

## **Parent Council Session 2016/17 review**

During this session the Parent Council have seen a change of leadership within the school with the very successful appointment of our Head Teacher Mrs Lesley McPhee and subsequent appointment of Mrs Maxine Shanks as Depute. We also had an opportunity to work with Mrs Easton during her time with the school as Acting Depute.

The Parent Council have again retained 12 members this session and the response from parents wishing to get involved with the Parent Council and their fundraising activities are encouraging. The Parent Council wish to continue with this successful partnership with parents as their representatives.

As well as running very successful events and raising lots of money for the school as Chairperson I am delighted to report that the Parent Council have been working in partnership with the Head teacher and her staff in a number of significant aspects of the school curriculum and decision making.

These include:

**1. Nursery** - The formation of a Nursery Parent Group. The Parent Council met with parents and Mrs Shanks to discuss the formation of this sub-group of the Parent Council and we are very pleased to report this group is now up and working and we look forward to working with the nursery and their parents next session.

### ***2. Scotcrest Uniforms***

The Parent Council were approached to discuss with the school a new supplier, Scotcrest Uniforms for school uniforms. It was agreed that school clothing would be purchased directly by parents and carers online or through their store. This will relieve office staff of this very time consuming task.

A tartan option for skirts and a senior tie was agreed. The parent Council consulted with pupils and staff and we look forward to these items being added to complement our current uniform

### ***3. Healthy Schools Development Group – Teacher Presentation***

#### ***Sports***

Mr Miller gave a short presentation to the Parent Council on what has been happening in the school in respect of this sports, health and wellbeing of the curriculum. A number of initiatives have been put in place and Mr Miller shared them with us.

- External coaches have been brought in for P.E., including the nursery.
- After school clubs - with the exception of P1, all classes have had the opportunity to take part.
- Competitive events - handball, tennis, rugby etc.
- New Schools Lanarkshire (P2/P3).
- Carbon Clyde for P4-P7 (Clyde Football Club)

The school received 3rd place in both athletics and cross country.

P7 also participated in Bike ability - for P7s.

The whole school are also participating in Beat the Street to promote health by encouraging pupils and parents to become more active.

#### ***Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood***

Miss Duddy gave a short presentation regarding this aspect of the curriculum and provided a draft document detailing what information would potentially be provided to pupils from P1 through to P7, with information and learning tailored to each primary.

This draft document discussed what pupils should learn, to which part of the curriculum the learning objectives are linked and the vocabulary that would be taught and used at each stage.

The Parent Council was asked to review the draft document and provide comments and feedback.

#### ***4. Clyde in the Classroom***

The Parent Council were delighted to be involved with the Clyde in the Classroom project with P5 . The children were looking after trout eggs and they successfully released them in to the Clyde via a local river. This was a very exciting project for the school and the Parent Council were updated on their progress. The school was awarded a Productive Partnership award for this project at a NLC Excellence and Equity Award 2017 ceremony and the Parent council were honoured to represent parent partnership at this ceremony.

#### ***5. Quids In***

The Parent Council loaned £1 to each P7 Enterprise groups to start their business. Various activities and ventures were undertaken to earn more money and to make this money work for them. Every week, the pupils learned more about how to do this through carrying out different tasks and re-investing some of their profit.

Personal projects on entrepreneurs was linked to the curriculum (mathematics, ICT). £1213.00 was raised in four weeks with only £7 in total being borrowed at the outset. The Parent Council followed the success of these enterprising individuals with keen interest.

#### ***6. Vision and Values Statement***

Mrs McPhee sought the views of the Parent Council regarding the schools Vision and Values Statement. The Parent Council spent a session considering what was good and working within the school and what wasn't going so well. We evaluated all points by using post it notes to cover all aspects of HGIOS4. (How good is our school)? The comments were collated and used as an evaluation tool. The Vision and Values statement was then submitted to the Parent Council for review.

## ***7. Anti-bullying Policy Review***

Members of the Parent Council attended a NLC event at Coatbridge High School to discuss areas for development. Main presentation on the night was regarding Anti-bullying.

The school has developed a draft policy for review, covering bullying behaviour and its impact. North Lanarkshire Council's policy has been embedded within Eastfield PS & Nursery Class draft policy.

The Parent Council was asked to review this draft policy and provide comments and feedback.

## ***9. School trip review***

Discussion took place regarding the school trips, It was agreed it was increasingly difficult to book a trip for less than £10 per pupil it was agreed this would be the standard cost. It was also discussed that to enable trips to be more closely linked with childrens learning and relevant to topics there would be no barriers to provide pupils with "once in a lifetime" experiences. The P5 children expressed an interest in visiting the Titanic Museum in Belfast and this extraordinary trip is taking place in June with the support of the staff and parents. The cost to pupils/parents is £45 per head which is exceptionally good value for a trip of this quality. The Parent Council fully support these outstanding experiences which reach beyond the classroom.

## ***10. Food for Thought Grant***

The school is also working closely with a PC representative to secure a grant through the Food for Thought Grant scheme. The school have already made a

cooking classroom and everything is in place to begin class cooking and again further enhance the learning experiences for children. It is proposed that the P6 class next session will seek a loan from the Parent Council to start up a community café.

### ***11. Social media***

The parents are continuing to see improvement to the twitter feed with many more classes tweeting pictures and recording activities in and out of the classroom. The Parent Council will be looking at creating a Closed Facebook page to highlight the working partnership with Mrs McPhee and her teaching staff.

The Parent Council have enjoying working with the school, the feedback on the new improvements introduced by Mrs McPhee and her staff have been very positive. The parents have been able to see the work children are doing through the introduction of the Snapshot Jotters, class assemblies and many other events are planned to continue to development sustainable partnerships with parents and the community in future.