



Parent Council End of Year Newsletter

The Parent Council has had another very busy year and been involved in a wide range of activities. These have included:

- *International Night.* - Thanks again to Astrid Azurdia for organising this and continuing the successful tradition. The last International evening was another great success with much delicious food, live music, a raffle, with loads of great prizes, and lots of great performances. This year we decided to share the proceeds with a children's charity "Friends of Arbat" who provide meals for children in Syrian refugee camps.
- *Discos.* This year there were discos for most of the year groups across the year. This started with a Halloween disco for the P6s and 7s in October, followed by a P4 and 5 disco in February and a P2 and 3 disco/ event in May. A good time was had by all and we plan to continue with the discos in this kind of format over the course of the coming year.
- *Foodbank and clothing collections.* There have been 3 foodbank collections throughout the year. These usually happen in the run up to the end of term, with one happening in December, one in April and one in June.
- *Supporting school activities.* This happens in a wide variety of ways including coordinating volunteers for specific activities, such as 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. We also support the outdoor education and Golden Time by co-ordinating the polls for volunteers to help at these activities.
- *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. Andrea has also continued to co-ordinate parents to allow for outdoor activities during Golden Time on Fridays. These sessions continue to be very popular with the children and we will continue to try to support this. Remember if you volunteer the school depends on you being there or the children don't get the outdoor Golden Time activity
- *Fund raising.* The Parent Council continue to organise fundraising events to support purchases of equipment for the children. This year The International night raised £1200, half of which was donated to "Friends of Arbat". We have had a number of second hand uniform sales, at parents' evenings and at the summer fair. We are planning a final sale in the last few days before the end of term, where children who donate uniforms can come to school in their casual clothes (always a very popular one with the children!). We continue to encourage parents to use the Easyfundraising scheme (web address - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>), which has raised over £800 for the

school this year. The Summer Fair was our major fundraiser for this year. At the time of writing all the money had not been counted up, but we think we raised between £1000 and £1500, despite the monsoon conditions. If you have any other ideas about what might benefit the school and the children, please let us know.

- *Spending of funds.* This year we have supported the school to buy a new school stage. This was a fairly large purchase, with the Parent Council contributing £3000. The Parent Council also contributed funding to the buying of pots and other equipment for the new mobile kitchen. We will be looking at funding of other equipment needs next school year. The pupils are interested in more outdoor equipment which would help with the outdoor learning.
- *Other activities.*
 - (i) *Afterschool provision:* After completing a survey regarding afterschool provision, the Parent Council and the school have met with the Afterschool providers to look into possibilities for extending provision. The ball has now started rolling with regard to moving the current afterschool to the social space which would increase current spaces by 15. There are still some things that need to be completed to get this in place, but it is hoped the expanded afterschool will be in place in the early part of the next school year. Additionally, we tried to explore the possibility of provision of holiday care, however, there were not enough families who wanted to use this type of service to take it forward.
 - (ii) *Road safety:* The Parent Council has also been meeting with Councillors, Glasgow City Council Land Services, local residents, and the police, regarding concerns about the parking and speed using Otago Street to drop off children going to school. We continue to press the council to take action on issues. It is hoped that the children can be involved in creating signage for the roads in the area to draw attention to the fact there is a large school in the area and drivers should be slowing down.
 - (iii) *Autism Awareness –* The Jigsaw Cafe has been run during the year to raise awareness of Autism and other issues affecting children and also to support parents experiencing such issues.
- *P7 Hoodies.* Thanks to Anne Hansen who organised the ordering of leavers hoodies for our outgoing P7. The hoodies are very popular with the children and in future years the school will take over the administration of this.
- *Uniform developments and ordering system.* PC members organise the online ordering form in liaison with the school and distribution of uniform as well as the second hand stalls and uniform related details.
- *Tea Towels and bags:* The Parent Council facilitated the design and creation of a P1 – 3 tea towel and a P7 bag which have been sold at various events across the school year.
- *P1-3 parent and carer event.* At the end of April the Parent Council organised a day time event to introduce ourselves to newer families within the school. This was a very successful event which helped encourage new people to get involved in the work of the Parent Council.
- *Summer Fair:* After an absence of the school fair last year, the Parent Council organised a Summer Fair. This was the biggest fundraiser of the year, and is our only whole school event where all pupils and their families can be involved and attend. The weather was

not kind to us, but despite this there was an amazing turnout with a great community feel to the event. The Parent Council would very much like to continue to have an annual event like this.

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed time, effort and energy to supporting the school in the past year. It is much appreciated.

We would love you to be involved with the Parent Council and there are many ways that this is possible. The new Parent Council for the year is elected at the AGM which will be held on September 11 @ 7pm in the school. Please consider how you might be able to be involved – there are so many ways to support the school and the children’s education and growth. It would be great if you could be part of that.

We wish you a very relaxing and happy summer holiday!