

## **Parent Council Meeting**

**Held at Edenside Primary School on**

**Wednesday, 15 November 2017 at 6.30pm**

Present: Heather Waddell, Jill Scott, Diana Miers, Zoe Currie, Beth Packham, Ali Granger, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Margaret Riddell, Ailie Ramage, Louise Lodge, Ginny Stewart, Sue Flint, Harriet Pattinson, Nicola Moir, Magdalena Nogal, Sara Boulton, Kirsten Murray, Sheila Fleming, Anne Marie Bready, Jane Nimmo and Mhairi Jamieson

### **1. Apologies**

Harriet Campbell, Cllr Simon Mountford, Angela Hinnigan, Eva Reader, Kay Anderson, Juliette Knibbs, Vic Horsburgh and Jane Woodcock

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

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as correct by Ginny Stewart and seconded by Sue Flint.

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

#### Staffing

Mrs Whittaker has joined P1 and is fitting in well with the staff team. Mrs Morgan has secured a post at Earlston Primary School with her last day at Edenside being 27 November. Best wishes were given for her new post. Her post will be covered by a member of the peripatetic supply staff until the vacancy is filled.

#### Music

A part-time music teacher has not yet been appointed to Edenside. Mr John Mabon is undertaking the role one day a week, however a further day's vacancy still exists. This is currently being covered by Miss Deans and Mrs Cordiner. The school is very grateful for all Mr Mabon's work. The school is also indebted to Mr and Mrs Mabon for their hard work with the school choir. Notes of thanks have been received for the concert that the choir recently gave at Kelso Hospital. Some children also recently attended a performance arranged by Kelso Music Society. A music concert was also held this week in the school which pupils from each year group performed in.

#### Dining Table

Additional dining tables were required for the dining hall. These have been acquired from the old Duns Primary School. Thanks to Councillor Weatherston for the suggestion of approaching the school for these. Ms Bready had been reluctant for the school to purchase brand new tables for the dining hall for use by Catering Services who may profit from the provision of school meals to pupils. £144 was sought from Parent Council for the purchase, transportation and maintenance contract of the tables.

### Nature Unlimited

Nature Unlimited are planning an 8 week experience in Bowmont Forest for pupils from the upper school who it is felt would benefit from the scheme. Borders Children's Charity are funding the transport to Bowmont Forest.

### Norming Testing

The school had been asked to carry out random norming testing with a number of pupils throughout the school within the next few weeks. This is to set the declared base standard for the school.

### New Education Bill

Head Teachers have received a letter from John Swinney outlining the new Education Bill. This indicated that Head Teachers will be given more power over teaching and learning and pupil support within schools. A link to the information will be uploaded to the school website. All parents were encouraged to read the information and make comment.

### Health and Wellbeing

Thanks were expressed to Mrs Moir and Mrs McLear for their work in the area of pupil Health and Wellbeing and Self Esteem/Worth. Ms Bready has been asked to present at the next Head Teacher's meeting on how well this project has run at Edenside.

### Care Inspectorate Visit

The Care Inspectorate undertook an unannounced visit to the nursery. A very good was received for each area and some lovely comments were received about staff. A Powerpoint presentation was given to parents explaining the good comments received and action points noted. It was noted that a number of parents had not collected letters regarding the presentations from trays and had been unaware that they were taking place. It is hoped to hold another presentation soon.

### Mathletics

A large number of pupils are on track to reach their grade in Mathletics. It is very encouraging to see pupils so enthusiastic about Mathletics.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

There is currently around £8,000 in the bank with an income of over £1,000 being raised from recent events such as the bake sale.

Contributions have been made to the basketball equipment. The Nursery has purchased picnic tables and the P1 book bags and P7 leavers gifts have been bought.

## **5. Fundraising Report**

The next event will be the bingo tomorrow night. All tickets have been sold with an extra 20 being released. Ms Bready and Miss Nimmo passed on their apologies that they wouldn't be able to attend the bingo evening as they are finalising the reports which are to be issued next week.

The used book fair will be held on 29 November at 3.30pm, with the collection box being in the foyer. Three boxes have already been filled.

It has not been possible to book a pantomime trip to Edinburgh as the timings of the shows were outside school time. Information has, however, been received from the touring children's theatre who are in the area in May. This would still give the children the theatre experience.

Thanks were given to the organisers of the Halloween disco for all their hard work.

## **6. Funding Requests**

The P1 classrooms were refurbished last year with new tables, chairs, art trollies, etc with a flow through between the two classrooms, sharing some facilities. Another art trolley plus dividers/shelf unit at £500 are, however, still required. An area outside P1 has been sectioned off with fencing so that pupils can access outside areas as well as inside when doing play based learning.

The P4 composite class is using Kapla when P3 pupils are practising for the nativity show. All pupils are enjoying using Kapla and working together on building projects. Miss Nimmo showed pictures of items that pupils have built using Kapla. It helps pupils with design and technology, maths, etc. The school currently has boxes of Kapla for each class on loan, however it was requested that Parent Council purchase 2 boxes for the school. This was approved.

The school hope to purchase tables for P2, however funding for chairs was sought.

Non-fiction P3 reading books with more challenging themes are sought.

Following the Numicon training and the purchase of the toolboxes for each class, parent helpers have seen the benefit of the boxes. They have asked if a further 2 or 3 boxes could be purchased over the next 2 or 3 years.

It is hoped to teach badminton within the school. 4 nets are required, plus a complete set of racquets and shuttlecocks. Margaret Riddell advised that she had a number of racquets and shuttlecocks in the Charity Begins at Home shop that could be utilised. It was agreed to revisit this request in January to see what items were still outstanding then.

Blinds are still required for the school hall. Some quotes have been sought. The quote received from one of Council's procurement suppliers was extremely high. It was agreed that Louise Lodge would contact local suppliers to see if they were able to provide quotes. Once quotes are obtained, Parent Council may consider funding the purchase of the blinds.

Kirsten Murray has obtained mock-ups and quotes for the signage for the entrance gate. Designs have been developed for both an over gate arch and a sign which can be attached to the entrance gate. Concern was raised that planning permission and building warrant may be required for the over gate arch. It was felt that the design of the gate sign was such that if the gate one side was open, the impact of the sign was not diminished. The sign could also be adapted for the nursery entrance gate. The sign designer has also offered to paint the railings. The quote for the works is £575. It is understood that paint has been ordered or obtained for the railings. Heather Waddell will check with Harriet Campbell to check the position with the paint.

Councillor Weatherston advised that Localities Bid Funding is available in Kelso and the signage or perhaps the blinds for the school hall may be appropriate items which funding could be obtained for. The contact at Council Headquarters for applications and further information on the fund is Shona Smith. Applications are submitted with votes being cast by

members of the public on which applications they wish to be granted some money. Heather Waddell will contact Shona Smith to discuss. Applications should be submitted by the end of the month.

## **7. Any Other Business**

As it is hoped to replace the gate signage soon, it was asked if consideration could be given to replacing the No Dogs signage as some parents have been bringing dogs into the playground. Councillor Weatherston advised that these can be obtained from Council and that he can assist if there are any issues obtaining them. Ms Bready will include a note in the newsletter to remind parents that no dogs are permitted in the playground.

It was asked if a new noticeboard could be erected at the entrance. Kirsten Murray advised that the sign writer could also produce this. It was noted that the noticeboard should be waterproof to stop any water getting in and damaging signs/notices.

Staff have had health and safety training for use of the kitchen and some have started to use the kitchen with pupils. Farm to Fork will be coming to the school soon and will make full use of the kitchen.

Concern was raised regarding communication of dates for example the date of the Christmas panto. It was explained by Ms Bready that due to the replacement music teacher not having been appointed as yet, it was unclear on what days someone would be available to rehearse the show and hold the panto/nativity, etc. It was also explained that all dates, including those for the Christmas parties, will be posted on the school website which is available to all and is the official method of communication. It was highlighted that parents posting dates on facebook can cause angst when some parents do not have access/do not view facebook and are therefore not aware of some events. It was also felt that social media is often the first port of call for parents which and it will not contain all the information sought. It was noted that the school website should be the first port of call as this is updated regularly.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to timetable P4 swimming lessons this year due to composite classes. Edenside does as a rule usually benefit in its locality to the swimming pool and does generally have more swimming lessons than other schools in the Borders. There is no official age at which school swimming lessons should commence. Swimming is not counted towards the required PE provision within primaries.

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

Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 6.30pm to be held in Edenside Primary School.