

BONNYRIGG PRIMARY AND NURSERY PARENTS' GROUP

Tuesday 8th November

Present: Nicola Donaghey, Angie Ogden, Lesley Burrell, Fiona Gardner, Caroline Findlay (DHT), Jennifer Allison (HT), Louise Donaldson (PT) Colin Wilkinson (chair), Susan Henderson, Gavin Crosby, Carole Sneddon, Lucy Brown, Nicola Dougherty, Laura Chalmers, Jackie Mellon.

Apologies: Susan Greig, Angela Bowman, Cat McDermid, Sarah Stark (DHT)

1. Recap/ Update on Outstanding Actions (Colin Wilkinson)

Some parent rep vacancies have now been filled but we still need volunteers for P2, P5 and P7.

P1- Laura Chalmers

P2- Vacancy

P3- Angie Ogden

P4- Angie Ogden

P5- Vacancy

P6- Susan

P7- Vacancy

2. Lifelong Learning and Employability

We welcomed Gavin Crosby, Senior Lifelong Learning and Employability Advisor for the Lasswade Cluster to the meeting this evening. He explained that capacity and funding are available to offer family learning opportunities across Bonnyrigg, Burnbrae and Lasswade Primary Schools.

Gavin talked through the range of options he can offer and explained there could be stand alone courses and 10 week block sessions. He also explained that he is able to respond very quickly to local issues if they are youth work focussed as he can run these sessions himself. Some of the courses suggested were,

- Raising Kids With Confidence
- Advice for parenting teenagers
- Employability/ stress/ anxiety
- Family learning courses in French, arts and crafts and reading.
- Drugs awareness

Mrs Allison is very keen for Bonnyrigg Primary to become involved in offering lifelong learning opportunities. She explained that school staff have already completed Confident Staff, Confident Children training and found this beneficial.

Action: Gavin Crosby will attend the Christmas Fair to further promote lifelong learning opportunities and gauge interest.

3. Fundraising

Fiona Gardiner gave an update from the Fundraising Group.

An email was sent to parents on the 2nd of November asking for volunteers to help set up and run the fair. Volunteer slots for setting up the fair have been filled but we are still lacking volunteers for the fair itself. On Tuesday there were 18 volunteers for the 1st hour and 21 for the 2nd hour. This includes all members of the Fundraising Group who have volunteered for both hours. 35 volunteers are needed for each hour.

A further letter has now been sent home giving more detail about the fair itself.

The fundraising group are meeting every Friday at 9am until the week of the fair. If anyone can come along they would be made very welcome. There is no need to commit to coming each week.

Cat McDermid has sent Christmas card orders to Southfield. There were 114 orders in total which raised a profit of about £200.

Colin Wilkinson asked whether money raised on Dress Down Days should come to the school rather than to charity. Dress Down Days raise around £300.

Mrs Donaldson explained that the Literacy Group in school are organising fundraising to develop the school library. This will tie in with the First Minister's Reading Challenge which is happening nationally for P4- P7. There will be a sponsored read in conjunction with Usbourne Books which will be launched on the 18th of November and run until February 2017. Jackie Mellon also suggested investigating Scotia Books in West Lothian.

Mrs Allison confirmed that volunteer lists have gone to class teachers and volunteers should hear soon.

ACTION: Mrs Allison will find out what agreement has been made with the Pupil Council regarding Dress Down Days.

Fundraising Group will continue to meet weekly to organise the upcoming fair. Anyone who is able to help would be very welcome.

4. School Improvement Plan

Mrs Allison let us know that the School Improvement Plan is available for everyone to see on the school website. Staff had undertaken a self assessment activity and rated the school as good.

<http://bonnyrigg.mgfl.net/communications/school-policies/>

5. Staffing

Mrs Allison explained that the school are continuing face difficulties around recruiting staff due to the shortage of teachers. She feels that she may soon need parental support to approach our local MSP to highlight the difficulties being faced and the impact this has on the school.

6. What We Do Well

At Parents' Nights last session, the school asked for feedback about what they do well and where they could improve. They have collated this information and it was shared at the meeting. Communication has been highlighted as an area where parents feel the school could improve. Jackie Mellon explained how Rosewell Primary School have address this through the creation of a school app which is being used by most families and is being received very positively.

ACTION: Survey Monkey questionnaire to be created to gauge opinion about communication and preferred methods. Colin Wilkinson will create this and forward it to Mrs Allison to distribute to parents. Investigate further the cost/ issues around creating a school app.

7. **AOCB**

Lesley Burrell brought up the ongoing traffic problems around the school in light of the lollipop man's accident on Cockpen Road. Mrs Allison suggested that road safety should be the focus of the next meeting.

ACTION: Invite local councillors and community police to attend the next meeting.

8. **Close**

Colin thanked everyone for coming and confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 24th of January at 6.45pm.