

# **BONNYRIGG PRIMARY AND NURSERY PARENTS' GROUP**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Present:** Jennifer Allison (HT), Caroline Findlay (DHT), Sarah Stark (DHT), Colin Wilkinson (chair), Sarah Beck, Fiona Gardner, Susan Greig, Lorna Souter, Carole Sneddon, Nicola Donaghey, Hayley Jones, Chiraz Sellami

**Apologies:** Lesley Burrell, Angie Ogden, Cat McDermid

## **1. Intro from Colin Wilkinson**

Colin opened the meeting with introductions to the school management, Hayley from the Children's University and Lorna Souter, the minister from Cockpen Parish Church. He thanked everyone for attending.

Colin mentioned that the communication app was still being looked at and will be discussed again at a future meeting. Parking and road safety around the school had been discussed at the previous meeting and many concerns were raised surrounding Laird Terrace. Gillian Bathgate, the travel plan councillor, who attended the previous meeting has been in touch with the school to provide a follow up. Residents of Laird Terrace have been surveyed and the residents did not request improvements to road safety in the survey.

## **2. Children's University**

Hayley Jones, from Queen Margaret University at Musselburgh is part of the outreach programme for Children's University. Children's University is a way to link Primary and High Schools with University. Lasswade High school (S1 and S2) and Hawthornden primary are signed up to the programme at the moment. If Bonnyrigg Primary want to be part of Children's University Hayley will come in to school and explain all about it to the children who will then choose if they want to sign up. They are then issued with a passport and take it to different activities where it is signed or stamped. These can be out of school activities, before school or lunch activities. There are lots of opportunities to log hours, time on Sumdog and other education online games count, as do museum trips and each holiday Children's University produce a leaflet of activities which are free – each is an hour. Time must also be logged online. When you have 30 hours logged you get a bronze award, silver for 65 hours logged and gold award after 100 hours logged. After 100 hours you get invited to a graduation at school and then at QMU. Children's University work with active school and promote free opportunities such as free workshops at QMU run by students and graduates. They also run a free summer workshop for Primary 7s. These opportunities to attend free workshops and also the graduation ceremony let children experience what a University is like and hopefully see that it's a nice environment and possibly somewhere they might like to attend later in life. In Hayley's experience the programme works better for P4 upwards as there is less investment from parents needed in terms of time logging. Bonnyrigg plan to go with this advice and offer the programme to children P4-7. Sarah Stark is to lead this within the school and will work with Hayley to get the programme started.

### **3. Parent Council Fundraising**

Colin introduced Sarah Beck who has taken on the role of chair of the fundraising group. Thanks were given to Susan Greig who has stepped down as chair. Sarah then gave an update on the fundraising group. There were lots of new faces at the recent meeting and many ideas were discussed including organising a disco, a fun day and revamping the playground. Jennifer Allison was pleased there was enthusiasm regarding fundraising but explained that lots of halls for events need to be organised in May or June for the following year. If staff help is required at an event it needs to be during the school day to guarantee it. There was a proposal to organise a summer fair/ fun day for the children, however this is not possible on the grounds that it is a very busy term for staff with report card writing, transition sessions and preparation for the following year. Discos can go ahead. Dates in May were discussed. Jennifer Allison will investigate when a suitable let can be organised for the disco and liaise with Sarah on this. It was noted that the hall can take 200 people maximum. Helpers need to be on a ratio of 1-10.

Jennifer Allison asked if the fundraising group would be able to arrange teas and coffees for parents. Home baking stall was also proposed as a way to make some additional funds. This will be discussed further.

There will be a walk as part of Health week. It was proposed that depending on the time of the walk the fundraising group could provide teas and coffees for parents after the walk.

It was agreed Christmas cards will be organised again this year.

Jennifer Allison suggested the fundraising group discuss organising something for next year to do with Red Nose Day, Sports Relief or Children in Need as she is keen to celebrate these events in school.

It was agreed it was a good idea to have some meetings in the evenings and some during the day to hopefully allow more parents to make meetings. Sarah also plans to issue a newsletter or update from the fundraising committee throughout the year to keep parents up to date with all fundraising effort and any targets that they are aiming towards.

Christmas Fair - Feedback was mixed but the majority was positive. If it isn't during school hours then it can't be guaranteed that staff will attend. Action taken to agree put a date (and time) in the diary for this.

Carole Sneddon and Gary Thomson took on looking at the playground redevelopment which is what the money in the fundraising group account was agreed to be spent on. It was agreed the need was greatest in the P1 and 2 playground. The plans/ideas at the moment include new play equipment like a trail with a few pieces of equipment for the children to play on such as balance beams and stepping stones. New markings such as a maze are also planned. Children will get to vote on the equipment and new playground markings. Carole and Gary are to meet with Gary Cormack (in charge of all Midlothian council playground installations) in school and he'll help work out what can be achieved within budget.

Caroline Findlay asked if the fundraising group could consider topping up the items that were originally purchased for playtime with Sainsbury's school vouchers - hoops, skipping ropes, balls etc. It would also be good to look at things like travelling rugs, tubs of Lego and building boards.

#### **4. Tuck Shop revamp**

Jennifer Allison would like the tuck shop to be revamped. Currently there are scones, white baguettes, oatcakes, crisps, popcorn, and one bowl of fruit each day. Friday is fair trade so it's mostly chocolate. Jennifer Allison feels it's too sugar based and not suitable for a school. Revamping the tuck shop could possibly tie in with Gavin Crosby's lifelong learning. It could also tie in with anyone doing a food hygiene course or something similar. The school need someone to take ownership and take charge of it so **it would be great if anyone who feels they can help could contact the school.**

#### **5. Partnership / Family Learning**

Raising children with confidence course is now running in the evenings in Lasswade High School. Please ask if there is anything else that parents would like as we are always keen to upscale our parents as this will upscale our children.

#### **6. Survey of general impressions**

Hawthornden Primary school is currently being inspected and Bonnyrigg is due an inspection. Jennifer Allison wondered if it would be worth doing a HMI questionnaire to gather parents feedback now. The surveys would be anonymous but it would give the school a broad idea of where parents' views are just now, prior to an inspection.

#### **Jennifer Allison gave an update on various other topics:**

Pupil Equity Fund - Scottish Government is giving millions to schools. The amount each school gets is based on free school meal entitlement – Bonnyrigg Primary got £36,000. The school now have to look at each pupil individually, attainment, SIMD data and see how the money is best spent. At the moment Bonnyrigg think the money will be best spent on an extra learning assistant or on additional resources such as read, write, etc. The pupil equity fund is the Governments attempt to break the poverty cycle.

P4a swimming is coming to an end - there have been issues with changing rooms as not enough space was allocated due to Lasswade High School using the changing rooms also. We been offered a Penicuik slot instead for P4b. The time slot at Penicuik will ensure the children get their 40 minutes in the pool but there is obviously a longer drive so the children will miss more classroom time. The current Lasswade slot is the last one of the day and with time restraints of making sure the children are back for the end of the school day and the changing room issues the children have only had about 20 minutes in the pool each session. The group agreed it made sense to take the Penicuik slot for the P4b children.

Fundraising group - usually gives £1,000 each year to the school. This was originally a transport budget but the school don't need such a large transport budget now so Jennifer Allison asked if the fundraising group would still be happy for the money to be used for the panto to come into the school. £800 would go towards this and £200 would go towards a nursery trip to the Biggar Puppet theatre. Fiona Gardner asked if the school would reconsider taking a year group out to the panto each year - it was agreed this could be done with P6.

Sports Day - after feedback from parents it will be changed slightly this year to be competitive sports for the whole school one day and potted sports for the whole school another day. This is to help parents who have children in upper and lower school as they can take one day off work, if needed, and see both (or more) children enjoy either competitive or potted sports.

Health week begins on Monday 15th May. Enjoy a ball are coming, active schools will probably provide football, rugby and dance. Does anyone know someone who could do cooking, yoga, mindful classes or anything else that could be offered under the umbrella of health. There is a small budget for this but primarily we are looking for people to donate their time. Something could also be run for staff and or parents. The health week walk was discussed - this was a great success last year. It was proposed that it would be good to extend the walk for older children. Caroline Findlay asked for suggestions for routes. Sarah Beck suggested incorporating the newly opened David Dunn fitness trail as part of it.

#### **7. AOB / close**

The next meeting is Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> April. This is the AGM.

Colin Wilkinson closed the meeting.