

GIFFNOCK PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

newsletter 2018/2019



Welcome to our Parent Council Annual Newsletter 2018-2019

We have had another busy year with members working closely with the school, parents and carers on a range of activities/issues to help 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, carers and staff from last year who organised events and raised so much money for our school. Our AGM was held on Thursday 4 October at 7 pm in the school library. Cheese and wine followed our short meeting.

Alastair Milloy, Chair.

Who are the PC members:

Alastair Milloy (Chair), Fiona Walker & Leigh Perrot (Joint Vice Chairs), Fiona Brown (Secretary), Leigh Perrott (Treasurer), Emma Farrell, Fiona Serafini, Aisha Aman, Gemma Griffen, Inge Kreuser-Genis, Lindsay Smart, Lorna Craig, Clare McGinn, Neil Hughes, Nicola Dooley, Nic Dickson, Rachel Philp, Sadia Gilani-Syyed, Sarah Harris, Carly Young, Jacqui Grant, Fiona Wilson, Jamil Butt and Kirsty Ray. 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. Members can join in the activities of the fundraising group for one particular event, for specific purpose 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 2018-19

Giffnock Primary's Head Teacher Rob Lawson gave a brief overview of the current school improvement planning at our Parent Council AGM on Thursday October 4th. 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. Following our strong inspection findings from Education Scotland, along with our own self-evaluation processes, key targets will include further development of how our children articulate their own learning journeys and developing the most effective methods through which we challenge all of our children.

During last school session, the Parent Council and the school's Senior Leadership Team worked closely together to build and strengthen how parents/ carers engage with the school and our children's learning. More of our parents are leading learning around the school, from our Parent 'Cookalongs' and upcoming sessions with a range of our classes, to recent support during Maths Week. We have also continued to enhance the opportunities for our families to gain further understanding of learning processes, for example through our new workshops aimed at a range of additional support needs. Our Parental Engagement Calendar on the school website provides a detailed overview. This will continue to be of utmost importance this session. Parent Councils across the authority meet regularly with the ERC Education Department, and other schools in the Woodfarm Cluster, and we will continue to take part in consultations on a range of issues.



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), Ceilidh (January), Pupils' Sponsored Event (May) and our Christmas Fayre (December).

Last year these events raised a staggering £5,583! Many of our parents/carers enjoy helping out at these fun event 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 24th November 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.

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



Equalities News

At this month's Parent Equalities Forum, East Renfrewshire Council representatives shared a new initiative called Diversity Champions. This is a proposed new role where parent/carer volunteers with an interest in this area would represent their school or cluster. The focus for the role would initially be to provide more support to the school in helping to raise awareness of Equality issues and promote further communication with the wider parent forum. More news on this will follow once the specification for the role has been shared and discussed.

Follow up information on 'The Cost of the School Day' has also become available. The focus of this campaign is to ensure that we are as equitable as possible in ensuring that the life of

our school is equally accessible to all regardless of possible barriers. This is a key area we are looking for parental input and ideas on; to find out more please see <http://www.cpag.org.uk/cost-school-day>

Refurbishment of school toilets has also taken the news recently particularly regarding the area surrounding Gender Neutral Toilets and their installation. This is an authority wide programme which means all new builds will have these facilities and also all refurbishments. Free sanitary products are going to become more widely available in all schools in an attempt to address "Period Poverty". Further information on how this will be installed will be shared as this becomes available.

Fundraising

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

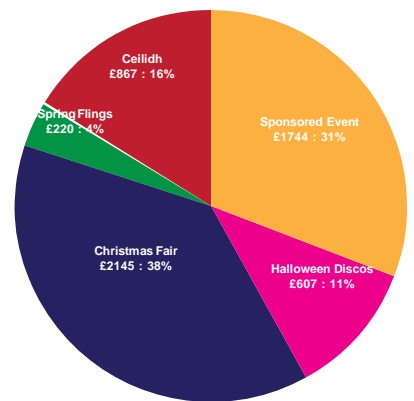
As well as the management team being able to request funds at any time, we ask staff, pupil council and any other group associated with the school to request funds during the year. We hope that by involving more people in how the money is spent, the better it will be used and the more pupils that will benefit from it.

Contributions this year include £2740 on Christmas parties, presents from Santa, end of year activities e.g. leavers lunch for P7, ties for P1 and P7 and homework bags for P1. £600 was spent on a Literacy workshop, £450 of after school activities which include multi sports, Bollywood, cricket and girls football. £1,015 was also spent on the Hopscotch Theatre and £1,200 on tunnel repairs in the playground.

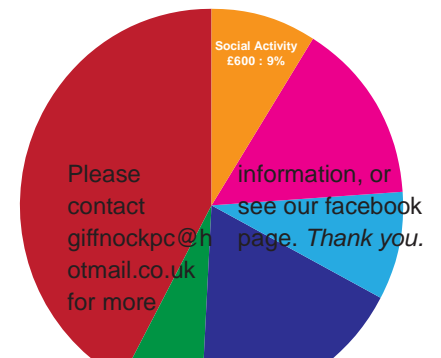
A full copy of the accounts will be available at the AGM, or on request from the Parent Council.

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.

Breakdown of £5583 PC funds raised 17-18



Breakdown of £6605 PC funds spent 17-18



...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.

