**Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

Monday 10th October 2016 7pm

**Present:**  Sarah Henley, Paul Keegan, Nikki Cooper, Ruth McMaster, Barney Todd, Dawn Watson, Gemma Gough, Lorraine Hart, Fiona Beveridge, Linda Hennessy, Martin Rutherford, Barney Todd, Christine Hay, Councillor Fitzpatrick.

**Apologies:**

Domnhall Dodds, Gillian Morrison, Jon Reid, Morag Hill, Nadia Maqbool, Jackie Marra, Lesley McMillan, Lynne Currie

**Head Teacher’s Report**

Ms McMaster shared the schools Aims, Visions and Values. The priorities for this session are listed in the School Improvement Plan which was shared with the Parent Council and will be posted on the newly updated school Blog for parents to view.

One of the main priorities is Numeracy. The Staff are all reading literature related to Growth Mind-set and Numeracy.

Ms McMaster made reference to the adaptive tests which take place. In P1 it’s called PIPs. It takes place twice - on entry of P1 and then at the end of P1. In P2-P7 it’s called the InCAS or CEM and takes place once yearly. More information regarding this is available on the school blog. Parents can find out more information about the curriculum on Education Scotland’s Website under ‘parent zone’.

**Treasurer’s report**

Mrs Hennessy shared the Treasurer’s statement. We currently have a healthy balance of £7319. Mr Todd is still to finalise the exact figure for the tablets and charging station he ordered for the school and this should be in the region of £3000 which will need to be deducted from the current funds. With a balance of £4000 left, further funds will need to be put aside for software licences for Espresso and Education City of about £1600 and possible funding for Christmas activities.

**School Resource Wish list**

The school shared the items that staff had requested, these included smaller items such as

* spelling games and Maths games for extension activities
* Reading books/ novels for the upper school as many were torn/outdated and could do with replacement or updated.
* Jolly phonics reading books to supplement the 8 copies they have per reader.

and larger items such as

* getting the playground painted to enhance the children’s playtime experiences
* A trim trail for the children to enjoy and develop physical skills.

A query was raised about how the council would feel about a trim trail with all the problems we had previously experienced raising the money for an outdoor classroom. Ms McMaster assured the council that she has already looked in to this and as the council had put in trim trails to other schools this would not be a problem.

A further query was raised about the maintenance of a Trim Trail and Mr Todd mentioned there was a cost in the region of £120 per annum but he would look into this further and get back to the Parent Council.

Schools that have a trim Trail – Greenrig, Simpsons and Bankton have a trim trail and a project group will be put together and can visit the schools to decide what they think as the next steps.

The school is currently happy with the amount of tablets they have for now. There is currently about 3 tablets per class. The school’s long term aim would be to have 1 device for every 3 children to share following a conversation Mr Todd had with Laura Compton (IT dept) who shared the council’s vision to support learning without the pressure on parents to supply a device for each child. We will review the tablet quota again at a later date and see if the school need more.

Ms McMaster appealed for a few creative parent helpers to help with painting a design on the outdoor storage containers with a group of children.

The class libraries are in need of new books. Ms McMaster told the PC of a Sponsor a Book drive they had a few years ago and parents had the opportunity to purchase a book and donate it to the school. A “Donated By\_\_\_\_\_\_ “ sticker was placed in the book. Proposed start for this would be the 21 November (national Book Week) running into December. Ms McMaster and Mr Todd will compile a list of books from the children and teachers in each class.

Mr Todd will put out a request for nearly new books and games that could be donated to the school

**Fundraising Group**

The Fundraising group met recently and have co-ordinated a diary of events. The following events are proposed up until January.

* Children in Need will be taking place in November week ending the 18th of November.
* Dress down for the chocolate Tombola is proposed for the 18th November
* Christmas Fayre – 25th November

Lorraine and Nikki have compiled a brief action list for the Christmas fayre and this will be shared via e-mail.

Fiona Beveridge said that the Christmas cards have brought in over £500 of sales which the PC is expected to collect about £220.

**Parent Council Communication Group**

The PC have put together an Action Plan. This information was shared with the parents via a PC newsletter.

Becky Jennet has volunteered to be a nursery representative.

Martin Rutherford will look into a parent council App that parents can use on their phone and report back at the next parent council meeting.

**Road Safety**

Councillor Fitzpatrick and Mr Keegan updated on the traffic situation. It was stressed that any obstruction should be reported directly to the police. The Community Policeman, Alan James, will pop down from time to time to monitor the situation.

Ms McMaster said that 4 children have been selected to be Junior Road Safety Officers and they will look into more ways to involve the children in this matter i.e. monitoring the safety of the children once a term with a member of staff. Pauline Arnot attending the JRSO launch at Broxburn PS with four primary 6 pupils.

Newsletters will continue to remind parents of the safe areas to park and could perhaps include a map of where to park. Parents who have noticed a car obstructing the road can e-mail the PC with the time and registration number and this will be passed on to Ms McMaster who can email the appropriate authorities.

Mr Todd would like the children to design banners for the fences outside the school. The Parent Council are happy to fund the cost of £90 for these. A suggestion of contacting the West Lothian Courier and doing a road safety launch was made.

**Councillor’s update**

Councillor Fitzpatrick has been to speak to Angela Constance about the Brotherton development that has been proposed for around 180 dwellings as this has implications for the schools and children would have to walk to school along the A71 etc.

There are two other larger developments that are still ongoing with regards to planning permission

**AOB**

Christine Hay the community representative said the Community Council were now providing flower beds in the village and they were trialling two beds at the moment with the view that they would plant the beds by the tree. The Community Council made a request that the school asks children not to cycle or walk on the beds as it would damage the plants. Ms McMaster was happy to do this and also said if they wanted some children to help with the planting this could be arranged. Mrs Hay mentioned that perhaps the school could plant the two front flower beds.

Ms McMaster and Mr Todd showed the New Blog to all at the meeting and shared how to access information on it.

**DONM**

**Monday 28th November 7pm in School**