



Our Lady of the Missions Primary School Parent Council
Minutes of Meeting – 11th January 2018

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by chair Gillian Boyle at 7:00pm

1. Apologies & Approval of Minutes

December 2017 minutes will be approved by the council via email.

2. Chair's Report

Playground group

It was discussed how to raise additional funding for the next stage of the playground development, this will be discussed in further detail at the next PSA meeting.

National Parent Forum (NPF)- Focus Group

The chair encouraged any parent council members to attend the proposed focus group on Tuesday 16TH January. The purpose of this session is to get a view on the proposed consultation from parents.

NPF Child Poverty Action Group- Equalities Forum

The chair encouraged any parent council members to attend the proposed Equalities Forum on Thursday 18th January. The purpose of this session is to review a new toolkit on “the cost of the school day” produced by the NPF/Scottish child poverty action group to look at how we can evaluate / identify / deal with any particular barriers affecting children from disadvantaged backgrounds in the way schools operate.

3. Outdoor Centres for P7 Trip

In a bid to ensure best value for the P7 trip, a procurement exercise is underway, to review the 4 potential centres available.

In addition to the Lockerbie Centre, which has been the centre of choice for a number of years, 3 new centres are being assessed against various criteria, such as activity range.

A spreadsheet comparison of the 4 centres was presented by Mrs. Dillon-Ruddy.

If any member has any view on the assessment criteria or results, please contact the office.

4. Celebrating 100 years of Catholic Education

Joint Mass

A range of activities to commemorate a century of Catholic Education have been organized over the coming year, the highest profile of these being a joint mass in a large outdoor area. Rouken Glen was discussed as a potential venue however there may be security issues - discussions are ongoing.

Info Movie

A film to commemorate the Catholic education system is to be produced to showcase the faith and appeal to a young audience. A local filmmaker David Hunter will be directing the movie with help from the pupils as presenters/actors. Activities for the film will be agreed on 15TH Jan and it is proposed the film will preview in July/August

5. Head teacher's report

- As ever a busy start to the year – oh yes it was ;) Looking at options for next year in terms of panto . Eastwood Park Theatre £6,000.
- Staffing update: Welcome back to Maureen Cumming PT and Gillian Cummins; Marissa Harris had a baby girl named Valentina.
- School communication – policy to be updated in conjunction with PC. Planning to trial a school app <http://appscentral.co/> Thoughts and feedback welcome.
- Architecture and design Scotland: Hack had to be cancelled today but is being rescheduled for next Wednesday. Our pupil council will represent the school in the exercises into the best use of our available spaces. Watch out for updates on Twitter.
- P1 registration next week following guidelines introduced last year.
- Fr Stephen and Fr Jonathan have been in and around the school and we really appreciate the support from them as we know how busy they are. Other World Religions focus over next two weeks across the cluster.
- Catholic Education week...28th January until 3rd February

6. Road safety

East Renfrewshire have launched a Go Safe Campaign running from December through to Spring this year. The target audience is for both school children and parents and supports both the Park and Stride and Walk to School campaigns. For further details, please refer to:

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/9351/Go-Safe-East-Ren>

The school assemblies over the next few weeks will consist of road safety messages, specifically at OLM. There will be situational video footage some of which may star our pupils, to highlight the importance of roads safety and awareness.

There is an action to update the school travel plan.

7. Achievements and successes

It was agreed the Christmas Fayre was a great success, raising over £6k. The use of the school corridors and break out areas was also commended.

The Pebble Garden has not only been a great fundraiser but also has greatly improved the aesthetics of the Chestnut Garden.

The staff were praised for the work that went into the p1-3 nativities.

The Rocket Fund for STEM target was at 57% with a remaining 2 days to go, not a week as was previously thought. Members discussed that if the target was met, this would be a great cash injection for much needed equipment for the STEM room.

8. AOCB

Claire Bowes raised that there was no Christmas programme for the upper school this year (2017). It was discussed the p6 children would be performing in the Cantata later in the year and the 2018 Christmas programme would be considered at a later date.

The muddiness of the junior playground was raised. It was agreed it can be dangerously slippery due to mulchy leaves and cannot be tackled by Mr. Daly alone. Last term a cleaner was hired. There is an action to contact the council regarding this.

Anne-Marie O'Brien has requested there is more consistency across classes in the same year, with specific reference to the "take home bear" in a primary 2 class. It was agreed Clare Duns will address this in the p2 teachers meeting.

Gerard Devenney highlighted how Catholic education in Eastwood is prospering, citing St Ninians as one of the top performing schools in Scotland.

9. Tour of new STEM classroom and library

All members were given a short tour of the new STEM room and library with a view to open the library before February 2018.

Next meeting: 1st March 2018

In attendance:

Gillian Boyle (chair), Catherine Dillon-Ruddy (head teacher), Josephine McGrotty (deputy head teacher), Provost Jim Fletcher, Cllr Colm Merrick, Fiona McKean, Catriona Bark, Clare Bowes, Nicola Garioch, Steven Gray, Paul Frazher, Fiona Harkness, Michael Harvey, Denis Heraghty, Jo Heraghty, Riosin Keane, Karen Kelly, Martin Kenny, Joanne Logan, Lindsay Murray, Pauline Murphy, Lorna McIntosh, Anne-Marie O'Brien, Karen O'Hara, Jacqueline Stewart