

## **Parent Council Meeting**

**Held at Edenside Primary School on**

**Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 6.30pm**

Present: Harriet Campbell, Eva Reader, Jill Scott, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Cllr Simon Mountford, Nicola Moir, Angela Hinnigan, Harriet Pattinson, Ailie Ramage, Katie Warnock, Sue Mackie, Jane Nimmo, Anne Marnie Bready, Sheila Thomson, Sheila Fleming, Zoe Currie, Kay Anderson, Diana Miers, Terni Jhooti, Ginny Stewart, Sara Boulton, Mhairi Jamieson (Minutes)

### **1. Apologies**

Balinda Ball, Cllr Alec Nichol, Julie Nibbs, Victoria Horsburgh, Gail Stewart, Jane Woodcock, Jane Jackson

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as correct by Sue Mackie and seconded by Nicola Moir.

### **3. Head Teacher's Report**

#### Numeracy Audit

The school had a visit today from the Service Director, Children and Young People and 7 Head Teachers to carry out a numeracy audit. Numeracy is a key focus at both national and area level. Audits are to be carried out throughout the region with Edenside being the first school to be visited. The audit feed-back was very good. The focus for the coming year for maths is a quick fire maths approach, shape and data handling.

#### Funding Requests

Harriet Campbell asked if the school could start a wish list of items that require funding support for Parent Council.

#### Reading Wise

This programme had been viewed at the literacy base. It was trialled last term with 10 pupils from Primary 5 and made a big difference. Jane Jackson has been helping with the reading with 2 other parents having signed up to help once their police check comes through. Reading with the pupils is carried out daily for a block of 10 – 12 weeks. Pupils have been able to transfer the skills they have learned to other areas of their study. Unfortunately, this programme can only be carried out with a few pupils in the upper school. The cost for the licence is £3,000 for 3 years, and Miss Nimmo asked if it would be possible to get a contribution from the Parent Council towards some of the licence fee. It was agreed that this should be added to the wish list.

### School Building

In a small garden area in the P6 yard where the plants had died off, a wall which could be a fall/trip hazard had become exposed. This area has now been fenced off.

Gates have now been installed in the playground.

Work on the kitchen is progressing. Farm to Fork will make use of it with the pupils soon.

### School Performances/Sports

Much praise has been given to the pupils for their performance at the Christmas show.

P4 will be leading the Easter service in the Church.

The brass and string groups took part in a concert at the High School and did very well. The brass group will be taking part in the inter schools brass competition in Teviot Church soon.

Nine pupil's drawings were included in the Kelso in Bloom calendar.

Edenside pupils came third in the sports hall athletics in Galashiels. Peebles, who have a sports/athletics club in the town, came first.

P7 girls are busy training for the netball tournament.

### On-line Safety

The school takes the dangers of internet safety very seriously. The school can't, however, supervise or be held responsible for what pupils are doing and viewing out of school. PC Gina Dickson, the community constable, visits regularly to talk to pupils about safety with social media and the NSPCC come in every 18 months to do an internet safety day. Teachers also talk about internet safety in class and posters are on display around the school. Mobile phones are locked away during the day and computer use is supervised. Parents and carers should regularly check and supervise children's use of the internet and the children all know they should not post or look at anything that they would not be happy to share with parents. A session for parents with the NSPCC was held recently which was very informative. It was, however, not well attended. The NSPCC website has some good information on it for parents. A link to the website can be found on the school's own website. It is hoped to run a police led session on internet safety later in the year.

### Numeracy Audit

Donna Manson said that we have a school to be proud of and commented on how well pupils were able to deal with numeracy strategies and that different approaches are used to meet pupil's needs. She also noted how enthusiastic and well behaved pupils were and the good rapport amongst staff and children. Ms Bready thanked support and office staff for their help on the day.

## **4. Chair's Report**

### Entrance Improvement

This is well in hand. A banner over the entrance is being considered.

### Nits

Unfortunately nits are on the rounds again. Parents were asked to stay vigilant. Health Service funding no longer permits the appointment of a Nit Nurse. The school isn't allowed to send out letters when nits are noted in a class due to confidentiality issues. Combing each time hair is washed helps. Nit treatment can also be obtained for free on the minor ailments programme from Boots or Lloyds.

### Hi-viz Jackets

These were supplied to pupils at Broomlands by the contractors building the new school. Parents are being encouraged to park further away and walk pupils to school. Edenside has hi-viz jackets for pupils to wear when they are out of the school on visits. It was agreed not to purchase further jackets for pupils to wear when walking to school.

### Daily Mile

This is not being pushed at the moment due to the weather. This will be reviewed for some classes in Spring. Some teachers have been doing extra PE rather than the daily mile. Harriet Campbell highlighted that the daily mile can become part of the pupils routine. Anne Marie Bready will encourage teachers to do the daily mile in Spring, rather than enforce. Pupils get approximately 2 hours of PE per week excluding the daily mile.

### School Lunches

Concern was raised that as pupils go up unsupervised to collect deserts, they are often choosing the hot, sweet desert, rather than the healthier fruit that had been chosen with parents at home. It was explained that it is hard to police which deserts pupils choose due to numbers having school lunches. Pupils are reminded of their choice in the morning but often go for the same desert as their friends instead. Classmates do help self-police though and remind friends what they had ordered.

### Funding

It was agreed that a wish list should be drawn up by the school of items that they wish funding assistance towards.

The P1 furniture has been replaced.

When larger fundraising events are run, it was agreed that it should be highlighted exactly what monies raised will fund.

### P7 Transition to High School

The P7 transition day will take place on 26 April. The P7 visit to the High School will take place on 13 and 14 June 2017.

## **5. Treasurers Report**

There is currently £4,798 in the bank.

Income has been generated by the car boot sale, disco, bag packing at Sainsburys, Christmas cards and the bingo night.

## **6. Fundraising Report**

The coffee evening will be held on 9 March.

The spring disco will take place on 23 March. Eva is leading this.

Miss Fairbairn is happy to help again with the assault course. It is hoped to run this at the end of April. This will give more time to let parents know what the fundraising from this event has gone towards.

A pub quiz is to be held on Wednesday, 25 January at the Plough in Yetholm, with money raised from entrance fees going to the school.

## **7. AOB**

The "Easy Fundraising" app has been used by some parents and is a simple way to raise funds for the school whilst shopping on-line. A reminder will be sent out to parents about this app.

Jane Nimmo explained that she had heard of a company who do fashion shows of high street labels. The event organisers have to sell 100 tickets with any money made from the ticket fee going back to the school. She will look further into this.

It was agreed if bag packing is done again, more notice is needed so that more parent helpers can be found. Eva Reader will contact Sainsburys to get details of possible dates.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

3 May 2017 at 6.30pm in Edenside Primary School.