**Bellsquarry Primary School Parent Council**

**Newsletter February 2017 **

**Dates for your diary (more details below)**

Saturday 18th February 6pm-8.30pm Mum & daughters -East Meets West Night at Bankton Scout hall

Thursday 2nd March 8am – 8.50am - Charity Bags to School

Friday 10th March 11.30am - fundraising meeting

Wednesday 1st March – Friday 31st March Sponsor-a-Book campaign

**How to contact us**

Email pcbellsquarry@gmail.com

Sarah Henley, Chair sjwhenley@gmail.com

Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1746901748884644/>

School Notice Board (in school) comment box

**Sponsor-a-book Campaign**

We have been asked by the school to help replenish classroom libraries. The books haven’t been renewed for over 6 years and are out-of-date and have seen better days. We are running a “sponsor-a-book” campaign which will start from 1st March in tandem with World Book Day until 31 March. More details will be out after half term.

**Thank you**

Parents can help the school in lots of different ways, some small, some big. We would just like to thank Dawn Watson, P5 mum for taking on the popcorn duties. This requires making 5 bags of popcorn up every Thursday and handing it into school for the tuck shop. School have lots of little jobs like this that you may be able to help with. Drop an email to school if you are willing to help in anyway.

**East Meets West**

This event is open to all ladies and girls (any age) in the community. All proceeds will go to Bellsquarry Primary School Fund.

We are looking for parents to help set up from 4pm, help during the event with serving of refreshments and help at the end to tidy up. If you can do this, please contact either Nadia on pcbellsquarry@gmail.com or Sarah on sjwhenley@gmail.com .

Donations of cakes and snacks are appreciated on the day.

****

**Fundraising**

**Charity Bags to School**

Thursday 2 March 8am-8.50am

Please bring your unwanted / preloved clothes, shoes, bags, belts, sheets, soft toys, jewellery, towels and toiletries to school. We get 50p kilo for your unwanted item. Load them into the parent helper’s cars at the gate. If they are not there when you arrive, please put your bags behind the school wall.

**CAN YOU HELP WITH CHARITY BAGS?**

I (Sarah Henley) have done charity bags to school for the last 6 years. As my daughter leaves Bellsquarry this year, I am looking for some parents to take this on, giving the school and parent council continuity. I do this with another parent so this may be ideal for 2 friends to do together. You can join us on the next collection or the one in the last term to know what we do. It raises an average of £170 each term. It requires agreeing a date with school once a term, advertising the date, being at the school gate 8am -8.50am with your car boot open accepting bags from parents, taking the items to the Cash4Clothes place in Dedridge, then taking the money raised to the Parent Council Treasurer. (Point to note, the Cash4clothes place is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. They are open Monday/ Tuesday/ Thursday/ Friday/ Saturday 10am-4pm (We do it on a Thursday because that happens to be the day that myself and the other parent don’t work. It doesn’t have to be a Thursday). If you can help with please email sjwhenley@gmail.com

**HELP, HELP, HELP!!**

Firstly, I’d like to thank parents in the past who have organised & helped with fundraising events. Your efforts are hugely appreciated.

Secondly, we are really struggling to get new parents involved in fundraising events. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW! The more parents that offer, the less everyone needs to do. Even the smallest job done is appreciated.

Parent fundraising is really important to schools. In the last 6 months, from the Parent Council fundraising efforts we have spent £5,000 on funding ipads, specialist charging units, resources such as games to enhance children learning in literacy and numeracy and part funded Christmas activities to reduce the overall cost for parents. If parents didn’t organise and support these events, our children would suffer.

If you have a fundraising idea and would like to put it on to raise funds, please do not hesitate to contact us. It can be a small or a big event.

We have held fundraising meetings in the past usually in the evening and these have not been well attended and it has been suggested that parents would find it more helpful during the day. Therefore the next fundraising meeting will be on **Friday 10th March 11.30am** in the school staff room. Please support us and your children. If you wish to contact us about this, please do so to pcbellsquarry@gmail.com

**Car Parking /Road Safety**

We continue with the school to monitor the situation regarding parking outside the school. Despite numerous communications about the importance of parking safely outside the school there are still instances of vehicles parked on pavements and in areas that could cause danger or injury to children trying to access the school. Can we also remind you not to park on corners, resident’s driveways, white lines or doublepark.

In the coming weeks you will be made aware of an initiative that has been instigated by our school road safety team, which includes the pupils who are our junior road safety officers. The team have been working hard to come up with ideas to discourage parents and carers from parking unsafely outside the school. They would welcome your support in making the campaign a success, which has gained support from both West Lothian Council and Police Scotland. More details to come.

**Dates of all the PC meetings**

Monday 13 March 7pm in School

Monday 24 April

Monday 5 June

**Your Parent Council**

Everyone is a member of the parent forum and is welcome to come along to any of the above meetings. You do not need to be a representative of the Parent Council to come along. We will make you very welcome. However, if you are unable to come and would like something added to the agenda, then please contact one of the Parent Council members or email us on pcbellsquarry@gmail.com

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parent Name | Name of child/ren | Primary Class |
| Sarah Henley (Chair) | Milly | P7 |
| Paul Keegan (Vice Chair) | Anna | P4 |
| Jon Reid (Vice Chair) | Luke | P4 |
| Linda Hennessay (Treasurer) | Cameron | P5 |
| Domhnall Dodds (Secretary) | Alastair | P6 |
| Lorraine Hart | Rebecca | P4 |
| Gillian Morrison | Ross & Ellen | P7 |
| Lynne Currie | Kirstin & Charlotte | P2 & P4 |
| Morag Hill | Matthew & Suzanna | P7 & P6 |
| Nadia Maqbool | Abdur-Rahmoon & Nur-Aasiya | P3/2 & P5 |
| Dawn Wilson | Cayden & Corrin | P6 & P4 |
| Nikki Cooper | Skyla, Lochlan, Phoenix | P5, P3, P1 |
| Gemma Gough | Angus & Maisy | P4 & P2 |
| Martin Rutherford | Zoe & Beth | P3/2 & P1 |
| Pauline Arnot | Ava  | P4 |
| Fiona Beveridge | Katie & Erin | P6 & P4 |
| Annette Barlass | Callum | P4 |
| Vacant – are you able to do this???? |  | Nursery |
|  |  |  |
| Co-opted |  |  |
| Barney Todd, Principle Teacher |  |  |
| Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Local Councillor |  |  |
| Jackie Marra, School Secretary |  |  |
| Christine HayBellsquarry Community Council Rep |  |  |

Date of Next Parent Council Meeting Monday 13th March 7pm in school