

Aith Junior High School Parent Council AGM and meeting
Wednesday 12th November 2018 at 6:30pm

Present:

Betty Ferrie, Inga Irvine, Jacqueline Johnston, Emily Leask, Duncan McWhannell, Frances Moffat, Fiona Nicholson, Kirsty Nicolson, Sarah Quinnell, Lynn Ritch, Ingrid Smith, Michael Spence, Kelly Tait.

In Attendance:

Mary Gair

Apologies:

Cllr Steven Coutts, Cllr Catherine Hughson, Angela Leask.

1. Approval of minutes 12.09.18

Approved by Jacqueline and seconded by Ingrid.

2. Mary Gair - Home Economics & Hospitality

Michael introduced Mary, who is teaching Home Economics and Hospitality at Aith 3 days per week. Mary explained that her subject is about food and health not just cooking. Breaking down the year groups, S1 is focused on cooking, S2 are sewing Christmas decorations for the school fair (sewing builds skills including hand eye coordination), S3 have a Round the World topic to learn about food in a global sense and will go on to look at food miles and sustainability. S4 will have a 2.5 hr exam cooking 3 dishes for the National 4/5 in Hospitality, they are currently working on cooking skills.

Mary explained that Home Economics is taught S1-S3, nationally there are four different branches to this subject in S4 and Hospitality is the strand taught in Aith and most Shetland schools.

3. School Update - Michael Spence

Room 19, the ASN base is not being used due to the smell of oil, various tests have been done and Ness Engineering will investigate tomorrow.

Peerie Makers (knitting tuition) will be offered from January as an opt in to upper primary pupils.

Volunteers wanted, there will be one tutor to 4 pupils.

An assembly was held on Friday for Remembrance, a flowing poppies display has been made and pictures of the 77 Westside men killed in WW1 have been posted around the school.

Children in Need is on Friday, Pudsey will be visiting.

There is going to be a Quiz Night fundraiser by S2 on Friday 23rd November, the Art Club, Technical Club and in Home Economics things are being made to sell.

4. Homework Survey

Michael went through each question of the Homework survey which was completed by parents anonymously online, giving a percentage breakdown and highlighting some comments. There is going to be a Homework Survey of the pupils and the collated information, excluding comments to retain anonymity, will be fed back to the parent forum.

The homework survey for parents found that the majority were in favour of homework and believe it to be beneficial. Michael explained that there is research both for and against homework and he believes that it is beneficial.

Homework diaries have been reintroduced for Secondary pupils.

Subject teachers feedback to Pupil Support if homework is not being completed so that if homework is persistently not done it will be picked up on.

It was agreed that a demonstration of the Education City website (which is sometimes used for homework in Primary) could be done at a Parent Evening or PC meeting.

Michael left the meeting.

Ingrid explained that what is given as homework for Primary pupils has already been done in class and is manageable.

5. PC Purchases

As agreed at previous PC meetings, the PC have paid for the new basketball and netball hoops and balls, another play boat which will be painted as a lifeboat and an assortment of board games for the Secondary pupils to use at break times.

We need to get information on the farming simulator game requested previously.

6. Fundraiser - Family Dance 30.11.18

Online discussion on the cost of entrance had agreed to keep the price low as it is a fundraiser but predominantly a social event.

The Westside Fiddle and Accordion Club will play from 7-10pm.

We will use the Facebook page to ask for donations of home-bakes, sandwiches and raffles.

7. AOCB

Asked about progress on the extension to the Early Years area, Ingrid explained that discussions were ongoing to try to get the best possible solution and that the date for extended hours for EY at Aith would be 2020.

The Biannual Shetland wide Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday, Jacqueline and Angela cannot attend, we require another PC member attend and report back.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th February at 6.30pm.