



Parent Council Meeting

19th January 2023

Next Meeting Date

16th March 2023

Contact

simpsonparentcouncil@gmail.com

Attendees

Core Committee

Sam Skinner
Jennifer Allan

Staff

Mrs Baird
Mrs Fawkes - Virtual

Year Group Reps

Fiona Bryon
Nicola Gillan
Lianne Docherty
Alison Mcdermott
Marion Pirrie
Victoria Nairn

Councillors

William Boyle

Parents

Jennifer Walker
Jan - virtual
Gabi - virtual
A Foster - virtual

Apologies

Lisa Black
Claire Furnaghan
Cncl P Stafford
Debbie McComb
Jo Smith
Patsy Thomas
Monique Lowe
Jen Dunne
Lynne Buckner
Helen Gallagher
Ruth Harley

Updates

● Chair Update

- Parent Pocket - The PC are aware of the increase in costs for families and are conscious of the cost of the school day. The PC are looking at alternative funding options to support the ongoing school costs for parents.
- School Improvement Plan - The PC are in discussions with the school about the school improvement plan and any required updates.
- P1 Transitions - The PC are working with Mrs Fawkes in regards to P1 Transitions for 2023. Initial feedback is being sought from parents to enable planning for this year.
- Outdoor Learning - The school has engaged with Kids Gone Wild and the PC have identified additional free outdoor learning support from Love Outdoor Learning and have encouraged the school to engage with this.
- Playground/General Environment - The PC has requested a meeting with the Council to support the school in discussions regarding the playground and school environment.
- P1 Issues/Concerns - P1 Parents have raised concerns in relation to lunches and issues with the toilets. The PC have raised these with Mrs Fawkes and encourage parents to get in touch directly with Mrs Fawkes to discuss any individual issues.
- Games Collection - Sam thanked everyone for the games and puzzle donations for rainy day activities and confirmed these have now been handed into school.
- Community Police - The PC have reached out to the Community Police and invited them to our next meeting to support parents and families with local issues e.g parking during school drop off/pick up times and anti social behaviour.

- **Headteacher Update**

- Book week Scotland - The Nursery class have had BookBugs in to visit
- Children in Need fundraising activity was successful
- Christmas Fayre enterprise raised £646 total across all year groups
- Discussion around best practice for enterprise - ie mass production vs individual items, pre-orders vs on day sales. All will be reviewed.
- Christmas parties had a great atmosphere - however these incurred a loss of £267 - future opportunities to support funding for these parties. Ie: break the rules day.
- Discussion around how parents can pay in advance for school activities - online platform?
- Scottish Focus in class with Burns Celebration
- Senior leadership team classroom visits have left the team very impressed
- Kids Gone Wild will be offering outdoor learning opportunities for the whole school - dates have been communicated
- Recruitment - 2 new teachers (P1&P6), 2 ELPs and a new PSW have all joined recently
- Family Learning Showcase on Health and Wellbeing planned for Feb.

- **Fundraising and Events**

- Hugely successful Christmas Fayre - Feedback Form shared in School Newsletter
- Bathgate Procession - Agreement that we do not wish to use a Float this year both for financial and environmental reasons. Ideally we would like to have a link to environment or sustainability in our theme and will arrange a vote with children.
- We have received a donation of £300 from Link Housing to support the Procession.
- Ladies Night is planned as a community event on 3rd March, all are welcome.
- Mothers & Special Others day shop in March - local business providing small gifts which the children will be able to buy from a pop-up shop.
- Spring Fayre in planning - outdoor family event
- 2023 Calendar of events to be shared

- **Current account position**

- Start of year £1963.32 (ring fenced for Bathgate Procession)
- Current account total £8148.04
 - Total raised £5803.20
 - Tesco Grant - £1125 (of £1500)
 - Halloween - £664.21
 - Calendars - £585.50
 - Tea Towels - £93.54
 - Christmas Cards - £670.85
 - Christmas Fayre - £2648.53
 - Easy Fundraising - £15.57

Action Items

- **Ms Baird**

- Confirm if it is feasible to use lpayImpact for activity/event ticket purchases
- Confirm functionality of SeeSaw for parents with multiple children. Parents are still awaiting information on how to log in with more than one child. Request to introduce SeeSaw as part of P1 transition - cannot happen until there is support for logging in with more than one child at a time.
- Update school handbook
- Generally improve communication with parents. Some examples: notice of changed PE days, information shared regarding P6 Ski Trip groups, class assembly times unknown.
- WL Credit Union - a saving scheme for pupils with the local credit union. Further discussions need to take place in relation to this and there is the awareness that this will need volunteers to manage.

- **Core Committee**

- Share Christmas Fayre feedback form via Newsletter
- Review alternative platforms for advance payments
- Share calendar of events
- Volunteer Scotland PVG - The PC is now registered with Volunteer Scotland for PVG