Elrick Primary School Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 7th December 2017

**Minutes**

Location: Elrick Primary School Music Room

Attendees: Susan McLean, Susan Hay, Monique Blair, Andrea Drummond, Alessandra Savassi, Jackeline Rodrigues, Shalaka Samant (secretary), Kay Greive, Chrissie Simpson (chair), Mrs. Robinson

Apologies: Caroline Noble, Ruth Davidson, Laura Mitchell, Dawn O’Sullivan, Lynn Reid, Fiona Fitzgerald, Kerry Alexander, Aimee Douglas Smith, Jillian Christie, Louise Young, Lynne Kerkvliet, Rosalyn Chilton, Laura Elder

**Chairperson’s Welcome**

Chrissie Simpson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**Parent Council**

Further to the discussion in last month’s meeting about the different modes of communication to the parents by the school, it was decided that the Parent council will give £600-700 towards the cost of messaging.

The SeeSaw app was also discussed as an alternative to using text messages and email to communicate with parents. Since this app is class specific, sending messages/ texts on this would be difficult since teachers would have to individually go onto this app.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) date was discussed and Thursday 14th June @ 6.30 pm is the proposed new date.

Also since there was a low turnout for this meeting, parent council will re visit the schedule of dates, especially the 9.15 am meeting to be held in March, 2018 and try and re arrange the meeting to a more suitable time.

**Treasurer’s report (Monique Blair)**

Currently there is £10,000 in the bank. However there are a few bills to be settled including the payments for ipads, expressions and loudspeaker.

An approximate profit of £600 was made on Xmas cards. Treasurer to calculate how much we made in terms of calendars and tea towels. In addition, there are a few other fundraising activities in the pipeline which will bring in money including the M and S bag pack day, Jumper day and school discos.

Also, Westhill community council (WECC) has approved £300 towards the school.

**Summer Fayre/ Fun day**

The Summer Fayre is usually the 3rd Saturday in May. However, this year the date for the Summer Fayre/ Fun day will be 26th May, 2018. This is because there is the Baker Hughes 10K run on the 20th May, which may have an effect on the overall turnout. A token system for the floats for the Summer Fayre was discussed. However, it was decided coins would be the best option. Another suggestion was to explore the option of a card reader for the floats instead of tokens.

**ACTION: Susan Hay to contact Zobbs for the fun day.**

**Head Teacher’s Report (Mrs. Drummond)**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Parent Forum on key areas at Elrick School. This will include staffing, trips and visitors, school improvements, reporting to parent opportunities for families as well as any other relevant information.

Trips and Visitors

* Primary 5 had a visit to Duthie Park, linked to their class learning about rainforests. During the visit the met the local ranger and did various activities inside the hothouse as well as an orientation event around the park, bringing together some physical activity and mathematics
* Glee club workshop – our Glee Club member from primary 6 and 7 had an hour long workshop with one of the judges who will be scoring their performance at the local competition next term. She had them singing, dancing and they even made up their own moves.
* Staff from Aboyne nursery visited the nursery at Elrick to look at the organisation of the space and to share good practice across the 2 settings. This was a great opportunity for the staff to meet and reflect on their own practice.
* Primary 6 had a visitor who was a local resident. He had been in the armed forces during the Second World War and was invited to speak to the classes as part of the historical focus this term. They prepared lots of questions for him to answer during his visit.
* We have also celebrated Scottish Book Week where there was a reading lunch where staff took turns to read to the children whilst they were eating lunch, lots of activities involving looking at and experience different books. P1, 2 and 3 received their book bags as part of this celebration. Some of our primary 7 pupils tweeted famous authors and we were delighted to get some replies!
* This week the photovoltaic cells are being installed on the roof of the school which will allow the school to produce its own electricity from the sun. We will be able to monitor this on a screen which will be in the front of the school and classes may use this as part of learning.
* 4 of our primary 7 pupils competed at the Westhill Rotary Club Young Speaker competition along with pupils from other cluster schools.
* The school nursing team were in school recently to undertake the immunisation programme for flu vaccination

Staffing

* This week we said a temporary goodbye to Mrs. Adams who is taking maternity leave. Miss Alexander is now teaching this class; she has been in school since October and knows the children well.
* Mrs. Collins, one of our P.S.As left recently but we may see her back in school as a relief member of staff.
* We have a couple of upcoming vacancies which we are in the process for recruiting for in teaching and non-teaching roles and will keep you updated on this over the next few weeks.

School Improvements

Since the last Parent Council meeting, the school community has been working on the following improvements:

* In the in-service days teaching staff focussed on writing and moderating this writing across classes and stages. This will support us to ensure that we are setting consistent high standards. From this we are hoping to meet with teachers from other school across the Westhill cluster.
* Margaret Rule, who currently works as a curriculum development officer for numeracy, took the staff through a workshop from Early level to 3rd level looking at the progression of addition and subtraction, supporting pupils to achieve and shared some excellent resources and strategies
* Class teachers also worked on launching their SEESAW pages and getting families connected. You should be able to see your child’s work along with a class blog open to all families for that class.
* P.S.A staff looked at supporting pupils needs and ways of de-escalating challenging behaviour, dyslexia and mental wellbeing in young children
* The Reading Cloud has now been launched and you should have received information on how to log in. Pop in workshops were in school this week.
* Some staff have also attended twilights on visual timetables

Reporting to Parent Opportunities

As part of being a parent at Elrick School we try to provide a range of opportunities for you to find out about your child’s learning both as an individual and as part of their class. Recently, we have:

* Sent out our termly newsletters for each class, these are also on the school website and GLOW homepage for each pupil
* We use Twitter to share some our learning, promote Elrick School and share our ideas.
* SEESAW logins have been set up using the email addresses provided at parent’s night. This should give you access to your child’s class blog and their own personal page. Blog can be seen by all families in the class, the personal page by parents only.
* Reading Cloud – this is a safe, online tool which we are using to try and promote reading. Through this your child can access E-books, search for books in the library and recommend books to others
* Christmas sharing – a number of our classes have Christmas sharing events happening during the last 2 weeks of term for parents to visit and be part of. Times and dates were in the last school newsletter and if tickets needed, you should have received information about this from your child’s teacher.

Please remember that if you do want to discuss anything about your child, please contact the school.

**Fundraising**

A variety of fundraising events are being organised before end of the term and were discussed:

Susan Hay gave an update on the status of the calendars. They are being printed and should be posted to the school shortly and will be available from next week. Same with the tea towels and bags

Shalaka Samant gave an update on the school discos. School discos will be held on the 20th December, 2017 and there will be three disco slots as follows:
P1 – P2 5.30 to 6.15 pm

P3 – P4 6.45 to 7.30 pm

P5 – P7 8.00 to 8.45 pm

A list of the parents who have volunteered is being generated and everyone will be assigned their task by the next week via email and/or whatsapp.

In addition parent council will provide for refreshments for the school Christmas parties.

M and S bag pack will take place on 24th December, 2017 from 7.00 to 10.00 am. Everything is in order with 10% of the earnings to be given to the M and S charity.

Bags2 school pick up will be on 12th December, Tuesday 9.00 am. All parents are advised that bags be left by Monday until 6.00 pm within the school.

Also, Christmas tree recycling fundraiser was suggested. Council used to do kerbside collection of real Christmas trees which is no longer done. However, the downside of this is that we would need a waste carrier registration which would cost around £200 for 3 years Also since it would not be individual waste, we would not be able to use Westdyke recycling to dispose of the trees. So it was decided not to go ahead with this fundraising activity at this point of time.

In addition parent council will pay the cost towards 8 feet Xmas tree for the school.

**Next Parent Council Meeting**

Tuesday 16th January at 18.00 hrs.