

Minutes of St Marks Parent Council Meeting,

6th of May 2015

St Lukes High School

Apologies

Lynne Cooper, Anna Maria Johnston, Mary Claire Powers, Emma Cuthbert, Marie Skinner, Julie Dunn, Tricia Mainland.

Attendance

Paul Gibson, Karen Wilson, Alison Walsh, Lorraine McLachlan, Ruth Lancaster, Margaret Higgins, Miss Healey, Mrs Fitzsimmons, Mr McLaughlin,

This month we were joined by the ART-iculate candidates Emily Wilson, Caoinhe Gleeson and Sophie Lancaster who along with other successful pupils from P6-7 are participating in the Art-iculate event. This event examines art and how it makes you feel. By talking and listening about art it will help improve pupils understanding and appreciation of art.

Recently the P6-7 pupils visited the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and chose a piece of art work from the 'Glasgow boys' and girls' collection which they then examined and were asked to write about. The girls presented their own work at tonight's meeting and we were all greatly impressed by the standard of understanding and expression that the girls demonstrated.

The Art-iculate candidates will be presenting at St Marks Art Exhibition on the 20/5/15. There will be invitations going out soon!

Chair Report

PVG

There will PVG/Disclosure forms will be available to pick up from the school office, which can then be filled in and returned to the office where Paul Gibson will then deliver to the Council for processing.

Hopefully we can get as many Parent Council members and volunteers PVG checked for forthcoming events.

Neilston Agricultural Show

Congratulations to all the St Marks pupils who participated in the Art Show and special congratulations to Ava Green (P1) who won first prize in the competition.

Easter

It was great to see a good turn- out at Easter Mass at St Johns Church, good to see St Marks well represented.

Communication Report

No updates at this meeting. Will add on Facebook the need for helpers to assist taking tickets on the day of the First Holy Communion, presently we have six volunteers.

Finance Report

Cheque due for First Holy Communion missals. Cheque also due for p7 Dictionaries Emma will liaise with school office later in the month.

Head Teachers Report

Staffing

Unfortunately Mrs Hallan will be off until the next term. However good news that Mrs Fitzsimmons is officially back with St Marks. More good news, Mrs Nelson is filling the NQT teaching post which was advertised last month.

New P1's

There will be 48 new P1's joining St Marks in the summer. It is planned that there will be two classes of 24 pupils. There has been a huge number of placing requests this year, but unfortunately many have been rejected.

The forthcoming P7 year group will be quite large, so it has been proposed that the P7's will be split into three classes in the next session.

Standardised Test Results

This year St Marks Standardised Test results have unfortunately not been as good as previous years. There are many reasons for this slight change in trend, such as limited staff availability.

Along with the trend of the test results the school has seen a climb in social deprivation figures (SIMD) which can impact on academic standards.

The school will be looking ahead at teachers who will be taking the P6 year group next session as this will impact on the P7s standardised test result in the future. There will also be a big focus on mental maths and literacy. Boys will also be specifically targeted as the test results highlight the need for more support for boys. There will also be more targeted support for specific year groups such as 1-3, 4-5, 6-7 and using smaller groups which has shown to be more effective. Mr McLaughlin will bring figures along at the next meeting.

Targets for Improvement

Miss Healey is currently working on strategies to boost parental involvement in the school and is hoping to set up an 'Improving Parental Involvement Working Group' which would involve working with small groups of parents within the school, perhaps once a month, within school hours around?

Miss Healey was hoping to have some support from the Parent Council, so if anyone is interested please contact the office/Miss Healey. You will find letters and a questionnaire detailing the above in school bags soon. Wednesday the 20th of May Miss Healey is holding a 'Parents working party' at 2.15pm in St Marks, please come along.

Breakfast Club

There has been a drop in attendance of the Breakfast Club since the new charges came into place, from 90 – 100% to 70%. School still able to intervene in some cases to help vulnerable children attend. School is still looking at European Union for financial assistance with this.

Refurbishment

New benches have been installed; wooden shed is in place at the rear of the school, new signs and playground markings all evident around St Marks. Gardening club are doing lots of planting and maintenance.

School Photographs

Many parents, carers and teachers have commented that this year's class photographs were not as high a standard as previous years, it is thought that St Marks may use a different photographer next year, possibly Tempest as they are tendering a very competitive price.

Individual pupil photos due in September, then class photos due in Jan 2016.

Easter Show

Fantastic response from parent and carers regarding the Easter Show, children all did really well and hopefully enjoyed it too! Lots of hard work for the P4, as it is also their First Holy Communion year.

Forthcoming events.....

First Holy Communion 16/5/15

- Still need more volunteers to help take tickets and help with car parking, so if anyone is free **on Saturday the 16th between 12-1pm** please let Paul Gibson know. Paul will also be highlighting this on Facebook.
- Photographer and DVD are booked and organised by Emma Cuthbert.
- First Holy Communion Missiles have been purchased and just need cheque from Emma (which she is aware of).
- Bishop John will again be present at St Johns on Sunday the 17th of May to take the Mass of Thanksgiving, following First Holy Communion on the Saturday.

Summer Fayre 30/5/15

- Lots still to be done....
- Margaret Kennedy to put out requests for old toys, tinned produce, donations etc.
- Bouncy Castle has been booked by Marie Skinner.
- Emergency Services contacted by Ruth Lancaster.
- Requests for raffle prizes sent by Ruth Lancaster.
- Volunteers to be allocated to stalls.
- Event safety plan – TBC
- Plan to hold Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 20th of May at 7pm St Marks Primary School, to try and organise event.

P7 Leavers Mass, 7pm, 3/6/15

- Hall booked 1.30pm – 10.30pm
- DJ confirmed.
- Red carpet.
- Buffet (still to verify exact numbers but Emma aware and doing it this week).
- Decorations – Emma to create balloon towers, Ruth to get balloons for tables, banners etc.
- Cake – Emma to do, school to email her class photo.
- Juice and jugs for tables – Ruth
- Dictionaries to be handed out by Lorraine McLachlan, cheque to be given to school for dictionaries. (Emma aware)
- School is providing hoodies, ties and Leavers book.
- Need volunteers for evening and in the afternoon to help decorate.

Hope to see you all on Wednesday the 20th of May at 7pm, St Marks Primary School!