

Parent Council meeting

Held in Drakies Primary Staff Room / Google Meet

15th February 2023

Present:

In person

- Eilidh Mackay, Parent Council Chair
- Amy MacRae, Parent Council Vice-chair
- Jen Owens, Parent
- Claire Reed, Parent
- Kayleigh Cameron, Parent
- Elaine Webster, Parent
- Rhona Brindle, Parent
- Tracy Allan, Parent

By VC

- Scott Callander, Head Teacher
- Danny MacKenzie, Deputy Head Teacher
- Linda Macdonald, Parent Council Treasurer
- Anna Munro, Parent Council Secretary
- Jill Clark, Parent
- Abbi Tracey, Parent
- Catriona Mackay, Parent
- Steph Cowie, Parent
- Kerrie Carter, Parent
- Dolly Beagant, Parent

1. Welcome/ apologies
Eilidh welcomed everyone.
2. Previous minutes

Eilidh went through the previous minutes. Two points carried forwards:

- Supermarket support – Amy confirmed there were no grants available from supermarkets (aside from Coop Community Grant, which can be applied to in October), but she now has contacts for Tesco, Asda and Morrisons who all said they would support events with supermarket items provided they had sufficient notice i.e. 3 months.
- Tuck shop – Scott confirmed Claire (cook) is recruiting for an addition to the kitchen team, and when they are in situ they hope to resume the tuck shop. In the meantime, there is fruit available for any children who have forgotten their snack. Eilidh to update Facebook page to remind families of this.

3. Chairperson report (Eilidh MacKay)

Eilidh updated on:

- Maria Karra and Mhairi Stott are the parents leading on the school library. They have already received donations of books from parents and have been able to sign up to subscriptions of Match of the Day Minecraft, as well as 46 back issues of The Beano. At their request, a donation of £200 has been made to the school library for purchase of books. With the money, they've purchased 82 new and second hand books. Eilidh to update the Facebook page with photos.
- Helen Hamilton from Drakies and Culcabock Community Council has emailed to request dates for the school's Community Cafe, and that she's keen to link in with the parent council around shared causes/ events. Scott will share the dates for the Community Cafe. Elaine suggested these were also shared on the Friends of Drakies Facebook page, which was agreed.
- Mrs Henstridge entered the parent council into a draw to "win" the chance to provide the catering at the Bailey Cup, but we were unsuccessful.
- Eilidh has received emails into the Parent Council mailbox in relation to P1 enrolment and had hopefully added them to the PC mailing list (to double check with someone more technical). Elaine asked if an email/ Facebook post could be sent out to the parents of those enrolling to promote use of the uniform bank. Eilidh to do.
- The Christmas Fayre was a great success and resulted in £1867 profit. All tables proved popular (many sold out) and the children's craft was a good free activity. More free activities next time to be more inclusive? The bottle donations got muddled with hamper and raffle donations and so the bottle stall could have been a lot more lucrative. The time seems to work very well and apart for the last hour numbers tailed off. This time however reduced the availability of volunteers due to work commitments. Amy commented that she felt the next fayre date should be based on the availability of volunteers to make sure all stalls were covered and reduce the pressure in the run-up to the day. She also suggested asking volunteers to "own" a stall/ area and its responsibilities. The Culloden Rotary Santa sleigh was a great addition, and they have said they will attend again this year if given notice. Following 2 requests on Facebook for both positive and constructive feedback, we got one reply stating that their children enjoyed the event.
- The hampers were also very successful this year however the PC were not as organised as they could have been with the collection of items and so the donations all got in a bit of a muddle.....which made it quite a time consuming process.

- £1210 profit was made by the raffle. Tracy managed to get some amazing prizes again –thank you so much! We ordered too many ticket books – only 300/1000 were used, however it wasn't much more in price thankfully.
- Eilidh thanked Tracy who, since November, has made £844 by selling bric-a-brac online, and boosted parent council funds.
- FODPS has donated money to support a whole school trip to the Christmas Panto (£1260) and for the installation of the Polycrub on school grounds (£2814).
- Mr Callander and Mr MacKenzie both gave very positive feedback about the events held during winter term saying it was great to see all the children at the disco again following the years of Covid.

4. Treasurers Report (Linda MacDonald)

- Parent council funds in the bank currently sits at £6194
- Significant spend since August: £1260 – Panto, £2814 – Polycrub /Erection, £200 – Library Books
- EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile still ongoing
- Pending: P7 Leavers hoodies and P 4 swimming bus

5. Head Teacher report (Scott Callandar)

- Panto: thanked PC for their contribution to the Panto (subsidising tickets/ snacks). Everyone had a great time. Feedback will be sought from parents to help decide whether the event should be annual, or maybe every 2 or 3 years.
- Polycrub: the Polycrub has been erected. Scott met with Springfield Homes last week and they have confirmed they will contribute either the wood and a composter or up to £1000 for the raised beds. Richard (jannie) will assist with the build of these. Springfield will also donate the top soil and Howdens have donated seeds. Pupils in “The Garden Club” will assist with the preparation of the beds.
- Refreshing the curriculum. Catriona Gray has had a limited response to her email questionnaire in relation to Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) and is asking if parents can please consider completing the questionnaire. Eilidh thought it would be good to have a post on the Friends of Drakies Facebook page explaining what IDL is, and a link to the questionnaire.
- Scott is looking forward to P2-7 parents/ carers attending the Open Afternoon tomorrow.
- Scott shared the school's attainment statistics, which are tracked at P1, P4 and P7

- i. Reading – 77%
- ii. Writing – 71%
- iii. Numeracy – 81%
- iv. Listening and Talking – 91%

- Scott shared the following diary dates for school events:

- i. 28 Feb & 01 Mar – Possible Strike Days
- ii. 02 Mar – World Book Day. Pupils asked to pay £1 with a rainbow theme for dress up to raise funds for school library
- iii. 03 Mar – Community Cafe
- iv. 15 Mar – Class Photos.
- v. 17 Mar – Red Nose Day.
- vi. 22 Mar – McRobert Cup
- vii. 31 Mar – Community Cafe

- 60 trees donated by the Woodland Trust have now been planted in school grounds.

6. Request for Funds

- Trim Trail - Scott confirmed that he would like the Parent Council to consider helping fund a Trim Trail for the school. This is a wooden installation, also known as a jungle gym, which would promote outdoor activity. Cost would be in the region of £15K - £20K. Amy asked if an application to the National Lottery might be considered, and Scott advised it was worth considering but had previously been involved with an application which failed because it did not involve the entire community, rather than just the school. Amy discussed the idea of enlisting businesses to wraparound the school and perhaps support such projects with funding and/or expertise – Amy to develop this idea and run past Scott. Also the parent council will consider building on current funds over 2 – 3 years in order to fund this project.
- P7 hoodies – Scott confirmed that in previous years the P7s have received a donation from the parent council to reduce down the cost of the hoodies. Danny to work with the other teachers to organise and let the parent council know when they are about to order so that a parent council contribution can be considered/ made.
- P4 swim – Scott advised there was a significant increase in the transport costs involved with the P4s swimming lessons and asked if the PC might consider contributing to future years. Scott to confirm costs involved nearer the time.

7. Future Ideas/ Events

- Easter disco – date agreed as Thursday 30 March. Scott suggested we might consider buying our own disco lights and utilising the hall's sound system rather than buying in DJ services every time. Everyone agreed an all inclusive price for the disco would be best, and settled on £5 requested per ticket, or what was affordable (in an effort to make the

event inclusive for all children). Scott offered for the school to manage receipt of the money. There was discussion around the practicality of monitoring allergy free options, and there was no uptake of these at the Autumn disco. There will be a slight time change to give the older children more time: Nursery -P3 6-7pm / P4-P7 7.15-8.30pm.

- Break the Rules Day – Eilidh suggested this, with each rule broken costing 50p, or £3 for as many rules broken as you like.
- Family Easter Egg Hunt – Eilidh suggested this could be carried out at the school
- Spring/ Summer Fayre – date agreed as Saturday 17 June
- King’s Coronation – Scott said the school will mark this event on 06 May.
- It was decided that the Spring Disco and the Summer Festival would be enough for this term.

8. AOB

- Cupboard – the parent council need a space in the school to store existing “stock” items currently being stored at houses, and to facilitate more advanced organisation of parent council events i.e. purchasing stock in advance and storing it. A parent council rep will attend the school to review cupboard space along with Scott.
- Football – Linda queried whether football was limited in bad weather, due to the condition of school clothing when children returned home. Scott confirmed its not, unless very bad i.e. snow day

9. Next meeting – Wednesday 15 March at 8pm in the school/ VC. Will include planning for disco on 30 March and starting to plan for Fayre on 17 June.