



ST COLUMBKILLE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 29th January @ 7.30pm

Minutes

Sederunt: Mr Gray (HT), Mr Adams (DHT), Mr Wedlock (PT), Mrs Garrett (CT), Mr Wood (CT), Clare Griffiths (Chairperson), Ann MacKinnon (Vice- Chairperson), Shona Rafferty (minutes), Councillor Lennon, Lara O'Connor, Jacci Henzler, Nicola Carroll, Susan Mackie, Jo Scollin, Charlotte Scally, Nicola Bourns, Louise Muir, Debbie Edmonds, Louise McPhee, Maureen Ward, Carole Anne Monaghan, Tracey O'Donnell, Marie Anne Smith, Gordon Smith, Angela Miller (late), Father Pat (late)

Apologies: Louise McNally, Carolyn Campbell, Tracey Cooper, **Joanne Murray**

1. Prayer

2. Welcome and apologies (as above)

Clare Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting

3. Minutes of previous meeting of Monday 8th May 2017

Ratified by Nicola Carroll and Jacci Henzler

4. Matters arising from minutes

Clare Griffiths reported that the church's second collection is for the building fund. The church decides how the second collection is allocated a year in advance so there is no possibility of the second collection being donated to the school.

5. ECO Teachers (Mrs Garrett and Mr Wood) - Plans for the garden

a) Mrs Garrett and Mr Wood presented the ECO- Schools action plan to the PC. See attached document.

b) The PC voted to donate £1000 to the ECO Committee to create an outdoor willow classroom.

c) Nicola Carroll suggested contacting Tesco Bank to see if they could provide volunteers to help clear the garden area. Jacci Henzler contacted Bernadette Hunter to find out if Tesco Bank could help. During the meeting Bernadette confirmed she would make enquiries on behalf of the PC.

b) Clare Griffiths reported that an application was submitted to Tesco in November but she was advised that applications can take up to 6 months to be processed. An application has also been submitted to Asda but they need another school to submit an application to proceed.

6. Head Teacher's Report

1. New Website

- Tried to redevelop previous website - issues with calendar, integrating twitter, look and feel of website, not user friendly
- Cost and once set up unable to amend or change if kept with the existing company
- New website is free - Mr Wedlock developed. Keeping it simple and streamlined - work in conjunction with app.
- Main features discussed and shown

2. Inclement weather

- Issues with recent inclement weather
- Expectation that school will remain open
- SLC very large authority so difficult to make blanket decision but also difficult to make decision if not at school
- Priority is always safety of children
- Twitter, app and website very useful to get any messages across.
- Cleared a drop off area on Wednesday to aid flow of traffic

3. P1 Enrolment

- w/b 15/1/18
- Difficult to ascertain whether affected by bad weather
- Please spread message to enrol children as soon as possible if missed
- Final number is fluid due to placing requests in and out, deferments and forum applications

4. Family Learning

Community Curriculum Café (No charge)

Who?-Any parent, grandparent, carer or adult with a child in our school

When?- Thursday 8th March 2018 9:15-10:15

Where?-St Columbkille's Primary School

What?-Would you like to find out more about what your child is learning in school? Would you like practical tips and ideas on how to best support your child at home? Well now you can, in a relaxed and friendly environment. Why not join us for a tea/coffee and a biscuit or cake, and find out how you can best support your child as they progress through primary school.

Why? Education Scotland research has suggested that a strong link between family and school can potentially increase a child's attainment

Family Focused Cooking Club (No charge)

Who?-Any parent, grandparent, carer or adult with a child in our school (*numbers are limited!*)

When?- 6 week block starting on Thursday 26th April 2018, 15:15-16:30

Where?-St Columbkille's Primary School

What?-Learn to cook with your child in a fun and friendly environment. This workshop will focus on easy to prepare healthy dinners and lunches that can be enjoyed by the whole family, and all within a budget.

Why? Learning to cook with your child can open up a whole new dimension to the parent/child relationship, as well as instilling good practices and essential life skills that your child will carry with them into young adulthood.

Adult Learning Club (No charge)

Who? Any parent, grandparent, carer or adult with a child in our school

When? 6 week block starting 21st February 13:00-15:00

Where?-St Columbkille's Primary School

What? This 6 week programme is for adults, grandparents or carers who would like more support with their own literacy or numeracy. This programme is delivered by experienced practitioners who specialise in working with adults who wish to develop or enhance their literacy skills.

Why? Supporting parents who may struggle with literacy or numeracy is essential if we wish to raise attainment for ALL our pupils.

5. Burns Supper

- *Held today - 29.1.18*
- *Mrs MacDonald and Miss Toal organised*
- *Variety of performances and haggis, neeps and tatties served*

6. World of Work Week

- *Held last week in school*
- *Organised as learning about the skills for learning, life and work and careers is an entitlement within CfE and recommendation from the Developing the Young Workforce Report (Sep 2015) of starting careers advice and guidance earlier in schools.*
- *P1-4 visitors from a range of professions*
- *P5-7 careers Fayre on Thursday afternoon*
- *Homework activity for P1-7 - fantastic work sent in and displayed at front of school*

7. Catholic Education Sunday/Enrolment Mass

- *Held on Sunday 28.1.18*
- *Excellent turnout from P3 and P4 children*

7. Correspondence

a) Trinity Cluster Schools Joint Parent Council meeting - 1st March 6.30-8pm - reflect on 100 years of state funded Catholic Education. Father Stephen will be a guest speaker. Clare Griffiths hopes as many as possible from PC can make it to represent school

b) The icon 'Jesus our Teacher' has been completed and will be on view in the Motherwell Diocese from October- November 2018.

c) The SPTC are looking for success stories and Clare Griffiths has submitted details of the fundraising committee in recognition of their hard work.

d) The Cost of a School Day document was shared with the PC. Clare Griffiths will email the document to PC members.

8. Fundraising Update

a) The total of Christmas fundraising was £4326. Clare Griffiths thanked the SMT and school staff for their support before and during the Christmas Fayre. The Christmas card money has still to be added to this total.

b) Clare Griffiths stated that the PC pays £550 toward the P5 swimming, P5's have raised £268 through football cards and 'guess the number of sweeties'. Ann MacKinnon and the P3 children raised £186 from carol singing and this money will go towards the swimming costs.

c) The PC account balance is £7143.23

9. School Disco

a) The PC will organise a school disco to thank the children/families for their support. The discos will be held on Wednesday 7th March and will be free but ticketed. Snacks will be provided free of charge.

P1/2 - 5.00-6.00pm - Candy cart

P3-5 - 6.15 -7.15pm - Doughnuts

P6/7 - 7.30 -8.00pm - Chocolate fountain

b) The DJ has been booked at a cost of £120.

10. Parish Update

a) Father Pat reported that Vincent De Paul would like the Minnie Vinnies to make Easter cards. He also reported that sashes are being made for children participating in the Pope Francis Award. This will provide a visual way to identify the children when they are working towards the award.

b) Clare Griffiths reported that the Parish are hoping to organise another parish outing and suggestions of possible destination are welcome.

11. AOB and date of next meeting

a) Jacci Henzler showed the PC a sample of the P7 hoodies. There are 38 x P7 children this year so the cost will be £474.64 - £524.78 (depending on the sizes ordered). Samples of sizes will be available at the school office. Letters will go out to parents/carers on Monday 5th March and the hoodies will be ready after Easter.

b) Councillor Lennon reported that the council will not fund new whiteboards. Councillor Lennon suggested that there might be cross party support for upgrading the ICT equipment in the school. Mr Gray reported that wall mounted whiteboards are cheaper than portable whiteboards, they are also more durable. Estimated costs:

Portable

55" £2567

65" £3159

Wall mounted

55" £1713

65" £2305

c) Lara O'Connor asked for clarification about homework tasks. Mr Gray stated that literacy challenge homework is for all children. He stated that homework should be due at the end of the week to enable

children to participate in afterschool clubs. There should be a reduction in homework when children are preparing for the sacraments.

d) Nicola Carroll asked for clarification about the importance of the Pope Francis books as some children do not have them. Mr Wedlock stated that children would still be able to complete the award.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th March 2018