

## Parent Council Meeting Minutes Friday 13th June

### Space Campaign

The PC looked briefly at the consultation documents from Glasgow City Council (GCC) about the catchment area review and the closure of the EYC. The approach to the Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June was discussed and it was agreed that the PC could not recommend parents to respond in a certain way because of the inevitable wide diversity of views among the parent body as a whole. Ruth Downes, together with those who have been more closely involved in discussions with GCC, will present the context and information to ensure that all parents are as informed as possible about all aspects of the issues before the responses are made.

The public meeting with Hillhead Primary as part of the consultation will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> August in the school. At the start of the new year, the PC will put out a list of issues and information for parents to work with as well as postcards with an image of lots of children squashed into a classroom which can be used by children to write their response.

### Staffing issues

Francis informed the PC of changes to Glasgow City Council school funding policy.

The PC discussed the devastating impact this would have on the management structure of the school. The issue has been ongoing since the school was built and the level of promoted posts was agreed. Previous attempts by GCC to change this structure have been successfully challenged by the school in the past. GCC now say they can no longer support the current structure and so the management team will be effectively cut by one third. This can only have a negative impact on staff and students working in a school that now has 130 extra pupils and considerable space constraints.

Ruth had drafted letters to GCC Director of Education, Maureen McKenna and Mike Russell, [Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning](#). These letters were approved by the PC and will be sent off immediately. The PC will also inform the wider parent forum and organise an immediate petition to oppose this cut.

### Playground

Glasgow City Council have assessed the outdoor classroom area and will site at least three toilets accessible from the playground there. They have also agreed that the grassy knoll area in the upper school playground can be covered with an artificial grass surface. This should solve the drainage problem and the pupils will finally be able to access all of their playground. These works will hopefully be done during the summer break. Thank you to Colin for all your hard work on this.

Andrea has also been working hard on gathering recycled play equipment for the students and has sourced suitable storage units. Unfortunately these plans may have to go on hold

while the school awaits their final staff complement as we are losing a PSA and therefore playground supervision is reduced.

### **Gibson St Gala**

Our contribution to 10th Anniversary gala included a storyteller, street dancer, sports coaches, bake sale and craft activities - all of which received lots of positive praise. Thanks to Julia for all her hard work. We received help with the costs from the Gala Fund and made an overall profit on the event. We hope to build on this success next year by minimising costs borne by the PC including lobbying the Council to obtain a free let.

### **Fund Raising**

Amalia had put accounts for the year together and, through the various fund raising activities of the year, nearly £2,000 has so far been raised. Astrid is to organize another bake sale at the end of term, on Mon 23rd and Tues 24<sup>th</sup>, which should add to this total. This was welcomed by the PC and means we can start the new year thinking about what kind of investment/equipment would best benefit the children which we can support.

There is also £127 available from donations to the Fairtrade Café. It was agreed that this would be put towards activities specifically related to fairtrade. Thanks to Kirsty Maslen and Ingrid Sigerson for all the hard work organizing the cafes as they will be moving on. A new coordinator for the cafes can be found in the new school year.

### **Uniform Update**

Susie confirmed plans for collecting uniform paper orders. The website has now been updated to reflect the donations to the school from uniform sales. The second hand uniform stall will be open in the last week of term. So far Susie's hard work this term has raised £100.

### **After school care issue**

The PC discussed the ongoing lack of after school care availability due to the lack of space in the school and suitable accommodation close by. In the new school year, the PC could look at wider options in this area and see what could be done to support additional provision.

### **AOB**

Lisa brought up the subject of class photos vs family photos. Francis said staff had already discussed possible changes and would look to implement these next year.

### **Achievements 2013-2014**

The PC ended with a reminder of all the successes we have had this year despite the space issues and the considerable strain this has put on our time.

- We have organised volunteers for pupil events including Fairtrade fortnight and Eco week
- We have ended the year with almost £3000 in the bank - more than at any point in Hillhead Primary School's history.
- Under pressure from the PC, the Council have agreed to increase toilet provision in the school
- We have listened to our students and lobbied the council to remodel the playground to their requirements.
- We hosted a sensational International evening and the Gibson St Gala.
- We have continued to organize the uniform system for the school

This could not have happened without the hard work of the PC and all the members of the Parent Forum who have supported us throughout the year. Thank you to all who have helped.

A particular recognition must go to our committed and seemingly inexhaustible chair. Thank you Ruth on behalf of Hillhead parents, staff, and most importantly students.