

Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday 4 September 2019 at 18:15

Venue: School library

Attendees: Ali Wiseman, Kate McDonald, Emma Grbic, Nikki Dunne, Judith Weir, Debbie MacDonald, Alana Clarkson, Lauren Sweeny, Sarah Morrison, Rebekah McVitie, Sarah Fraser, Roz Collins, Gemma Kennedy, Anneli Kuukka, Fiona Lamb, Rachel Riley, Lorraine Alcock, Miss Sunter, Mrs Scott, Mrs Kinnell, Miss Craig, Christine Treche, Kirsty Welsh, Gayle Blair, Natalija Straiziene

Apologies: Jenny Ryan, Veronica Melichar, Amy O'Leary

1. Welcome and Chair update

Gala day was a bit of a wash-out with the weather but we still made £450 after costs. Thanks to all involved.

Welcome Picnic went well and was well attended.

Coffee mornings for new P1 parents on first week went well too.

A Parent survey was done at the end of last school year which explored opinions of events, comms and general issues. Feedback included comments on events with parents wanting more of the same and some new event suggestions including ceilidh, Easter egg hunt, quiz night. On attending meetings - parents who don't come to meetings stated it was because it isn't their thing or they can't make the time. We are going to rotate the meetings between Friday afternoon as well as Wednesday evening to give others a chance to attend.

Panto – this year we will have P1-3 in house panto and P4-7 will go to Lyceum. Nikki proposed we contribute £2,250 would cover in house panto completely and half of Lyceum cost, parents pay £6 each for Lyceum. Vote approved this spend.

2. Head teacher update

Good start back – welcome picnic was great – thank you. New chrome books and laptops replace PCs in computer suite, LPPC funded charging stations are very welcome – thank you. Mrs Kinnell is reprogramming the I pads across the rest of the classes.

Support staff issues (PSAs) are not to the same degree as last time but the school is still short of staff. The school is working on recruiting at the moment, however there are no PSAs on supply list which makes things difficult. There has been an impact on P1 and P2 which Miss Craig has spoken to some parents about.

Children and Families more aware of the unique position Leith Primary is in this year more than last year. They have recognised Leith Primary School doesn't fit the usual format for giving the support allocated by pupil roll. They are working with the school to take a more creative approach to using the funding.

Room 7 is now set up as a sensory play based room which can be used for children with additional support needs, including clouds which help absorb noise. Also looking at other ways to support the

school Asset Management and Psychologists working on how this can happen. Collaborating with Lorne Primary to work together as they have similar issues as Leith.

Maximise project – leaflets sent home in bags last/this week which supports with money advice, housing support etc. Another family support worker joining Leith on Thursdays, this will free up some of Danni's time to work more closely with specific families. Best Start Grant – will send team to help families fill out their applications at workshops at school. 13th Sept and 4th Oct at 11am to meet the team and get their assistance.

Lego Mindstorms – Miss Scott Dickins is running this project for P6. Previously Leith previously did well with this competition. Staff will be targeting invited children who need challenged further as the school is recognising there has been a lot of support for children with additional support needs.

A draft policy for the school is being drawn up to cover loose parts play. Whole school training still to be arranged for staff.

Improvement plan will be on the school website. Numeracy will be one area of focus this year. Dining hall improvements – asset management considering how to make it a more welcoming environment.

School Calendar – this went out on an email last week with as many dates as possible. A slightly revised version will be re-sent shortly. Class assemblies will they be on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. MADD - Music Art Drama and Dance week will be run like STEM was in 2018-2019. The school is looking for parents who have a job which covers these categories. Please contact your class teacher if you can help.

3. Playground update

Nicola gave some background around the temporary unit and plans to get the playground back in shape. The parks department will now do the work rather than paying an outside contractor to do it which would mean a scaled down plan due to budget/costs. The design includes bamboo screening, seating, raised beds, sensory planting. Nicola suggested we turn raised stone flower bed within the infant (back) playground into a play kitchen or stage area. Community payback painted the railings over the summer which has only cost £350 rather than £3000 quoted to the school and looks great. Loose parts – Nicola keen to meet with Mrs Hughes to finalise choices of items and have agreement to look after the items and not leave things on the links or in the playground outside school hours. Eco committee – were looking at recycling bins etc. Crisp packet recycling boxes worked fairly well last year. Mrs Hind was looking into being a Terracycle drop off which allows the school to raise money. Alana said in Canada they are not allowed to bring snacks/lunch with plastic wrapping. Miss Craig will encourage children to try to scale back. Children aren't having lunch on the links anymore which is to try to minimize litter. A P1 was asked not to bring things in boxes as support staff are not able to look after it once the child has finished eating – this is not school policy but please do bring boxes which are clearly named. Nicola asked if someone would consider coordinating with Mrs Hind to drive the recycling/litter issue forward. Nicola was also looking for someone to coordinate Tesco Bags of Help application to get funding for more playground items. We also need to look at repairing the current notice board or getting a new notice board which is not within playground but possibly on the new blue railings instead. Playdale catalogue available for anyone wanting to get involved in playground improvement group (PIG) Nicola has this catalogue.

4. Halloween parties

Excellent feedback on summer survey about it from October 2018. It was a calmer atmosphere because of splitting it into three sessions and each session is tailored to age group. Planned for Friday 1st November – 3 sessions. Sarah Fraser taking on the lead for organising please get in touch with her if you want to help. This year we are going to say P1 and P2 parents are allowed to stay if they wish. Some children wanted lights off but it was felt as this was a party not a disco, the lights should stay on. Possibly revise this for the older pupils.

5. Other events for this year - Christmas Fair/Bingo?/Disco?/Other

Christmas fair – Fri 6th December, there was some talk about spreading out around the school rather than just stay in the gym. Miss Craig is cautious about opening the rest of the school to non-school people who are able to attend if they wish. Mrs Scott asked about a stall selling some items made by pupils e.g. Xmas decorations. Miss Craig and other staff to discuss how this expanded version could work. Anyone keen to join Christmas organising group please contact Nikki.

Lots of parents were keen to have an **end of term disco** this year. P7s – it was asked, would they prefer to have their own event so LPPC do a disco for P1-6 on a different date? Last year's disco for P7 worked well and numbers were sufficient to make it fun. Miss Craig feels doing P1-3 (more party style) and P4-6 would be a good split. Friday 19th June has been set for LPPC. P7 parents need to be communicated with to ensure they know that is what we are planning and offer to help if required.

Gala Day – after a wet 2019 and lower than usual level of money raised LPPC are considering doing school fete rather than gala day. It would possibly be more work, with fewer potential visitors but might be better to refresh this summer fundraiser which could be rescheduled if the weather is poor. We would need lots of stalls and games but would hope the school staff could potentially get involved. There was a suggestion to use playground extension for car boot/ table sale – sell tables to public for their bric-a-brac? Some classes might want to do enterprise project which would involve staff to run stalls. Miss Craig going to gauge opinion from staff to work out if they'd want to get involved.

Silent Disco – hire headsets (30 per set) walk/dance through links with person leading plus a couple of marshals keeping everyone together. Roz has volunteered to lead the disco. Suggestions for adults and children, adults only, children only. They can be themed – 80s, Disney tunes, world music etc. Considering Friday afternoon as a possible time or tying in for Diversity Day in May. Roz to explore further.

Bingo – will be run as P6 fundraiser late January early February – P6 parents to lead this with LPPC support.

Parent night out/evening – Alana suggested race night or disco. Consider using Dockers or bowling club rather than school premises.

Next meeting - Friday 15th November 12:45pm for next meeting. (Changed from original date due to clashing with parent consultations.

6. **Bake sale** - dates set for this term - will discuss 2020 at next meeting.

7. **Raffle and calendar teams** – Sarah and Emma helping with raffle. Anyone else willing to help we have a letter let us know who you are speaking to – we only need about 20 more prizes as the star prize is sorted. Calendar – Rebekah and Andrew co-ordinating but also need help selling ads and chasing money – please get in touch if you can help. Rebekah liaising with school to ensure self portraits are completed before the end of September and in the right format.

8. **After school activities co-ordinator** – There isn't a lot of co-ordinating to do at the moment but this role is free at the moment. We'd hoped to get a music/choir club up and running but this hasn't been possible yet. Natalija knows a music therapist who might be interested in doing

that. The school previously had a football team and are still looking for a coach which is run separately from school and LPPC.

9. AOB

Benmore funding contribution – P6 residential trip which is part of the curriculum. LPPC has helped before with assisting getting grants or a donation but have needed to revise their contribution going forward as pupil numbers rise. The cost of the trip is around £280. An LPPC contribution of £20 per child is £1,320. Kate asked if P6 could have a tombola stall at the fair which was agreed. P6s are asked to donate items for it. Vote taken for £1,320 approved.

PVGs – Ask Veronica if you'd like one. Halloween team will be asked to consider getting one which will not cost the LPPC anything as they are for volunteers.

School website – Mrs Kinnell looking at sorting this out. No class blogs as such, updates will be coming direct from Twitter. Each class will have admin section for homework learning grids etc. Judith volunteering to help Mrs Kinnell populate the website.

Communication – first day of term Sarah felt there was still an issue with knowing where to go/when. Going forward the doors will be painted different colours so parents know which playground and door is being referred to in texts etc. Some parents said they thought the children were too close to the door when it opens at the morning bell – the school will tell pupils to stand well back.

Parent night booking will be open very soon so people can plan ahead.

Meet the teacher – a request so parents get as much notice as possible for this in the future.

NEXT MEETING – Friday 15th November 12:45pm

*****Please note the different day/time*****