



Parent Council Annual Report 2014-15

Parent Council Remit

The Parent Council aims to promote a partnership between the school, its pupils and all our parents or carers.

Our objectives are:

- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents or carers on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of pupils.
- To promote parental or carers' involvement in their child's education and learning.
- To enable parents or carers to share ideas, interests and skills for the benefit of the school.

Summary of issues that the Parent Council was consulted on, informed of and involved in during 2014-2015

- *International Social.* A third very successful International evening in December involving wonderful food from around the world brought in by parents, live music, fantastic performances, a raffle with great prizes and a lovely family atmosphere.
- *P5-6 disco.* The PC organised a disco for the P5-6 children which was a great success and could be repeated in future for other year groups.
- *Spring fair.* In May, the spring fair offered the opportunity to bring the school community together with stalls, food, a bouncy castle and fun activities. Despite heavy rain showers, there was a great atmosphere and over £1,200 was raised for future spending.
- *Campaigning for issues facing the school.* This year has seen a demanding consultation process with the PC involved in informing and engaging parents, meeting GCC officials and Councillors, letter writing, drafting formal consultation responses and other activities trying to get the best outcome for the school. After the Executive Committee decision on the consultation outcome in January 2015, Glasgow City Council proposals changed again and the PC has continued to be involved in trying to maximise the options available for infrastructure and playground improvements right to the end of the school year.
- *Supporting school activities.* This happens in a wide variety of ways including coordinating volunteers for specific activities eg. eco and Fairtrade initiatives, walking children to the football pitch at lunchtime, creative activities, costume/prop creation for the school shows and providing

volunteer support for trips and initiatives throughout the year. The Chair and Secretary were also involved in the interview process for the Depute Head position in June.

- *Outdoor education.* One particularly successful area of volunteering has been coordinated and led by Andrea Fisher who has provided outdoor learning sessions on a Thursday morning at least once for every class in the school over the year. This has also been expanded into Golden Time opportunities for the upper school. These sessions have been enormously popular with the children and we hope to be able to continue them next year.
- *Awareness raising.* This has happened in a variety of ways ranging from circulating information on issues of interest to parents to raising awareness among staff and parents on the important issue of FGM.
- *Foodbank collections.* Three collections were organised through the year for donation to Maryhill Foodbank. Heartfelt appreciation was expressed by the foodbank coordinators for these donations and this is where the size of the school really comes into its own!
- *Uniform developments and ordering system.* PC members organise the online ordering form and distribution of uniform as well as the second hand stalls and uniform related details.

Fundraising and Spending

All funds raised by the Parent Council are used to support the work of the school and extra curricular activities. Over the past year, fund raising has occurred in a variety of ways including second hand uniform sales, raffle and international night and spring fair proceeds, and the Easy Fundraising scheme. In addition, a significant grant application was submitted to fund a large covered seating area for the upper school playground which could be used for lunchtime shelter as well as outdoor teaching opportunities. Two of the three applications were successful, raising in total over £3,000 in grant finance, and the purchase of this outdoor classroom will be actioned in the new year. In addition, the we currently have just under £5,000 from general fundraising activities and the new PC will look at options for spending in the new year. This could be a number of smaller areas of spending or working towards a larger target. If you have any ideas about what might benefit the school and the children, please let us know.

In terms of spending over the past year, members of the PC met with the Pupil Council a couple of times to hear from them how they would like to see money being spent. On the basis of these discussions, the PC have paid for large lunch box storage holders for every class, loose play equipment including for outdoor learning sessions, a wide range of new playground toys and equipment as well as supporting activities such as the disco.