

**ST MARKS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2015 @7PM**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**ST MARKS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Attendees:** Paul Gibson, Alison Walsh, Emma Cuthbert, Cara Geddes, Jaqueline Turner, Shirley McClune, Jillian Geddes, Lynne Cooper, Sharon Alford, Alison Crawley, Mary Claire Powers, Lorraine McLachlan, Marie Skinner, Tricia Mainland, Margaret Higgins, Miss Healey, Mrs Fitzsimmons, Ruth Lancaster.

**Apologies:** Anna Marie Johnstone.

**Chairs Report**

Thank you to everyone who came along and joined the Parent Council to mark the start of a new academic year with a wee glass of wine at our AGM. This September saw the return of many long-standing Parent Council members, but also the most welcome arrival of some new faces.

This year the Parent Council will be organising various events such as the Autumn Disco, St. Andrews Family Night and School Fares. The Parent Council has raised over the previous year a balance of approximately £1,300.00. Well done everyone for their hard work.

This year will see the start of funding cuts by the Council to Education, which will impact St Marks in many ways such as the removal of funding for the Breakfast Club.

The Breakfast Club runs from 8-8.45 and is invaluable to many working parents, but it is also essential to many vulnerable children enabling them to have a breakfast before school. From April 2016 the school will see an end to the Breakfast Club being heavily subsidised by the Council which may mean that St Marks may lose this valuable resource.

A number of ideas are being considered such as reallocating some of the funding from P1-3 Free Lunches to put towards subsidising the Breakfast Club or having parent volunteers manage the Breakfast Club trained by PSA's.

Like many other Breakfast Clubs in East Renfrewshire St Johns Breakfast Club is also under threat. So far St Johns have already had a letter from the Department of Education in response to their enquiries regarding budget cuts. St. Marks PC also aims to email/Facebook parents to highlight this issue and gauge opinion on how we are to proceed.

PVG Forms: St Marks PC are hoping to have more parent volunteers PVG/ Disclosure checked as it would make events such as discos easier to manage. Forms can be handed in at the office where they will be sent off and processed.

PC Membership: Currently thinking of ways to increase PC membership as with the proposed budget cuts we will need more members if we are to increase fundraising activities. Any ideas please get in touch!

Fundraising: The idea of keeping some the fundraised cash for St Marks was also raised. Mrs Fitzsimmons will look into this and find out if we as a school can keep a percentage of the money from all fundraising activities that the School participates in.

If anyone has charitable schemes at work which may help raise money then that may be a possible avenue for additional cash. For example Paul Gibson has a scheme from his work and Emma Cuthbert said she will also look into funding from ASDA where she works.

Community Councils: The Council is looking for two volunteers to assist in their decision making process. The council is legally obliged to have their decisions challenged. A community council volunteer is a direct link between the local community and the council. Nominations close on the 11/9/15. For more information please visit... [www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/communitycouncils)

Liturgy Group: All children (p1-7) are welcome at Sunday Liturgy Group at St Johns. Come along and hear bible stories, join in fun activities and be part of St Johns parish life. Sunday 10am.

### **Communication Report**

At the last informal meeting before the end of the last term it was discussed that we could have a Car Boot Sale. During the meeting it was confirmed that this was still a popular idea and would plan to go ahead in March '16. £5.00 per car, open to the public not just St Marks parents/families.

No other business at this time.

### **Treasurer Report**

Accounts are still to be audited. Also please note that unless you have a receipt for the purchase of PC items Emma will not be able to reimburse you. Remember receipts!

### **Cluster Representative**

The Cluster involves four schools St Johns, St Marks, St Lukes and St Thomas all of whom work together to raise funds for their pupils. Last year the Cluster Group raised £300 towards the purchase of sleeping bags for the P7 Lockerbie Manor trip. 100 Club (which is a Cluster competition) needs as many parents as possible to join in, as St Marks is poorly represented at this time. Every

month a number is drawn and half the money goes to the winner and the other half to the Cluster to raise money. Marie can be contacted or monies left with the Office. £10 for September until June.

There will also be a Quiz Night which is generally held on the end of January, which is good family fun.

Miss Clements has offered her services to help with Cluster fundraising activities for the next P7 year as many of the Lockerbie Manor activities are too expensive for the schools to pay for. Our current P7's won't be able to experience some of them, but hopefully next year we will be able to raise money to help pay for the more expensive activities.

### **Forthcoming events...**

Autumn Disco 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 (change of date due to conflict with Church event)

P4-5 times are 5.30-6.30pm & P6-7 times are 7.00-8.30pm

If able to help at the Disco for this new date please let us know either on Face book or in the playground.

St Andrews Night 27/11/15

Consider using St Lukes musicians – Miss Healey will look into this on behalf of the PC.

Christmas Fete 11/12/15

Cluster Quiz Jan 2016

Spring (St Valentine) Disco 10/2/16

Car Boot Sale 19/3/16

Summer Fete 21/5/16

### **Head Teachers Report**

Mrs. Fitzsimmons (Acting Head Teacher) would like to thank all the PC members for their hard work over the last year. Big Thank you!

St Marks continues to grow this year we have 356 pupils.

Staff Changes – Mr McLaughlin continues in his new role as Quality Improvement Officer. Mrs Fitzsimmons is Acting Head Teacher; Miss Healey is Deputy Head Teacher. At present the position of Acting Principle Teacher is still to be filled but the School are internally interviewing four candidates.

Mrs Hallan and Mrs McIntyre are still absent and are on long term sick leave. They are both in our prayers.

Temporary staff includes Miss McNab P5, Miss Docherty (PE), Miss Guy P6, Miss O'Donnell and Miss McCann.

As Mrs McIntyre is absent Mrs Fitzsimmons has been emailing everyone Art related, from the Director of Art at the Glasgow School of Art to Expressive Art teachers in the hope that St Marks could have a visit or some input from a teacher specifically involved in Art to continue Mr McIntyre's fantastic work.

School Improvement Plan: Raising attainment of Math and English. Recently St Marks teachers attended a CPD workshop which involved a Math Guru Tom Renwick who demonstrated teaching techniques to aid the teaching of Math. The workshop was so good that Mrs Fitzsimmons is hoping to have Tom Renwick present to parents also. However the school will need to raise money to help fund this as it may cost possibly £300. Parent Council were thinking about charging entry to Halloween / Easter Parade to cover costs?

The School will have the School Improvement plan on its website in the next few weeks.

Partnership Group Working: Springhill/Auchenback and St Johns are experiencing similar problems in raising attainment of Math in P4 boys they will be involved in a study to try out new ways to help this particular group learn.

Volunteers: Parents and carers are desperately needed for help during school trips / activities as it is feared future trips may be affected if we are short of parent helpers.

PVG: Forms are available and to be handed into the Office

Damage to School Property: A £5000 Poly tunnel was destroyed during the summer and sadly the new Gazebo was burnt to the ground also. Lots of hard earned money lost due to vandalism.

Budget Cuts : Many budget cuts in Education are expected over the next year. Director of Education Mhairi Shaw has been fighting to prevent cutbacks, however it is thought that the East Renfrewshire schools may expect not only a reduction of funding for Breakfast Clubs but a major change in the management support structure in schools, for example no longer having a Principle Teacher.

St Marks are already experiencing the difference in funding. This year there is a reduction in money available for swimming lessons; ACE trips will see a difference in activities. The pantomime is still planned but St Marks will need to find additional cash for travel expenses. Planned Fundraising ideas are a Read-A-Thon and a P7 X Factor event.

Despite cutbacks St Marks have already enjoyed numerous events this year such as 'Meet the Teacher', Safety in the Park and meeting authors at the Foundry.

### **Election of Office Bearers 2015-2016**

The PC would like to thank Anna Marie Johnstone for all her hard work as Vice Chair, as she is standing down and Alison Walsh is taking her place. Elected members unanimously voted for at the meeting are as follows...

Paul Gibson- Chair Person

Alison Walsh – Vice Chair

Emma Cuthbert - Treasurer

Ruth Lancaster – Secretary

Church Representative continues to be Margaret Higgins and Cluster Representative will be Marie Skinner.

**Next Parent Council Meeting has still to be confirmed, as previous date clashes with Parent Council Chairs Meeting at Barrhead High.**