

Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting

Date/Time: Friday 15th November 12:45

Venue: School library. (Meet in library for childcare)

Attendees: Nicola Lamberton, Emma Grbc, Nikki Dunne, Rebekah McVittie, Judith Weir, Lauren Sweeny, Sarah Fraser, Fiona Craig, Gayle Blair, Christine Treche, Eily Scott, Fiona Lamb, Roz Collins, Anneli Kuukka,

Apologies: Veronica Melichar, Kate McDonald, Ali Wiseman, Sarah Morrison, Gillian Ward, Kirsty Welsh,

1. Apologies, minutes & actions from last meeting

2. Christmas Fair

Friday 6th December in gym hall similar to last year but to make hall feel less busy the tea/coffee is moved to the playground with Vanilla Pod supplying (hopefully bringing her van into the playground). We will use gazebos and tables and chairs but if weather is terrible we will not run it. Santa will be in same space as before but the queue will snake outside the hall near the toilets to give more room in the hall itself. Stalls around the gym edge. P1 teachers want to run a stall and sell things made by the children. Raffle/calendars and tea towels using the images from the calendar self portraits, bric a brac, pre-loved Xmas jumper stall, kids crafts, glitter tattoos, baking, games, tombola for P6 to raise funds for Benmore. Please get in touch with Nikki if you or anyone else can help! Do we get a banner for the fence in the playground which can be reused each year? Conclusion was it is busy enough already so not worth spending £80 on a poster. Posters are up in playground and we can do chalk messages on the pavement to point people in the right direction. Sarah suggested park notice board – **Sarah will look into finding out who to get posters up. Anyone willing to take a poster for e.g. library** contact Nikki? Please donate crafts or bric a brac etc. Sarah to work out how to set up the fence for the Santa queue whilst making it still look Christmassy. **Anyone willing to take over the kids crafts** with Anneli? **Please donate things for jolly jars**. Consider less plastic stuff for next year. Emma suggested adult jolly jars.

3. Head Teacher Update

Since September things haven't changed with lack of support staff and numbers of children who need additional support. FC continues to speak with the management to try to improve this situation for ALL children, as all are suffering as a result of lack of staff. Seven senior managers turned up to a staff meeting on this issue. They are looking at short term resolutions, and longer term too. Leith PS profile is so diverse we miss out on additional funding that other areas which have similar numbers of children needing additional support needs get. At the moment P2 and P6 have very

high numbers of children who need extra support. Lorraine Laurie Quality Support Officer and Iona Brockway is head of additional support service are in school regularly observing the situation and also helping out. Staff have met with head of additional support service. The meeting on Wednesday 20th 6pm is for parents/carers to give their views and listen to all parents concerns regardless if they have a child with Additional Support Needs. All the council can offer the school within the current budgets are being given to us at the moment but FC observed that the more council staff/management who visit the school can see we need more staff. FC feels there's pressure coming from all areas; council, parents, staff recognising the need to improve the situation. The meeting on the 20th will have child care paid for by LPPC and apologies can be given to show support if you're unable to attend. Parents can mention the impact the situation is having on their child without naming children. The school continues to want to welcome children with ASN but currently there is not the resource to do this properly and as a result all children miss out. Staff in LPS are very highly skilled in dealing with these issues and sympathetic to the situation. FC believes that within Edinburgh there are inequities within the way the money is distributed where a larger school means a larger proportion of children with ASN which isn't necessarily fair. Because Leith PS is in an area which is not disadvantaged *enough* we miss out on funding despite having large numbers and large proportions of children with ASN.

Please attend this meeting if you can, having a significant number of parents there will make an impression on council officials who are attending to let them know we mean business!

Scottish Ballet are working with P2 soon. National Youth Choir of Scotland working with P3, Scottish Opera after January for P6 and 7.

Play workers in playground Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday working with the children on structured and free play in collaboration with the Leith community centre.

A local artist working with children on design for the storage container in the playground.

Staff will get loose parts training, LPPC helping with costs of training which is being run before Christmas. Once this training has been done there will be loose play items for the children to use in the playground.

4. Bake Sale

One per week per class this term so far. Discussion over potentially reducing the frequency going forward. Suggestion for after Christmas - doing fortnightly for Jan-Jun instead and look to see how much is raised and decide what will happen 2020-2021 year. Roz mentioned the possibility of food waste when there's too much donated if it is just a year not a single class and still the same number of people willing to buy. Sarah said for a lot of kids it is the highlight of the week. Savoury things were suggested but they aren't as popular and often get left over, plus we can't dictate what people chose to donate. **Next meeting please come up with an ideas for revamping the Friday bake sale.**

5. Social Events 2020

Christmas drinks Thursday 12th December from 6pm at the Fly Half for any parents (children allowed in the room until 9pm if you wish to bring them) ALL WELCOME!

Bingo – afternoon of Sunday 2nd February in Leith Dockers. Fundraising for P6 Benmore trip but open to all.

Silent Disco – potentially for May around the Links. Roz has explored this and feels it is a feasible project.

End of year parties/disco – P7 to do their own event. Other year groups for P1-6 Friday 19th June. **Christine to communicate with the other P7 parents plan** for separate P7 project but to speak to LPPC if they would like to request any help.

Movie Night – in January, possibly cartoon based, possibly a shorter movie appealing to younger children. The sound quality was mentioned as being an issue which may be partly due to the rowdy way some of the children were behaving. Potentially record a message like they have in the cinema personalised to Leith pupils and play it prior to the screening. Roz suggested we may have to be firmer with children/parents who are disrupting things and ask them to control their child/or leave. Friday 17th January has been proposed. Nikki to check which movies are available to hire. FC offered to make sure there is a member of staff attending to help with discipline and make announcement at the start.

Fun Run – Easter time possibly, maybe incorporating Easter Egg prizes?

Easter Hunt – collect a painted stone and exchange it for an egg/prize. Children could decorate stones and they are then hidden around the playground/links

Quiz – fundraise for P7s organised by P7 but open to all.

Ceilidh – **Is anyone interested in looking into this further?**

Family Zumba – Saturday morning session with Roz – possibly another idea for P7 fundraising.

6. Playground update

Training, supported by LPPC, up to 20 people for £1,000 includes some items. Parent LPPC member can join the training session if they wish. **Speak to Nicola if you're interested in attending.** Outdoor classroom will be done early 2020 by Parks Department, they are short staffed at the moment. Using an external contractor would cost twice the budget. Kate sent application to Scotmid for £225 towards the cost of a music wall and was successful! **Nicola will liaise with Kate about that project.**

7. Any other business

Emma our Vice Chair is leaving and moving to Haddington – thanks so much for everything you've done, sorry you're leaving but wish you all the best!

Joelle, who has designed and printed many of our posters, tickets over the last few years is also moving – thanks so much for all your creative and generous support, sorry you are leaving but wish you all the best for your new life in the Borders!

Gung Ho Obstacle Course Race currently seeking permission to use the links in May, there's a kids race, could do parents team – **any volunteers?**