow had organised some fun activities – on Monday, everyone spent time with Mrs Hall (STEM Teacher) on maths problems; and our Games Design workshops have been rescheduled for after the October holidays. There are 3 sessions in total for P5-7. Carter said he is looking forward to these as they sound cool!
* Rebecca said some pupils in her class would like more baking. Max pointed out that the whole school do baking quite often, e.g. soup, gingerbread houses, CIN biscuits, etc. Mrs McHarg also explained that Stranraer Academy Home Economics department have recently sent a survey out to primary schools to find out what cooking resources we have. They are in the process of creating a box for each primary school, containing cooking/baking equipment and recipe cards appropriate to younger and older pupils. Hopefully when this arrives, we will have even more opportunities for cooking and baking.
* Max said he is looking forward to the residential trip that is being planned for P6 & P7 pupils in February. Mrs McHarg explained that the overnight stay is to Glasgow and pupils will be going to the theatre, ten-pin bowling and a visit to Kelvingrove Museum. It would involve getting the train up and down to Glasgow and a stay at the Youth Hostel. Carter said he can’t wait and is looking forward to a city trip as it’s different to the outdoor trips pupils usually have. Arran asked if there is anything for the other P1-5 pupils; Mrs McHarg explained that Mrs Baillie was looking into the possibility of a trip to the Panto in Ayr for P1-5 pupils at Christmas time.

1. Rights-Respecting School Award

* Mrs McHarg explained that we will have our Rights Respecting Gold accreditation visit in May 2024. The assessor will want to speak to groups of pupils, staff and parents to discuss our work on rights and how these are part of everyday school life. She shared the gold action plan with pupils and we went through some of the action points we could start working on –
  + We’ve decided to hold a ‘Tweet for a Treat’ table at the next learning conversations in October, where parents/carers will be offered a sweet from the bowl if they write their thoughts/knowledge/questions down about children’s rights. We will print leaflets for parents/carers to take away home with them to read.
  + We are going to get in contact with Castle Kennedy and Glenluce Pupil Council, as they have already been awarded their gold RRS award, to chat about their RRS work and get top tips!
  + Mrs McHarg is going to purchase a pocket book about rights. This will go home with each pupil in the school on a Monday and be returned by the Friday. It will be an opportunity for pupils and parents/carers to enjoy the book together and chat about their rights.
  + The winner of the RRS mascot competition was announced before the summer break. We are going to start using the mascot on any communication/displays to do with Rights in school.

1. AOCB

* Our next meeting will be held shortly after the October break, so we can make plans for Children in Need which is on Friday 17th November.

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| **Actions** | **Who by?** |
| Cut back nettles on mound. | Ms Stevenson |
| Look out tarpaulin from cupboard. Cut up if not done. Any rope? | Ms Stevenson |
| Playground toy wish list to Parent Council | Mrs McHarg & PC Reps |
| Create Pupil-Friendly SIP | Mrs McHarg |
| Plan Rights assemblies for term 2. See gold action plan (pink highlighted actions). | Mrs McHarg |
| “Tweet for a Treat” table at learning conversations – banner and speech bubble explaining what to do; bowl of sweets; post-it notes and pens. Print Children’s Parliament leaflets for parents/carers to take and read. | Mrs McHarg |
| Purchase Pocket book of Rights. Start rota for pupils to take book home to share with parents/carers and jotter to write down thought/what they’ve learned. | Mrs McHarg |
| Create rota for pupils to take RRS book home to share with parents/carers. | Max & Carter |
| Prep questions to ask Castle Kennedy & Glenluce Pupil Council about RRS Gold award. | Rebecca & Arran. |