

## Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 18:15

Attendees: Christine Treche, Kirsty Chatwood, Kirstie Lorimer Paton, Judith Weir, Jen Shepherd, Katy Maclean, Rachel Hein, Kate McDonald, Nikki Dunne, Bekah McVitie, Marie Middleton, Jenny Ryan, Emma Grbic, Alasdair Friend, Phil Alcock, Jana Kautska, Justine Douglas, Emma Meikle, Veronica Melichar

1. Apologies: Dawn Moloney, Andrew Burnet, Melisa Rodriguez, Wendy Kelly
2. Minutes approved. There were some matters arising from previous meeting.
  - a. Parents school support - **Alasdair and Jen to create a joint letter to parents to encourage them to sign up for volunteering**
  - b. Uniform exchange – **Kate has volunteered to take this forward**
  - c. Duncan Place Resource Centre – special meeting held 21 September attended by 2 council officials and Councillor Gordon Munroe. Minutes of this meeting are included in the email with these. Demolition moving at a better pace now and the chimney is due to come down Saturday 29 October. It is intended that the new building will start in January and will take 12 months. Alasdair and Jen are working with Andy Gray from the council to discuss how the school can get additional support given the fact we will not have a school hall/onsite gym for approximately 41 months. **Steven Gilhooley from Edinburgh Council taking this forward and liaising with Alasdair and Jen.**
  - d. Road Safety – the scaffolding at the front of the building could improve problems immediately outside the school for the time the road is close (approximately 30 weeks). Kirsty pointed out that other road closures and roadworks in the area including Leith Walk could impact on other roads surrounding the school, therefore just moving the problem elsewhere. Alasdair is keen to continue to push to make our school part of the Safer School Project where roads are closed and flashing road signs are erected during key times of the day. Councillor Adam McVey has replied to Jen's requests and is supportive however another council official is involved and not proving to be forthcoming about how we proceed to get this done. **Alasdair and Jen to progress this however any parents willing to email the council to add to the pressure if appreciated. Jen will supply email addresses of who to contact upon request.**
3. Head Teacher Update:
  - a. P7 Leadership training at Lagganlia was very successful again.
  - b. The School was audited in September where the council look at our systems for areas such as finance, documents, health and safety, ICT etc. This was a challenging process and we got very positive feedback with only a few minor things to do. The report codes areas in a traffic light system. Most of the feedback was green with a couple of amber improvements to make. There were red areas however these were facilities related i.e. the state of the building, and therefore the responsibility of the children and families department at the council. Mrs Keane and Mr Wall did an outstanding job and have made a fantastic contribution to making our systems work so smoothly.

- c. Attainment measures – from 2017/2018 data on the school’s attainment measures will be published. This data is currently used internally, with other schools, where we compare data and look at how we can improve things at our school or help others. The Leith staff meet and discuss the best way forward for each class and year group. Approaches will help each child work to their best ability which will be different for each child. Also used is the Standard Index of Multiple Deprivation which identifies postcodes where there’s the greatest level of deprivation/poverty. Living in SIMD 1 or 2 indicates where families have great challenges – financial and potentially a knowledge gap. Currently 28% of Leith Primary pupils live in SIMD1 or 2 (26% last year). Additional support for schools is offered when over 40% of school pupils live in SIMD 1 or 2. This means Leith Primary is not eligible at this stage however it is hoped by 2017/18 we will be able to draw from government funding to give the school extra support. Despite this index being used widely by government departments, our findings indicate there is no direct correlation to low attainment levels and Leith Primary pupils living in SIMD 1 and 2 homes.
  - d. Skiing – 40 P4 and 5s have completed their block of skiing at Hillend and another 30 pupils start Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Letters about the residential trip went out and so far 50 pupils are interested in going.
  - e. PE Kit/Daily Kilometre – it is evident that many children have inappropriate footwear (tending to be girls shoes more than boys) for the daily KM as the ground becomes wetter over the autumn and winter months. The whole point of the run/walk is to make it as straight forward as possible without changes of footwear required. Alasdair suggested we relax the guidelines for footwear to allow pupils to wear trainers. Some parents pointed out the lack of foot support some trainers offer and the need to reiterate the importance of school uniform in general. It was suggested the route could be changed. The pavement that surrounds the current route includes a stretch beside the road and using this route requires 2 adults supervising. Alasdair to look into this and perhaps add an item to the newsletter.
4. School Improvement Plan – Alasdair distributed this and ran through the main areas – the document explores each area in more detail. Every school must make a plan and it is formed through evaluation of how we are doing now with feedback from staff, parents, children and other school partners. We used external validation from documents such as “How Good is Our School?” which gives descriptors and examples of how an excellent school carries out various processes. During the May in service the Leith Primary team pull together ideas and plan for next year. The school prioritises our ideas and plans whilst also incorporated ones suggested by local and national government – we know our school best.
- i. Improvement in attainment and achievement literacy and maths – including rolling out SEAL maths teaching to current P3s, continue with additional languages including a native Spanish speaker coming into classes for older children.
  - ii. Closing the attainment gap between the most and least advantaged.
  - iii. Improvements in health and well being – including cross age buddying

- iv. Improvements in employability – a central government concept which will not be a main focus but is included. Ideas developed in conjunction with the feeder secondary school.
  - v. Professional learning to promote accessibility and equalities – another central government initiative but very much required. Assumes that as many children entering P1 as possible, regardless of additional support needs, start in a mainstream school, not into specialist provision. Currently there isn't additional money available for this but the school feels supported in this area. **The curriculum sub group to explore this further.**
5. General updates:
- a. £1000 Decides – thanks to those involved in putting the bids together especially Kate and for the displays created for the open day. We should hear w/c 31 October if we've been successful. If not it was felt that we need to ensure parents know why – i.e. lack of parents voting, what we've missed out on - £3400, and how easy it could have been to get this funding!
  - b. Drama Club – full class and due to start very soon
  - c. Calendar – all advertising slots have been sold, adverts being created currently by Andrew (thank you!) and will be at printers in coming weeks, ready for sale at the school fair and from the office.
  - d. Christmas card project – expected to raise about £100 and more streamlined admin process in place if we do it again next year
  - e. Website – almost live, Amy and Jo Kinnell **awaiting Sergio to do some final things at his end.**
6. Playground litter – particularly problematic at the moment, especially the grass area in front of the school. Alasdair is using this topic as his assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Suggestion that Leithers don't litter could come and speak to pupils. **Litter should be added as a recurring agenda item as this is an on-going issue within playground boundary as well as on the grass area.**
7. Ceilidh – Friday 11 November 6.30-8 at St Mary's Star of the Sea church hall, posters are up, tickets almost printed and for sale (100 to sell). Refreshments will be available for the children and a bar for adults. Rachel needs 4-6 volunteers. 2 for the door, 2 for kids refreshments and 2 "floaters". **Please contact Rachel if you can help and buy your tickets! Can staff mention to their classes it is on so we can drum up enthusiasm amongst them too.**
8. Christmas Fair Fri 9 December 12-3 South Leith Church Hall. Same format as last year a few outside companies taking stalls plus we have craft, baking, fair trade, nearly new and games. Considering having a fun photo booth possibly take your own pictures for donation or providing prints using inks and paper from Poundland and charging. Raffle almost all sorted, we have a star prize PS4 plus £150 shopping spree at Debenhams. **Look out for tickets in your child's bag and buy/sell as many as possible please. Marie exploring possibility of making wreaths to sell. And volunteer please!!! Rachel needs help for set up, running stalls**

and clearing up. We didn't know if we had enough people until the last minute last year please don't let this happen again in 2016 - get in touch with Rachel as soon as possible!!!

9. Running/marathon fundraising – it was felt that Edinburgh Marathon, whilst fun, was expensive and the logistics of getting people at the different start points for the relay was a big hassle. Jenny Ryan and Melisa Rodriguez are looking at alternative races for 2017, perhaps 5kms so that children could do it too. Also, as we have school families facing cancer at the moment it was suggested that our fundraising efforts are for cancer charities instead of the school. Macmillan and Marie Curie were both suggested – this will be explored at the next meeting.
10. P4/5 and P6/7 Football teams have requested £250 for various items of equipment such as cones, first aid kits, goals and balls. This request was approved.
11. AOB – Katy asked for some children to be present at a giant cheque handing over presentation for North Leith Food Bank (£480 raised from marathon 2016)

Panto funding was approved via email vote and it was decided due to time and complexity of working out tiered funding that it would be a blanket subsidy for the school to attend Alice in Wonderland at the Lyceum.

Jen announced she will be stepping down as Chair at the next AGM (April/May 2017). She's making changes between now and then to make the role of chair more manageable for her successor. This includes a new set of email addresses for different areas e.g. baking, library, secretary, events etc with other council members checking and managing these to lighten her inbox and workload! Look out for this information soon.

Kirsty was asking if anyone had any **contacts for handy types who could create a smoothie bike for the fair trade group!** Let her know if you have contacts.

**Next meeting Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 6:15pm.**

**If you require a childcare place for this meeting please email**

**[leithppcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:leithppcsecretary@gmail.com)**