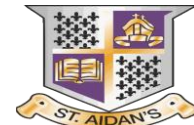


St. Aidan's RC Primary School & Nursery Class Parent Council Newsletter – March 2016



Welcome, to the first newsletter from the St. Aidan's Primary School & Nursery Class Parent Council, issued to update all members of the school community on the work and efforts of the Parent Council, details of forthcoming events planned and general information.



We have a Facebook page giving info. – St. Aidan's Primary & Nursery Parent Council - Please follow the page and like, comment and share posts. We can also be contacted by e-mail, please note our e-mail address is staidansparentcouncil@yahoo.co.uk



Parent Council Members

Chair – Tony McCabe (parent of Megan P5)
Vice Chair – Gemma Henry (parent of Leila Nursery Class)
Treasurer – Lynn McCrum (parent of Luke P5)
Secretary – Louise Byrne (parent of Jorja P4)
Member – Chris Allen (parent of Emily P7)
Member – Donna Anderson (parent of Ben P4 & Liam P1)
Member – Michelle Convery (parent of Peter P7 & Bronwyn P4)
Member – Pauline Fyvie (parent of Emily & Olivia P3)
Member – Pauline Gibson (parent of Callum P6)
Member – Yvonne Lowe (parent of Niamh P2)
Member - Stephen McAuley (parent of Daniel P3 & Monique P1)
Member – Tracey Paterson (parent of Beth P6 & Liam P3)
Member – Henry Simmons (parent of Anthony P1)
Member – Helen Slavin (parent of Aidan & Keira P3)
Member – Jim Todd (parent of Emily P2 & James Nursery Class)

The Parent Council includes Mrs McGhee as the Professional Advisor and Miss Lewis as the Staff Member. The Parent Council is also supported by 2 local Councillors, Mr McKendrick and Mr Taggart.

General News

+ Donation of £2,500.00 was made to the school funds in October. A proportion of this was used to meet the costs of buses to Miracle on 34th Street and the panto at Christmas which reduced the overall cost to parents and for the school Christmas parties resulting in there being no cost to parents this year. Surplus money will be used for general school resource requirements.

+ The Parent Council contributed to the successful review of the pricing of breakfast club services which resulted in the reduction of the cost from 80p/day to 20p/day. This is a significant achievement which has benefitted a great number of families/children within the school and the school has reported an increase in uptake since the service became more affordable.

+ The Parent Council raised parents concerns regarding the speed of construction traffic in the Ballater Crescent area related to the new housing development, which was affecting safe walking routes for children to the local schools. The Councillors took this forward on our behalf and Barrett addressed these concerns and initially implemented a no construction traffic policy in Ballater Crescent during optimum school hours and once the new site access was established, no construction traffic is permitted to use the Ballater Crescent route.



Parent Council Meetings

The Parent Council meet on the first Tuesday (dependent upon holidays) of every month in room 10 in the school. These meetings are open for any parent to attend and all are welcome.

Next meetings:-

- + 19th April 2016
- + 3rd May 2016
- + 7th June 2016

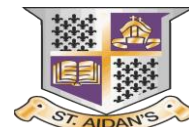
Minutes of the meetings will be on the new school website for all parents to access and view.

Forthcoming Events - Details

+ Family Fun Night – The Parent Council will be hosting a Family Fun Night on Friday 29th April 2016 in St. Aidan's Parish Hall: 7:00pm - 10:00pm. This event will be open to all Parents and Children within the Primary School and Nursery Class. Tickets will go on sale from the school office from 18th April 2016 and be priced at £2.50 per adult and £1 per child, on a first come first served basis (capacity of hall 120 persons maximum). The event will be DJ'd and other fun games/activities are planned. There will be a payable bar serving alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks and a tuck shop for treats for the kids will be available. Get in there fast when tickets go on sale so you won't be disappointed!

+ First Communion Party – The Parent Council will hold a party for all First Communicants to celebrate them making this Sacrament. Party will be on Sunday 15th May 2016 after 11am Mass, finishing at 2.00pm. First Communion outfits are optional. Children will receive a snack at the party and a party bag for taking home. We look forward to seeing all kids there!

+ Shorts 'n' Shades Disco – The last disco of this school year is our 'Shorts 'n' Shades' disco which will be held on Friday 3rd June 2016. P1-P3 disco will be from 6.30pm – 7.45pm and P4 – P7 disco will be from 8.00pm – 9.30pm, with cost of entry being £2 per child. There will also be a payable tuck shop and glow sticks available and we suggest a max. of £5 in total be given to children. **To ease congestion in the reception area at changeover between the discos, please note that collection of the children from the P1-P3 disco should be made from the P5 cloakroom door in the courtyard. Parents will be reminded of this on the night. Collection of children from P4 – P7 disco should be made from the reception area, as previously.**



Works In the Pipeline



We want to let you know about some other matters/projects that we are looking into which may be longer term undertakings:-

+ In conjunction with the School and Nursery, we have been in discussion with a local company regarding the installation of a feature wall, located externally outside of room 10. The wall will have decorative tiles which are engraved with a personal message. This gives families the opportunity to be a lasting part of our precious school. Details are being finalised with the company regarding design, cost etc. and there will be a letter issued once all details are concluded. It is anticipated that there will be tiles with the St. Aidan's School badge as a centre point with individual personal tiles surrounding that. If you want to have a permanent reminder of your child(rens) attendance featured at the school, or even additionally your own and your siblings as past pupils, then please consider ordering a tile. As noted, this will also be open to past students of the school, so please pass this onto all of your old school friends who you consider may be interested.

+ Grant Applications :-

+ The Parent Council have submitted an application for grant funding to the National Lottery for an outdoor science club. The proposal is for a weekly club which will engage children in investigative activities looking at energy and forces and biological systems. An application has been submitted for a grant in the value of £9,995 from an available maximum of £10k. We await confirmation whether this has been successful or not.

+ The Parent Council are reviewing grant and other funding streams available for the regeneration of the ash football pitch to provide a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). Dialogue had been entered into with the Local Authority who are supportive in principle of the regeneration of this area. Due to budgetary cuts there wouldn't be funding available from the Local Authority at this time, so all funding is anticipated to require to be generated via grants and other means. The review of this is in it's infancy and the generation of the required capital will mean this is a long term project, however we consider this is worthwhile pursuing. In order to secure funding it is anticipated that the facility would be for joint school/community use, focusing on the interaction with the local community, in particular to encourage the use by elderly groups within the community to promote the ethos of healthy ageing.

+ The Parent Council is reviewing grant/funding availability from retailers as part of the 5p bag charge. For example Tesco are awarding 140 grants of £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 this year, via 4 funding waves, with the next round opening for applications in April. The Parent Council are reviewing the potential to submit grant applications and/or assist the School in grant applications associated with these funding streams. If successful, this will aid the school by providing cash injections to supplement the school budget and benefit the children by providing additional learning opportunities and resources.

Further Works/Donations

+ Members of the Parent Council assist on the day of the First Holy Communion to organise parking in the car park and collect tickets, all to assist in the smooth running of the day.

+ The Parent Council contribute towards the cost of the flowers for the Church for First Holy Communion.

+ The Parent Council assist Santa with the gifts given to the P1 – P3 pupils at the Christmas parties.

+ The Parent Council provide the gym bags for all new starts which are presented to the new intake at their induction day.

+ The Parent Council provide St. Aidan's High School ties for all P7 leavers which will be presented after the leaver's Mass – hankies at the ready for all parents!!

Comments and Suggestions



The Parent Council is very fortunate to receive great backing from the wider School and Nursery community in the work of the Parent Council and support for the events that are organised.

Notwithstanding this, we are sure that some parents may have comments and also suggestions to make. Any feedback and suggestions will be greatly received and can be made:-

- + to the Parent Council facebook page via private message. Please like our facebook page and share posts to widen the audience viewing the posts.
- + to any of the Parent Council members (as noted overleaf)
- + to the school staff members of the Parent Council:-
 - + Mrs McGhee
 - + Miss Lewis
- + by e-mail to:- staidansparentcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary



- + Family Fun Night – Friday 29th April 2016
- + First Communion Party – Sunday 15th May 2016
- + Shorts 'n' Shades Disco – Friday 3rd June 2016

Vacancies

The Parent Council constitution states that the organisational structure permits a max. of 20 parents of children attending the Primary School and Nursery Class. The Parent Council has 15 parent members currently, so there are 5 vacancies which can still be filled. If you are interested in joining the Parent Council, then please put your name forward to Mrs McGhee.



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