**Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 31st January 2022**

**7pm-9pm**

**Present:** Susan Wilson, Katie Ryan, Dovile Connor, Jennifer Evans, Gillian Hudson, Kirsty Dow, Jenny McPartland, Judith Wilson, Leigh Ferguson, Julie Jaconelli, Louise Hunter, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Lawson, Mrs McKee, Mrs McLaughland, Mrs Wilson, Nicola Wallace, Jen Stewart, Roddy Gourlay, Julie Work

 *(All meetings are currently virtual; therefore, this list may not be 100% accurate due to attendees not signing in. Every effort is made to record names as they enter the meeting, however, due to the nature of virtual meetings, this is not always possible.)*

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes from Parent Council meeting dated Tuesday 9th November 2021 agreed to be an accurate representation of events.

Proposed by Susan Wilson, Seconded by Judith Wilson. Minutes adopted.

**OUTSTANDING AND ONGOING ISSUES**

**Walkie Talkies**

Mrs McKee confirmed that the school has received 10 new walkie talkies for staff including janitorial and clerical staff. It will connect the playground to the school indoors and to the office.

Jenny McPartland informed us that Microsoft have released a new walkie talkie app function which could be considered in the future. It consists of different channels. As it is all part of the current licensing, it is no extra cost to the school.

**Photographer**

Scott from the Photo Studio in Ayr is booked to come into the school to take school photographs on 27th & 28th April.

**Music Tuition**

Julie Carrie has been leading the Strings Project within P4, this will run to Easter and with tutor Miss Burns.

P6 have been offered brass, string and woodwind instruments. These are currently being taught weekly or fortnightly depending on availability as tutors are currently only allowed within 1 school per day due to current guidelines.

**P7 Activities**

Final order for the hoodies has been put through, however were delayed before Christmas due to an error. They are at the final stage and should be ready imminently.

Meetings are taking place on a Monday, through Microsoft Teams, with pupils and Grange Academy as part of the preparation stage for S1. Staff are keeping a close eye on current guidelines and will review at a later stage whether in person visits could be possible.

Staff are thinking ahead to possible end of term activities for the P7s, however as it is uncertain now what restrictions may be in place, the plan is to wait until after the Easter holidays before consulting parents to make solid plans.

**MRS GRIFFITHS – SAFER SCHOOLS APP**

The school has received the Cyber Resilience Internet Safety Award. It is the only school in East Ayrshire to get it.

The digital leaders met on Wednesday to have a refresh of the app. It is designed to make children, staff and parents aware of the dangers of the outside to everyone.

It is a free app from East Ayrshire Council.

Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 8th February. There is further information and resources for parents on the Gargieston Blog under ‘Internet Safety and Cyber Resilience’.

**1 & 2 LANGUAGE PROGRAMME**

The 1 & 2 Language Approach is designed to ensure that every child can learn a modern language from the ECC onwards. French is taught at each stage from the ECC to P7.

The other language to be taught to each class isn’t set, the teacher can decide what they teach depending on their own strengths, the interests of the class and class topics. This can include sign language. This will be brought back into the curriculum.

**HEADTEACHER REPORT**

**Covid**

Guidance is changing all the time; the school are asking that parents continue to follow the guidance given to them by the school. Continue with regular lateral flow tests and remember to upload the results as this is what starts the Track and Trace process for positive cases.

From the October holidays until now, there have been 131 positive cases among the school children, several of them testing positive for the second time. 27 staff have also tested positive in this time frame. This has had a huge impact right across the school.

**School Role**

The school role is currently at 428.

The Primary 1 enrollment is now complete with 40 children enrolling from within the catchment area. There are currently 13 placing requests.

There are 63 P7s leaving us.

**Staffing**

There are 4 members of staff on long term absence leave: Miss McColl, Mrs Bloomfield, Mrs Marshall and Mr. Smith. Miss McColl will be starting a phased return to the school soon.

Miss McGregor commenced at Gargieston after the Christmas break to ease staffing pressure and has been working with P4B.

Crosshouse Primary have been supporting Gargieston with allowing Mr. Hay to be at Gargieston fulltime while staffing is tight. Until now he has been working part time between establishments.

Staff have been taking turns covering Mr. Smith’s role with P.E and Health & Wellbeing while he is absent.

**Report cards**

Report cards will be issued just before the Easter holidays. There will also be Snapshot fortnight and phone calls to parents in the summer term.

Mrs Hope and Miss McColl will work together on the reports for P4A, Mrs McLaughland, Miss McGregor and Mrs Marshall will work together on P4B’s and Mrs Lawson & Mr. Hay will be working on report cards for P5B.

**ECC**

Enrolment will open for the ECC on 28th February for 2 weeks. There are 64 places. Currently there are 22 returners and a number of ante pre children who didn’t get a place last year who may apply for a place this year. Numbers are expected to be around 50+ pre-school children with the remaining place available for new 3-year-old children.

**Christmas raffle**

The Christmas raffle raised £1,395 for school funds.

**ESTABLISHMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**Literacy**

Mrs Lawson updated parents on literacy.

The focus has been on altering and updating the child friendly targets. The idea is that children make their own targets with their teacher based on what they feel they need to work on. It also gives children ownership over their own learning.

There continues to be a big focus on writing. Mrs Lawson and Mrs McLaughland have been supporting teachers and pupils with this in class.

Due to an extra pocket of money which has been sourced, the school is looking at introducing more paper copies of reading books for children who prefer to read a hard copy of text. New Bug Club books will be bought.

**Numeracy**

Mrs Griffiths updated parents on numeracy.

Audits have been carried out and completed to assess what was needed to improve learning.

Child friendly targets with numeracy have been established and makes sure children are familiar with what they are learning.

A bank of assessments is being created for use at early and 1st levels.

**Health & Wellbeing**

The school is focusing on creating a mentally healthy school along with an anti-bullying and respectful relationships policy.

There is also a calendar of events to support staff.

Primary 6 took part in well being training and 22 pupils were awarded the title Wellbeing Champion.

Attention was drawn to the Gargieston Blog where parents can find a whole Parental Wellbeing Awareness Programme designed to support parents and pupils and be a place to access information. This can be found on the main blog page under the ‘Parents’ drop-down tab and under ‘Health & Wellbeing Info’.

**Rights respecting schools**

Mrs McLaughland talked parents through the Rights Respecting Schools.

Gargieston will have its Gold Level assessment on March 24th. It has not been confirmed whether the visit will be virtual or onsite.

Since coming back after Christmas, all classes have revisited and updated their class charters and explored and reaffirmed the roles of duty bearers and the rights holders.

Every fortnight, Mrs McLaughland has been hosting assembly and in that being including ‘Right of the Fortnight’. Pupils are shown video clips and information is shared on the right they are exploring.

Mrs McLaughland will share on the blog the rights in which they have been learning for parents to read.

Mrs McLaughland hosted a raffle recently for the pupils to test and see how well they remembered their rights. Teachers drew 2 winners out of a hat, and they were awarded stationery as prizes. It was a fun and different way to engage the kids.

Mrs Wallace, a parent of the school, has been in school and working on Pledge Trees with pupils. She sketched up 4 giant trees – 1 for each sports house. Every child across the school has put a thumb print on the tree. Staff have put their thumb prints on the tree trunks symbolizing their role in helping the children to grow. This project is ongoing, and pictures of the trees will be put on the blog for parents to see once complete.

**Property Pledge**

The Rights Respecting Schools committee have recently completed an inspection of the school itself and the grounds to look at things that need to be refreshed or updated. They will be presenting their findings to the local authority who will take on board the suggestions and make a pledge to work with them.

**Fairtrade**

Primary 5A have achieved Level 1 Fairtrade award. Fairtrade fortnight begins on February 21st in which it is hoped P5A can lead the way in exploring and teaching fellow pupils even more about this.

**Show Racism the red card**

A competition will be launched at assembly and pupils will be learning more about racism and its issues in school and through art and drama.

**Creativity Group**

Mr. Hay and Mrs Marshall lead the creativity group which consists of drama, art, music and dance. ECC support assistant Chloe Law has been kindly using her skills and background to help.

Staff are to receive Charanga training.

The school has signed up for the Foxtrot Project with RSNO.

**GFG**

The Gargieston Fundraising Group are to arrange to meet in person to discuss ways in which it can raise much needed funds.

Outdoor events were discussed, however due to the classes still being in bubbles, indoor activities cannot happen at present.

Meeting details will be shared with the parent body for anyone who wishes to go along to support the group.

**AOB**

Concerns were raised about parking around all school exits. Pre-Covid, Kerr Chalmers was contacted and asked to look at re painting the zig zag lines to make it safer for children to leave the playground and cross the road. This has not been addressed yet. Parents present at tonight’s meeting are going to liase to contact Cllr Linton to chase this up and to reiterate the dangers of the parking around the school.

Mrs McKee has approached PC Dawn McPike and asked for further support after reports of the speed of traffic on Dundonald Road. She has asked for this to be monitored.

Meeting closed.

The next virtual meeting of the Parent Council will be 29th March 2022.

To contact the parent council please email:

gargiestonparentcouncil@gmail.com