



Sgoil an lochdair Parent Council Meeting **Thursday 02 November 2024 at 7pm**

PRESENT

Joan Macdonald – Head of School
Mel Butler – Chair
Martin Butler – Treasurer
Donna Wilson – Secretary
Louise McBride – Parent

APOLOGIES

Belina Currie – Parent
Robert Currie – Parent
Marion Isa Bell - Parent

MINUTES

1. Active Schools Presentation – Christine MacQuarrie

The aim of active schools is to give children the opportunity to be more physically active with extra-curricular activities out with school and PE. Active schools encourage all children and young people to engage in physical education and sport and strengthen the pathways to club links. It has been proven that having an active start and creating these habits at an early age will help them continue through to adulthood. Christine's post is a coordinator role with the aim to recruit support from parents and volunteers within the community. The key message is for parents to encourage children to be participating in physical education and sport as Children should be doing 60 minutes of physical activity per day, although this does not need to be in one session.

Active schools can support the community by supporting the following:

- Extra-curricular clubs
- Volunteer recruitment – this is the focus this term
- Support school trips
- Coordinate activity sessions
- Support transition events
- Support funding applications
- CPD support
- Source and provide health and activity resources
- Provide school to club links

Parents can help by:

- Volunteering
- Lead support or assist in extra-curricular activities
- Help with events/festivals
- Fundraise for transport
- Support can be as and when possible and does not need to be a full-time commitment

lochdair School activities:

- lochdair school are completing their young leader award with P6 and P7 pupils. This term the children are running a lunch time club for P1/P2. The club started this week and is being supervised by Maria Steele.

- lochdar school football takes place every Tuesday at Liniclate school and this is going well. The club welcomes any support.
- Cross country competition season is starting this Saturday. Training is also on every Saturday.
- P6 have completed level one of Bikeability and level 2 will be taking place in May.

There was a P7 Triathlon transition event on 11 October that was successful. The young people were given running, swimming, or cycling as their options and swimming proved to be the most popular.

There have been various girls only football clubs run throughout the last couple of months. It has now been agreed for a girl's football after school club for P4-P7 girls and discussions are being held in relation to groups for Liniclate and Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath as volunteers are needed to support the clubs. The Daliburgh club will be starting next week.

lochdar school have submitted evidence for their Gold School Sport award.

The active school's initiative has been positive in getting active children more active but there are still some challenges getting the non-active children active. Transport can cause some issues. Martin Butler suggests having clubs that involve active games rather than sports. Youth club is well attended and this involves games such as bench ball etc. Christine MacQuarrie also notes there is a gap for younger children with more clubs being available for older children P4 upwards. Joan Macdonald notes that gymnastics is available for the younger children.

There are challenges in relation to lunch time clubs for those with transport issues as lochdar only receive 25 minutes at lunch time in school.

Kayaks are currently being stored in the lochdar school bike shed which are shared between Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath, lochdar and Balivanich schools. There is not a lot of room left within the shed and the nursery shed is not in good condition, therefore Joan would like to look at a container for storage. This would allow for extra storage for the kayaks as well as having additional space for extra bikes for the younger children. Youth club continues every Wednesday evening 6-7 and cycling can be introduced next spring. There is a possibility of bike leader training in May.

Active schools can upskill volunteers and Christine has been in contact with the SFA in relation to courses being offered by the end of the year. However, is still waiting on a response. Christine will follow up. John & Louise already completed the online part of this course.

A survey will be circulated to all pupils in relation to activities.

2. **School Improvement Plan**

See attached. The plan is colour coded to distinguish between the sections – **School/Sgoil Araich/whole school**

SIP 1 - Religious and Moral Education

The current plan is a three-year overview in relation to RME. The challenge is including Gaelic immersion between the separate Catholic and multi-denominational classes as well as splitting the Gaelic medium and Gaelic learners into classes with the sacraments also require a fifth room. The current plan is that Mrs MacInnes will teach the sacraments class, Mrs MacAulay will teach the Catholic class and Mrs Fraser will teach the multi-denominational class. The topic is trying to include literacy, such as bible stories. However, this is difficult to complete with a 1-7 class. SUAT and Balivanich are doing the same topic and Sarah Jane MacSween is trying to arrange a meeting with Fr Michael MacDonald to look at what can be done together.

Joan to update document re PREVENT training for raising awareness.

SIP 2 - Numeracy

There will be an open afternoon Wednesday 08 November.

Kevin Morrison from Cothrom is looking into funding to support parents with numeracy.

3. Treasurers Update

There is currently £5405.09 in the bank account. This is inclusive of the £1000 received from the Western Isles Development Trust. Some money was used for the youth club Halloween party last night. There may also be more football kit requests to be made for new children who have attended the club. Joan Macdonald notes that the Parent Council used to provide £300 to the school fund at Christmas time towards the parties and a gift for the children, this has not happened for the past 3 years due to the banking issues, Joan asks if the Parent Council are happy to pay and reimburse this money. Martin Butler agrees to pay the full amount at once.

4. Youth Club Update

Youth club has resumed and there is approximately 26 children attending. However, due to some behavioural issues, the parent council agree to implement a code of conduct for children at the youth club, this will be implemented next week and parents will be updated.

5. Football Club Update

There will be a football festival taking place on 11 November at Balivanich school, this is for P4-P7 only, although everyone is welcome and refreshments will be available for a small fee.

Although there have been no behaviour issues raised at the football club, the parent council agree to implement a code of conduct for the football club too

6. Music Club Update

It is hoped that the music club will be up and running on a Monday night. Joan is having discussions with tutors in relation to their availability. The club will be for P3 upwards.

7. P7 School Trip

Primary 7 pupils from Lochdar, Balivanich and Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath will be visiting Fairburn Outdoor Centre. Unfortunately, the car wash fundraising event was postponed due to the water issue and the weather window has now been missed, this will be rescheduled for Spring next year. The children will be back packing and selling raffle tickets for Christmas hampers at the Mary's Wheels charity event in December.

8. Joint Parent Council Meeting

This meeting will take place on Monday 06 November.

Joan notes that schools are being asked to consult on the school holidays for next year. Joan discusses having a fortnight in October rather than splitting the week as the school attendance was low before and after the holidays and further impacted due to the ongoing issues with the ferries. Although this would involve removing days from another holiday.

9. AOCB

Curriculum Rationale is a live document that will be shared along with the minutes and will be available at the open afternoon.

P4 swimming lessons will begin next week on Mondays and Fridays for 8 weeks.

Mel would like to look at the upper primary classes visiting the range and will discuss with Alan Macsween.

In relation to the play park, technical services have confirmed that the money was received in July. However, due to it now being winter, work will not begin until Spring. A plastic grid will be placed in Spring to allow the grass to grow. The work can not be put out to tender until closer to the time due to the fluctuating cost of materials.

In relation to portable lights for the cage, Martin estimates around £2000.00, discussions can be held with Christine MacQuarrie for funding options through active schools.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 25 January at 7pm.