

GIFFNOCK PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER 2016/2017



Welcome to our Parent Council Annual Newsletter 2016-2017

We have had another busy year with members working closely with the school and parents on a number of activities/issues to benefit our fantastic pupils.

This newsletter updates you about these issues, whilst also explaining how we tackled our fundraising this year and how the money was spent — thank you to those members, parents and staff from last year who organised events and raised so much money for our school.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 4th September at 7 pm in the school library and we look forward to welcoming all parents/carers. Cheese and wine will follow our short meeting.

Alastair Milloy, Chair.

Who are the PC members:

Alastair Milloy (Chair), Fiona Walker & Leigh Perrot (Joint Vice Chairs), Murray Husband (Secretary), Leigh Perrott (Treasurer), David McLellan, Rachel Philips, Nic Dickson, Clare McGinn, Neil Hughes, Fiona Brown, Sarah Harris, Emma Farrell and Fiona Serafini. In addition to this, we also have an active fundraising group, that meets separately from the Parent Council, and is represented on the Council by Fiona Walker.

School representatives:

Rob Lawson (HT), Kirsty Rawley (DHT).

What we do

The Parent Council deals with campaigns, policy, issues, and has 2 members representing each year group of children in the school (from nursery to P7). The fundraising group organise and run events to raise money for every child in the school to enjoy. Members can join in the activities of the fundraising group for one particular event, for specific purpose (eg supervising at a disco), or as part of the dedicated committee planning and organising events — though ideas always welcome! Both groups meet regularly, every 6 weeks; and the fundraising group is represented at Council meetings.



School Improvement Planning and Priorities for Session 2017-18

Giffnock Primary's Head Teacher Rob Lawson will give a brief introduction to the current school improvement planning and priorities at the Parent Council AGM in September. This planning highlights key focuses for the school this year, set within the context of East Renfrewshire's local authority planning and indeed national priorities. Towards the end of last session, we agreed our School Values of: Honesty, Inclusivity, Kindness, Friendship, Respect and Determination. It is the intention that these values will become the foundation of all that we do together at Giffnock Primary and they will remain a central focus moving forwards.

During last school session, the Parent Council and the school's Senior Leadership Team worked closely together to build and strengthen how parents/ carers feed into and engage with the school and our children's learning. This will continue to be of upmost importance this session. Parent Councils across the authority meet regularly with the ERC Education Department, and other schools in the Woodfarm cluster, and will continue to take part in consultations on issues such as the ERC School Improvement Plan, new strategies to involve parents, and meeting providers to discuss the quality of school meals.



Fundraising Sub-Committee

During each school year we organise and run quite a few events for the enjoyment of the pupils and their families. These are the Spring Fling Disco (March), Halloween Disco (October), Movie Night (March & October), Quingo (June), Ceilidh (January), Pupils' Sponsored Event (May) and our Christmas Fayre (December).

Last year these events raised a staggering £10,000! Many of our parents/carers enjoy helping out at these fun events and to them we say a huge thank you. Going forward though, we are looking to recruit volunteers to help organise an event each with the support of the Fundraising Committee and our volunteers bank. If you can help, please email us at giffnockpc@hotmail.co.uk



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 2nd December at 12pm. Please come along and enjoy the festivities. As usual we will have plenty of stalls to buy presents and stocking fillers, our tearoom with hot/cold drinks and delicious home baking, fun games room, red stall and lots more. If you, or anyone you know, would like to arrange a stall, please contact us at the email address below.

As with all events your help is needed so if you can spare an hour or so, again please contact us.



School Values Event — May 16th

Over the last two sessions, our children, staff, Parental Equalities Group and parental community have all been involved in helping to decide upon our core vision, values and aims. At the end of last session we shared the school emblem and motto which have pride of place in our main school entrance:

'Working hard having fun, that's the way we get things done'

In addition, and led by our Pupil Council and House Captains, during this session we have aimed to decide upon a set of School Values which will provide a 'foundation' for all the learning that takes place at school. During Meet the Teacher and other parental events this year, we have also asked for your views on this. This process culminated in a School Values Event on the morning of May 16th 2017 when we invited a wide range of our school community members

to assemble. Colleagues from cluster schools joined us, alongside representatives from other agencies that we work with and from local businesses and partners. Members of our Parent Council, Parental Equalities Group, office, janitorial, kitchen and teaching staff took part, alongside children from all of our Pupil Groups, our House Captains and our Parent Council.

During the event, the group was asked to help decide upon a final set of six school values that we would all aspire for children and adults in our school community to model. These six, Giffnock Primary School Values were announced at our whole school assembly on the 16th June and then also at the end of school service on the 27th June. Next session, our new School Values will be embedded in all that we do, from our House System to class agreements about what we expect from one another.

Our whole school values were agreed as:-

Honesty
Inclusivity
Kindness
Respect
Determination
Friendship

Fundraising

Money, Money, Money!!! As with last year our 'Quingo' night was a huge success and fun was had by both parents and children. We are always grateful for the continued support of parents, children at our events and, of course, the local businesses who generously gift prizes.

Hey Big Spender!!! How has the money raised been spent?

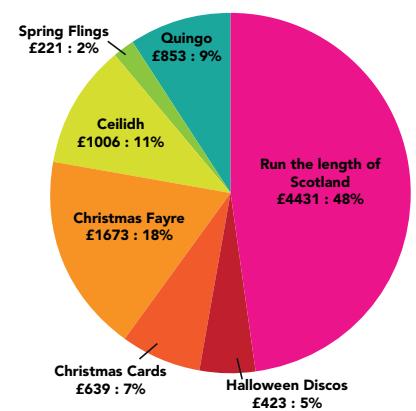
As well as the management team being able to request funds at any time, we ask staff, pupil council and any other group associated with the school to request funds during the year. We hope that by involving more people in how the money is spent, the better it will be used and the more pupils that will benefit from it. Contributions this year include £2535 on Christmas parties, presents from Santa etc and a Literacy workshop, £674.92 in connection with "Play on Pedal" learning equipment for the nursery — this was the purchase of bikes for the children to play on, £2439 for ICU (IT) equipment, £915 for gardening equipment for the gardening club, £951 for sports kits for the school, £1700 for end of year activities — leavers lunch for P7 etc and £243 for work on the trim trail. A full copy of the accounts will be available at the AGM, or on request from the Parent Council.

We still have a permanent Rag Bag bin in the playground. Please use this to recycle old clothes and shoes to raise money for the school — many thanks.

...And how can I help?

We are always on the look-out for new volunteers and members of the Parent Council. You are not required to be a member to help out at events or to attend meetings. Please contact giffnockpc@hotmail.co.uk for more information, or see our facebook page. *Thank you.*

Breakdown of £9246 PC funds raised 16-17



Breakdown of £9683 PC funds spent 16-17

