

LPPC Meeting – Wed 17th November 2021

Attendance: Adam Kautsky; Ali Wiseman; Emily Williams; Fiona Craig; Fiona Lamb; Gayle Crawford; Hugh Stuart; Jenna Caplan Anderson; Jenny Long; Laura Bailie; Laura Taylor; Lauren Sweeney; Lucia Janicova; Nicola Lamberton; Nikki Dunne; Rachel Andrew; Sarah Fraser.

Apologies: Judith Weir; Laura Cogan; Veronica Melichar.

Chair Update

Fundraising has been restricted so far this year due to Covid restrictions.

Head Teacher Update

Please see additional PDF attached to email.

Also, there are a number of student groups now active within the school:

- Ms Wilson - Rights Respecting Group.
- Mrs Hind - Eco Group.
- Mrs Ciechanowicz - Taking forward Pupil Council.

Playground items discussed at the last LPPC meeting are on order now. Once delivered, Sandy (the new janitor) will put them up.

The school now has a higher staffing level than it did previously, as more funding has been made available, so there is an additional Early Years Assistant & an additional Pupil Support Assistant.

The green flag in playground is looking worn, Fiona C will ask Sandy to replace it with the spare one. Nicola L offering to re-hem the old one in future if needed.

Crossing Patrol Update

Recruitment for these posts is in process at present. The Council are looking to fill twelve vacancies across the city. The same recruitment process was carried out in May 2021, but there were no applications.

It would be a help if parents could promote the role amongst their networks – the advert is listed on the LPPC Facebook Page – the positions pay just over £100 a week payment.

Parents feel that the lack of a crossing guard puts children from the school in a vulnerable position, e.g. cars are regularly seen speeding up roads and turning into the school street.

As a short-term measure Sandy is putting cones out at the end of the school road to stop people turning into it at drop off time – Hugh S will ask him to put the cones out at pick up time too. Also it was noted that, when the cones are there, parents are then double-parking beside them which is also a safety issue.

Fiona C will speak to Ms Scott Dickens about the situation - Maybe they can put a video together with the children (i.e. asking the Council to help them).

Judith W has already contacted Forth One about the situation, and Lauren S has also emailed the Edinburgh Evening News (no response has been received yet).

Judith W has a parent contact at St Mary's school – Maybe LPPC could join forces with other schools to draw attention to how exposed the area is – Lauren and Emily to consider this further.

The idea of 'Parking Buddy' signs was raised – these cost £150 to £250 each – they could possibly be placed on the corner at the end of the school road as a visual alert to parents. Something for Fiona C and Hugh S to consider further.

Library

Everyone is keen to get use out of school library, however the Council will not currently allow parents in to help with library sessions.

Mrs Moloney has tidied the library with P6. There is now a timetable on door. Classes are being taken up in ad hoc way – they are encouraged to take books and return them the following week, making a note in jotter about what has been borrowed / returned.

Parents have expressed their willingness to help tidy / organise / categorise the library (i.e. when pupils are not using it, as per Council guidance) e.g. Fiona L. If other parents are keen to help too, please contact the LPPC Secretary email to express interest.

After School Clubs / Active Schools

There are various clubs on offer at present:

- Yoga - With Laura.
- Drama – This is proving to be very popular.
- Circus Club – This runs in Duncan Place. There is an aged 5 to 8 class and an aged 8 to 11 class.
- Rugby - Starting on a Friday
- Football Sessions - Parent Volunteers Needed – There is potential to get two football sessions going ... one for P1 / P2 which would last about 30 minutes, and a P3 to P7 session that would last until about 4.30pm. Please contact the LPPC Secretary email to express interest.

Lee from Active Schools got in touch with Fiona C and said that he knows a Basketball coach that is ready to go if there is enough interest. Lee can help organise the logistics, but it can't run through Active Schools (i.e. Active Schools can't take any payment). It is £20 per hour which is quite a low cost, and we would have the uptake in school for this, so it will be funded by the Parent Council. Lee will set up the register, but Emily and Lauren will set up payment via Parent Council for that – They will contact Lee about it.

Fiona C mentioned that Ms Wilson has a Dance Diploma and is keen to run a Dance group. At present the Active Schools dance group is oversubscribed, so Ms Wilson could take on some of the pupils from that and allow more pupils to take part in Dance Overall.

Trips

With current Covid restrictions, trips count as a 'gathering' and are therefore not currently permitted under the council regulations. ['Gathering' = When pupils are in contact with children or adults that they wouldn't normally be in contact with during the school day.] Several schools in Edinburgh have already had to cancel Christmas trips to the theatre, so that isn't an option this year.

There are online options - Fiona C is going to speak to school staff, who will each select an option which is most suitable for their classes and the children in them.

LPPC, like in previous years, will provide snacks and drinks for the classes so that they can get as close to a nice festive experience without actually being at the theatre – Lauren S will oversee this.

Curriculum trips are also not allowed just now (i.e. Museum trips etc.). The Generation Science Roadshow which visited the school, running activities outside, before the October holidays was fabulous. Fiona C to look out for other similar opportunities to have exclusive visits from other organisations – maybe contact the education teams at Dynamic Earth / The Botanical Gardens / National Museum of Scotland to explore this further.

Pupils are allowed to go for walks in the community (i.e. within a reasonable distance of the school).

There are online alternatives available, but these aren't really a substitute for the younger children, since an immersive experience is key for younger kids in terms of trips.

Fundraising Update

- School Photos - All ordered. These will be delivered to Nikki tomorrow. Sorted and back into school next week. After costs, made £1140 approximately in profit, which is slightly down on previous years. Wondering whether people might want

to have ordered but haven't yet – Nikki D to consider reopening orders again at start of December.

- Christmas Cards etc – The mugs have arrived. Still waiting on cards / stickers etc. Have made £147 commission on those.
- Calendar – These are finished. Anneli has designed it (with Andrew helping too, even though he has no child at the school now). We sold eleven months. Made £1650 profit. Calendars are at the printers now.

So ... just under £3000 has been raised in total this term.

- Christmas Raffle – Planning to run this again with cash prizes. Considering dropping price per ticket to £3 or £4 (i.e. from £5) to make it more accessible for all. Need to get that going with this asap if it is happening this year.
- Croft Christmas Fayre – It has been decided that this is too weather dependant, and therefore not really feasible. It is on hold until 'in person' indoor events are allowed again.
- Bake sale – Not sure if this counts as a 'gathering'. Friday Bake Sales were very popular in the past. Too many Covid related mitigations in place around food at present which would preclude us from running this just now. It might also be seen as encouraging people to congregate. Not feasible in the current circumstances.

AOB

Any updates on Benmore or Ski trips?

- Ski Trip – This can definitely go ahead. The Covid mitigations in place are enough and travel will happen via coach. Hugh S plus one other teacher and two support staff will attend. Hugh S has a meeting with Lagganlia next week – after that he will bring information to parents. There is awareness that it is very short notice for parents. The trip will happen after the February 2022 break.
- Benmore – This is all set to go ahead. Fiona C will be sending out paperwork soon. The trip will happen at the end of May 2022.

Future LPPC Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 19th January
- Wednesday 16th March
- Wednesday 25th May - AGM