

## Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 18:15

**Attendees:** Veronica Melichar, Kate McDonald, Nicola Lamberton, Nikki Dunne, Jen Shepherd, Judith Weir, Bryony Knox, Rachel Hein, Katy McLean, Lauren Sweeny, Alasdair Friend, Dawn Moloney, Marie Middleton, Christine Treche, Justine Douglas, Alice Waddell, Toni Dismore, Emma Meikle, Richard, Amy O’Leary, Adam Kautska, Kirstie Paton

1. Apologies – Suzanne McHattie, Andrew Burnet, Lindsay Grant, Phil Alcock
2. Minutes approved from previous meeting and welcome to the new parents attending for the first time

**3. Head Teacher Update:-**

412 children, 15 classes (an increase of 1 this year).

Lots happened already only 3 weeks into the new school year. The Evening News took the P1 class photos.

All children from P2-7 attended the book festival which is quite an undertaking given the children and teachers don’t necessarily know each other well. Overall it went well with some sessions more relevant and successful than others. Parents at the LPPC meeting overwhelmingly said they thought it was a great success. This was a free trip which was subsidised by school fund and LPPC. LPPC will build this possible cost/contribution into the 2017-18 budget plan.

The ‘meet the teacher’ sessions were not as well attended as hoped. It was a lovely day, weather wise, plus some parents forgot it was on. Next time a reminder text will be sent prior to the session. The idea of the sessions was to be discussions of what lay ahead this term/year rather than how individuals were doing so far.

Next meeting Alasdair will explain the school improvement plan, which was included in the newsletter.

Breakfast club – the new system and pricing structure has had to be introduced due to the funding from Edinburgh Council being completely withdrawn. It is now a 5 day service (previously 3) and almost all the costs are for staffing. It is hoped that going forward the pricing can be revised to mean the set £10 per week fee becomes £2 per day where you only pay for the days you need. Currently 34 children are signed up and Tuesday – Thursday the club is at capacity with spaces on Monday and Friday. 19 children are on the waiting list. There is scope to investigate how a week could be shared between families, ensuring staffing costs are met but with parents only using and paying for days they require. Alasdair will report back on this shortly.

**4. Parents supporting school trips: -**

Changes to Pupil Support Assistant staffing has meant there’s even more pressure on the fantastic PSAs we have at Leith Primary. During school trips, either regular visits for swimming lessons or occasional ones to e.g. book festival, PSAs are pulled from supporting children in school. Alasdair has requested looking at setting up a bank of volunteers to support trips and also possibly start to support in school activities such as listening to reading. **Anyone interested in becoming part of a bank of volunteers would need to have a**

**PVG check done for the school (in addition to an LPPC one). Kate suggested we look into recruiting non parent volunteers e.g. childcare students. Jen is to take this forward and liaise with Alasdair.**

**5. LPPC Book Festival financial support:-**

There was a request for £700 towards the cost of the Book Festival trips taken by P2-7. Entry to the festival event cost £3 per child in addition to travel cost. Funding was approved.

**6. Uniform Exchange:-**

Jen explained a pilot scheme run by another school where there's a collection week followed up by swap/sale day. Everyone thought this was worth exploring further. **Jen to investigate further**

**7. Leith Decides:-**

This is a scheme to allocate funds to local Leith groups voted for by Leith residents. We have applied for two grants this year: 1. Library 2. After school drama class. In 2015 we were unsuccessful due to lack of votes. Let's make sure we get some funding in 2016! **This year we need to have two stalls at the voting open day on Saturday 8th October and need volunteers for these stalls.** It would be useful to have some display boards showing the library and our progress to help voters understand our reason for requesting this grant. **Bekah and Kirstie to pull this together.** Volunteers so far Katy, Kirstie, Justine, Christine and Kate. **As we have two stands we need more support. Please contact Jen ([leithppc@gmail.com](mailto:leithppc@gmail.com)) or Kate if you can help. And this time don't forget to vote!**

**8. After school drama club:-**

Until we hear if we are successful with Leith Decides grant it was felt we could start the proposed P2/3 drama club as soon as possible. If we get funding we can use this for a second phase of drama club. It is suggested we have a nominal cost per child to ensure those attending are interested and not just being sent there as its free childcare. The remaining cost will be met by LPPC. 12 weeks is costing £400. As the group will be held on the third floor we need one parent volunteer per week to support with toilet trips or minor medical situations e.g. nose bleed. At the moment the day suggested is Thursday but there is scope to run it on a Wednesday. **We need a handful of volunteers in order that this club can go ahead, any help would be appreciated.** The club will run from 3.30-4.30 and there are 15 places for children. Please contact Jen or Bryony if you can support with this new venture.

**9. a. Duncan Place Resource Place:**

Demolition has not been progressing as hoped. Various hiccups (road closures not put in place and the chimney being stronger than anticipated) during the summer meant work didn't start until just before we returned to school. Fears of the proximity of the demolition to the infant playground have been allayed following some strong communications with Edinburgh Council and reassurances to Jen and Alasdair. The completion date is currently delayed to end of January 2018 (was October 2017). Members of the Edinburgh Council team working on the project are very willing to attend a meeting with us to answer any

questions. Jen suggested we hold a separate meeting just to discuss Duncan Place which was agreed. Jen has video evidence of discussions at the Children and Families committee where Council officials said the timescale set originally were allowing for delays. She hopes to use this evidence to push the Council for some “compensation” for the children e.g. free swimming. Alasdair has already managed to secure venue costs to run Scottish Opera off site from the Council as there’s no space at Leith Academy where we’ve used in the past.

**Jen to set up extraordinary general meeting to discuss the Duncan Place demolition and the programme/timescale for the new building with Council officials, and possibly councillors, present.**

**b. Road Safety on St Andrew Place:**

Another close call has brought this issue to the forefront again. Previously when another near miss happened Jen contacted the council asking if the road could be closed during drop off and pick up or railings installed. At the time she was told no but that there was a safe streets pilot in place in other schools. The police attended the school and the situation improved temporarily. There was another incident last week so Jen contacted the police and council again. The pilot scheme has gone well in other areas and they are allowing it to be rolled out. **Alasdair, with LPPC support, is going to apply for St Andrew Place to become a safe street area** where vehicles (excluding blue badge holders) are not allowed to be moved between drop off and pick up, approximately 40 mins each time slot. A flashing sign would be erected and penalties/fines are applied to those who break the law. **Jen to chase up Councillor Adam McVey to identify what steps are being taken in the immediate term.**

**c. Gala Day:**

Well done everyone who helped out, especially Wendy who coordinated this mammoth task. We raised the most £1,143.39. Some new games were introduced this year which went down very well and were easier to sort out than the tombola!

**d. Leith Primary Calendar 2017:**

Sponsorship going well so far 10 out the 12 months are sold. Awaiting to hear from Hibs, Leith Links Community Council and Wonder World Softplay. **We need suggestions though as the front page is still not sold or for other 2 months.** £500 or nearest offer for the front cover, or £150 per month. Jen and Judith are co-ordinating this. Contact Jen in the first instance with any ideas. Andrew Burnet and Alasdair are revamping the design of the calendar this year – watch this space!

**e. Easyfundraising.co.uk :**

This is a very simple fundraising effort that costs you nothing but has so far raised over £800 for the school. If you plan to do some online shopping of products or services go to easyfundraising first and select to support Leith Primary Parent Council and any purchases you make a donation is made to LPPC by the website with no cost to you – your product still costs the same. **Sign up and don’t forget next time you shop online!**

**f. School Lottery:**

Another great fundraiser for the school £1,200 raised so far by supporters of Leith Primary. There's a weekly jackpot of around £20 for Leith Primary supporters and you also are entered into a draw to win £25,000. It is only £1 per ticket. **Sign up at [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)**

**g. Bake sales:**

Nearly £2,000 raised last year by our weekly sales. This year each class has a turn at their own sale then there's a second sale later in the year as a year group. Funds raised by each sale stay within that class to subsidise their class trips. **If you are interested in helping on the stall selling cakes on a Friday from 11.30 til about 12.45/1 please contact Marie Middleton at [leithppc@gmail.com](mailto:leithppc@gmail.com)**

**h. Christmas Card Project:**

Great response so far of people interested in taking part. Last year we raised £150 but there was a lot of work involved by parent helpers, this year we hope to streamline this. **Alasdair to send out a reminder text to parents still wishing to get their children to take part in the project.**

**i. LPPC Website:**

Amy has been working hard developing this and it's almost ready to go live. A final decision about if we keep it separate or include it as part of the Leith Primary website has not been made yet however they will link up. The school's revamped website will also be relaunched soon including class blogs.

**j. Family ceilidh:**

Date has been set for November 12<sup>th</sup> to be held at South Leith Church Halls and will replace the Halloween disco for 2016. The Social Activities sub-group is coordinating this. Given that the Council are paying for the use of the hall for the Scottish Opera project it was suggested the LPPC could try and get the fee for the hall paid by the Council too.

**k. Welcome Picnic:**

Delayed from last week due to weather and illness but back on for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteers so far Katy, Marie, Rachel, Bekah. **Marie setting up a closed Facebook page for parent volunteers for all sorts of events such as picnic. If you're not already included on it please ask Marie.**

Jen invited attendees to give suggestions for things to look at in the sub groups for the next school year. People were invited to join the sub groups too if they have any free time. Jen will collate these ideas.

**AOB:**

Many thanks to all involved in getting so much done so far. Library looks great. The library relaunch set for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, library requires a further £500 for books and admin items. This request was approved.

**Any Christmas raffle donations, especially “star prize” material gratefully accepted.  
Thanks to Stephen who has offered first class rail tickets! Any offers or suggestions please  
contact [Judith.weir@live.co.uk](mailto:Judith.weir@live.co.uk)**

Christmas Fair – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at South Leith Church Hall.

Alasdair happy to have MacMillan as his charity bake sale again in the 2016/17 session.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 18:15 in school library.**

**Childcare will be available.**