**BONNYRIGG PRIMARY AND NURSERY PARENTS’ GROUP**

**Tuesday 28th November**

**Present:**, Sarah Stark (DHT), Caroline Findlay (DHT), Colin Wilkinson (chair), Louise Donaldson (PT) , Louise Ferguson (PT), Lesley Burrell, Fiona Gardner.

**Apologies:** Cat McDermid, Jennifer Allison (HT), Justine Jones, Sarah Beck, Lynne Lawrie

1. **Re- Cap of Actions- Colin Wilkinson**

* Representative from Poltonhall Gala - no further contact from gala day representative; will leave action open with a view to closing at next meeting if no further contact.
* School have contacted Dawn Porteous with an aim for her to do P1, P4 and P7 class photos in April 2018 – await confirmation from Dawn. Coldwell’s were informed that they were no longer required and asked to come into pitch to the Parent Council – confirmed that the decision had been made and this wouldn’t be required.
* Active Schools: 3 parents have expressed interested in helping with Active Schools’ Groups – 2 are First Aid trained with PVG and other will receive First Aid training. Further helpers welcome.
* Curriculum Evening: Colin to follow up with Facebook question regarding people’s thoughts.
* Lifelong Learning Incredible Years Course: Jennifer is meeting the new LLE manager on 4th December and aims to move this forward.
* Teacher Wishlist: Sarah Beck has spoken with pupils regarding their wishlist. Justine Jones has done the same for class teachers – await responses.
* Traffic around school - double yellow lines re- painted in local streets. Ongoing discussion about extending the barriers on Cockpen Road. Council have said that they aim to send a traffic warden to the area as parents are still parking on the repained double yellow lines. Colin asked if it would be possible for the teachers/staff to “patrol” the area – this is currently happening at Burnbrae Primary who have similar issues around parking and child safety. Caroline Findlay will look into this to see if they can get the kids involved.

1. **Fundraising Update – Fiona Gardner**

Dobbies have donated an artificial Christmas Tree which is arriving imminently in school.

Halloween Disco raised £482.43 after expenditure on re-usable decorations.

Christmas Fair - Friday 1st December. Lasswade High School pupils are helping. There will be no facepainting and some stalls have been combined due to lack of helpers. Games are happening on Thursday 30th November.

Grants for Life: We have applied to Tesco for funding for a defibrillator for the school and we have been selected for the shortlist.

Choir are singing on Monday 18th December at Tesco - there will be fundraising buckets.

Looking ahead to 2018, already beginning to consider a Spring Disco and Summer Fair.

1. **Treasurer Report – Colin Wilkinson**

Currently there is a £5,533.16 balance in account. Monies have been spent on playground markings, P6 panto trip, P7 dictionaries, magnetic letters and P1 red bags.

1. **Fun Day**

Discussion on this was postponed to the next meeting.

1. **Development of play based learning**

The school are keep to develop play based learning. A video has been made by the school to share the reasons why they want to take this approach and to share the pupil’s views about play. Funds will be needed to develop this approach.

Louise Ferguson’s class has been set up as a template room and it will cost approximately £200 per class to develop, making a total of around £800 to develop this in P1 and 2. Mrs Findlay has said that they wish to then roll this out across the school. Colin has asked for the school to add this to the teacher’s wish list for consideration.

1. **BOATS - Caroline Findlay**

Following feedback/complaints from parents, the school will look at varying days of BOATS next session. As they are in the annual calendar the dates will need to stay on Thursday this session. Other parents have asked for the session times to be moved to the mornings - this is difficult for the younger children as some find settling after sessions with parents tricky.

Fiona Gardner asked if a session about Numeracy would be really beneficial. Confirmed that this could be considered for next session but would be subject to the availability of teachers.

1. **Midlothian Council Proposed Savings**

Colin has been approached by Tynewater Parent Council to issue a joint response to the proposed cuts. They would like us to challenge the reduction of Learning Assistants by 10% and review of let charges. There would be a reduction of the discount to After School Club lets from 95% to 50%. The only way this raise could be covered is by passing this charge on to families or by moving location of the ASC. If we wait until it happens to put our point across it’s already too late…

Colin will put this information on the Facebook page to pass this information on to families and encourage them to respond.

1. **Education Bill**

The bill would devolve more powers to Headteachers to allow them to make decisions about learning and teaching. There is a Scottish Government Survey that can be completed by parents. Colin will share this information on the Facebook page.

1. **Outdoor Play**

Push for the nursery garden to be open all day for the children. There is absolutely no shelter in the garden when it is drizzly and rainy. It will cost £6,000 to have the structure across the entrance covered to allow access in all weathers – the school has started fundraising for this. Question from Caroline Findlay - could Parent Council approach the council to ask for help towards the cost of putting a proper shelter across the entrance to the nursery? Colin will progress this.

1. **AOB**

Confirmed that the bus to take the kids to the panto will be funded.

Poverty Proofing - Lesley Burrell raised poverty proofing in the school and whether the school could begin to consider this. Mrs Findlay agreed that this could be looked at. From Coffee and Chat sessions there has been feedback about issuing the themes for dressing down in advance.

Colin thanked everyone for coming and confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 6.45pm**.

**Actions:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AP** | **Action** | **Raised** | **Owner** | **Status** |
| 1 | John Aitchison to speak to the rest of the Poltonhall Gala Day committee to put together a survey and we will issue this to gauge interest. | Oct-17 | Poltonhall Gala Day committee | Open |
| 4 | Parent Council to pose question on Facebook page around what parents want from the curriculum evenings. | Oct-17 | Colin Wilkinson | Open |
| 5 | School to book the LLE “Incredible Years” course and invite parents | Oct-17 | School / JA | Open |
| 6 | Parent council to approach teachers to create a wish list | Oct-17 | Justine Jones | Open |
| 7 | Road safety - can the teachers/staff patrol the area around the school to increase awareness? | Nov-17 | School / CF | Open |
| 8 | Numeracy session - "coffee and calculations" for parents - is this possible | Nov-17 | School / CF | Open |
| 9 | Education Bill - online survey for parents to complete regarding the proposed changes | Nov-17 | Colin Wilkinson | Open |
| 10 | Midlothian Council proposed cuts | Nov-17 | Colin Wilkinson | Open |
| 11 | Poverty proofing | Nov-17 | School / CF | Open |
| 12 | Outdoor play - request for funding | Nov-17 | Colin Wilkinson | Open |