



PÀRANTAN GÀIDHLIG
DÙN ÈIDEANN

Comhairle nam Pàrant Taobh na Pàirce - Parent Council

Parent Council AGM report

Aithisg Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail Comhairle nam Pàrant

January 2018

Introduction / *Ro-ràdh*

We are pleased to present to the Parent Council this AGM report summarising parent council activities in 2017. This report reviews key aspects of Parent Council activity for your information. The report covers

- Parent Council meetings
- Finance report
- Small Sums Scheme
- Events
- Class reps
- Campaigns
- Working groups
 - Outdoor learning space group
 - Wraparound group
 - Acoustics group
 - Co-production group
 - Fundraising group
- Spòrs
 - Football
 - Shinty
 - Cycling
- Feedback

Meetings / *Coinneamhan*

We had five meetings in 2017:

- Monday 23rd January (AGM)
- Wednesday, 15th March
- Monday, 15th May
- Monday, 11th September
- Wednesday, 15th November

Planned meetings for 2018 (others TBC):

- Monday, 22nd January - (AGM)
- Wednesday, 14th March
- Monday, 14th May

All Parent Council meetings took place at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce at 19.15. The meetings attracted between 12 and 45 people. Minutes from our meetings can be accessed on the Parent Council website:

<http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/documents--sgrigraveobhainnean.html>.

Each of these meetings was followed by a Friday morning follow up meeting in the Janitor's House at 11:30 for those unable to attend where the chair recapped the agenda items and discussions around each point. The Friday meetings are more informal and children are welcome. They have lasted about 45 minutes. They are consistently attended and appreciation has been expressed for them in person and in the feedback given in our online survey, so we hope to continue these.

Finance report / *Aithisg ionmhasail*

This year the income of the Parent Council was **£14,216,67** (£12,207.02 in 2016) and until the end of 2017 we spent **£10,720,03** (£11,759.83 in 2016).

Our bank balance at the start of 2017 was £4,269.32 and at the end of 2017 it was **£7,982.47**. This looks a bit high because:

1. We have not provided the school with the profits from the Christmas Fair (about £2,500) but that will be done at the AGM;
2. £436.50 belongs to the acoustics funds.

Expenses of about £370 are pending (cheques have been issued) which relate to the Christmas Fair and Christmas Cards.

We also expect to receive £574.31 from the Halloween Party which is making its way slowly from Eventbrite.

About £2,000 has been allocated to the Small Sums Scheme.

We agreed a contingency of £500 and so we are maintaining that. Taking the above issues into account we have about £3,500 in the bank and so we may be able to run another SSS in the spring term.

Our accounts this year can be summarised as follows:

INCOME		EXPENDITURE		PROFIT
Summer Fair	£4,325.46	Costs associated with Summer Fair 2018	£3,905.46	£420 (£2,379.33 went to the school and the rest was the float that we had kept back)
Christmas Fair	£3,002.50	Costs associated with Christmas Fair 2018	£485.07	£2,517.43 (which will be given to the school)
Halloween Party	£981.86	Costs associated with Halloween party	£419.37	£562.49
Cinema night	£553.74	Costs associated with cinema night	£302.09	£251.65
Christmas cards	£3,359.50	Costs associated with Christmas Cards	£2,182.43	£1,177.07
Ceilidh	£774.59		£191.88	£582.71
Miscellaneous	£1,219.02	Miscellaneous	£1,731.63	-£512.61
SSS 2016			£1,502.10	
	<u>£14,216.67</u>		<u>£10,720.03</u>	£3,496.64

The miscellaneous income came from a bake sale, money from easyfundraising and money from the City of Edinburgh Council. The miscellaneous expenditure is made up of funding for: the outdoor clothing; jumpers for C1 and paying for the hosting of the website.

Small Sums Scheme

The second Small Sums Scheme was open for applications in October and £2,000 has been allocated to spend based on retaining a target contingency of £500. As agreed by the Parent Council, a committee of parents and teaching staff was established and met to allocate the funds.

We received nine applications for funding. The committee was unable to meet in December to review them, but will be meeting in January and coming to a decision as soon as they can.

Events / *Tachartasan*

The Parent Council organised 7 events in 2017:

- Fundraising Concert for improving the acoustics in the school (February)
- Fèill Samhraidh - (May)
- Clas 1 Welcome Picnic (August)
- Film Night (September)
- Family Cèilidh (October)
- Halloween Party (October)
- Fèill Nollaig (November)

The school events are a great way for families to get involved in the life of the school, to meet other parents and teachers and help build a sense of community. This year, we continued to build on the success of the existing events as well as adding three new events, the Fundraising Concert for the Acoustics, the C1 Welcome Picnic and the Family Ceilidh to the list. The Family Ceilidh was suggested by people in the survey the PC conducted for the last AGM as people requested more social events and less labour intensive ones. It was a great idea and we were delighted to make it happen.

We are delighted with the turnout for all the events this year. The Fèill Samhraidh and the Fèill Nollaig both felt busier than the previous years and raised more money, as you can see from [last year's AGM report](#). The events are also raising more money which enables the Parent Council to support the school with increased funding.

Thank you to everyone who made all the events happen this year. We are developing a fantastic team of people who offer their help, ideas and resources to make our events really special. We would especially like to thank all the generous people who have gifted things for

all the raffles this year. The raffles make a significant amount of money, and we really appreciate all the people who have donated prizes as well as all the people who venture in to local shops and businesses and ask if they would like to get involved in supporting the school too.

The school have provided a breakdown of what the spent the money we raised for them at the two Fèills on in 2017. Major area of expenditure were:

- Class Christmas parties
- Seasons for Growth resources
- Lego league travel expenses
- Cookery supplies
- Trips and visits (particularly bus tickets)
- Performers/tutors in to school (ceilidh, circus, drama, Masai Warriors, Parkour)
- Books (French language program and Gaelic books)
- Sports day (medals and ice cream)
- Garden/playground improvements (particularly the bark area)
- Construction kits

The money raised by the PC events has been spent on a wide range of activities and materials that support and enhance our children's education. We know there is more we can do and things we need to improve - if you'd like to help out in anyway with events please get in touch with me (barbie.lyon@virgin.net).

Class reps

The Parent Council coordinates the class reps. The purpose of the class rep is to act as an informal point of contact between parents and the classroom, parent council and school.

- This will include sharing information from the school and PC with parents and also passing parent's views back in return.
- It is a complementary role and does not replace more formal communication channels; full details of the role are available from the PC.

In August 2017 all positions were fully filled and operating well, following the school agreed role and supporting parents.

Working groups / *Buidhnean obrach*

Outdoor learning space group / *Buidheann rain-cluiche*

It became clear in 2017 that the original plans created for our playground were not going to be suitable due to changes to guidance for playgrounds at Edinburgh Council.

Once this was established, a working group of four parents and K Wight set up in the autumn to support cost effective, creative changes to our playground. So far we have:

- Introduced some loose parts in to the playground. PSAs trained and application into Small Sums to buy some more. Really need ongoing parental support with this.
- Planted a hedge with free sapling from Woodland Trust
- Built a mud kitchen built and installed by Rowanbank (parents of children in school)
- Erected a willow dome (by Rowanbank for free)

We have applied to the Small Sum Scheme for funding for two further projects:

- Applications put into Small Sums for geographical playground markings (a map of Scotland and a map of the world)
- Base coat on container awaiting Small Sums application to design and paint mural (Derek McGuire to facilitate)

Further plans that we have in the pipeline are:

- A musical wall being planned by small team of handy/creative parents
- Continuing to collect loose parts for bocsa cluich/Playground (ongoing)
- Setting up a gardening group for children, run by Gaelic speaking, horticulturist parent to start soon
- Involve children more in planning/playground improvements
- Recruit more parents to group

If you are able to help us in any way, please let the Parent Council know and we will pass it on to Mrs Wight.

Wraparound group / Buidheann co-thaiceil

As our school roll continues to rise, a key challenge will be in the continuing provision of on-site accommodation for wrap-around care and in particular for sgoil-araich wrap around during the school day.

In Autumn 2017 Marianne O'Loughlin, Christine MacLeod and Cara Davidson met with Crawford McGhie, Acting Head of Operational Support at Edinburgh Council and consequently the Council offered to work with the School to find a practical solution so that no limitation is placed on wrap-around at the school in the 2018/19 academic year.

The results of the parent survey from last term show that continuing provision of onsite Gaelic wrap-around care is an important issue for many parents, both in enabling families to participate in GME and also to support fluency. We're very grateful to the school for their support in meeting with the Council on this issue and in working to find a practical solution.

The next termly review meeting will take place after the February half-term and we are always looking for new members to get involved.

Acoustics group / *Buidheann fuaimearrachd*

Regarding the Aviva fund application we found that the school community really pulled together and put the word out that we can do something to help improve learning by improving acoustics. But the two winners in our category were Northampton Search and Rescue vehicle and Get a Future Carlisle Youth Zone. The silver lining is that as runners up our Parent Council is being awarded £500 and we hope this forms the start of a specific acoustics project fund.

Onto the good news, we are undaunted and a core group of us is looking deep into how to access other more promising funds and get research data to prove our case. Finally a big thanks and congratulations to the Parent Council for funding the initial acoustic test: it appears that this effort has put us on the radar of the City of Edinburgh council who have shown willing to deal with two of the four spaces identified so far, and to understand that it is a live issue for other teaching spaces, not only in our school but across the schools estate. This shows that we are doing well in taking this issue seriously, to identify the problem here and treat it, and that this effort is working for us.

There is ongoing work being done by the acoustics team and it requires faith in achieving the aims and positive dialogue with the City of Edinburgh Council.

Co-production group

Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant have been working with the City of Edinburgh Council and GME experts on the strategic review of GME in Edinburgh to create the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) in a "co-production" group, which includes representatives from the GME parent group.

A draft of this plan was released for consultation in October 2017 The Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant encouraged response to this document from our community and provided parents with context in giving their answers by:

- Inviting the head teacher of of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and a member of the Parent Council who campaigned for a GME secondary school which opened in 2006. They shared their experience of the transition in Glasgow from a single GME primary school to a 3-18 GME campus.
- Prepared guidance on how to response to the consultation
- Encouraged response via social media and emails and a stall at the Fèill Nollaig.

The Council are now collating the feedback and the co-production group will work on incorporating it into the GLP so that the final version will be ready soon.

Sport / Spòrs

Football / *Ball-coise*

Last year's P7 boys left a hard act to follow by winning the national Cuach na Cloinne tournament for 2017 - the first time our school has achieved this.

Potential future Cuach na Cloinne champions (hopefully!) P1-3 now train in Pilrig Park (Except from January to March, when they train indoors at Drummond High School), following a survey we carried out last year which showed that most parents would prefer a venue local to the school. We now have up to 40 enthusiastic girls and boys training each Saturday at 9am, which means that they can still join shinty on the Meadows at 10:30am if they wish.

P6 Boys - There is a good squad of at least 9 boys playing regularly each week, usually playing matches against other schools. Whilst victories are not common, they are learning and having great fun!

P7 Boys - Usually training most weeks on the Meadows as they usually struggle to get the numbers to make a team - occasionally, if logistics permit, P6 boys lend a hand to boost player numbers for matches.

P4-7 Girls - The girls train on the Meadows or play matches against other schools. Although numbers are down on last year, we have a few new recruits and they are already making great progress. A victory has remained elusive so far, but it's only a matter of time!

Indoor training - currently, during the winter months, we run training indoors at Drummond High School at these times:

P1-3 girls and boys:	9am-10am
P4-7 girls	10am-11am
P4-7 boys	11am-12pm

Parent volunteers - football only happens if there are parents who volunteer to be coaches. Unfortunately we have no parent volunteers for P4-5 boys, so we are only able to offer occasional training with the older boys. We always welcome more parents getting involved - we can offer an SFA training course, pay for PVG certification (this is a mandatory requirement for coaches) and a free whistle!

Contact us on tnp.ball.coise@gmail.com if your child is interested in trying out football (We have novices who've started on P7 so it's never too late!) or if you'd like to help out with coaching - no experience necessary!

Shinty / *Camanachd*

2017 was a good year for school shinty and 2018 looks set to be equally exciting. We have seen a steady increase in the number of new players joining our Friday after school sessions and continue to have room for new players. Training sessions run on Friday after school in Pilrig Park (12.30 to 1.30pm) and Saturday morning at the Tollcross end of the Meadows from 10.30am.

We have three teams at primary school level that play in both indoor and outdoor tournaments throughout the year. These are Development (C1-3), P5 and under, and P6/7. All levels enjoy competitive Shinty in a friendly and supportive environment where all levels of ability are welcome.

The 2017-18 CSYSA outdoor league began with round 1 held in Glenrothes in September and Round 2 held in Edinburgh on the Meadows. The outdoor league will resume in March 2018.

The Primary winter season indoor competitions for 2017/18, including the CSYSA primary league got underway in November with hosts Strathkelvin. The most recent league round was held in Bathgate and hosted by Camanachd Dhùn-Èideann. This was one of the biggest best attended league events with 18 teams playing from 6 shinty clubs. Our teams played well in the P5 and under and P6/7 categories. Two of our Development players joined with Aberdour with great success and were a credit to our club.

On the 6th October 2017 a group of Taobh na Pairce shinty players represented their school at the Cupa Iomain na hOige (Youth Shinty cup) in Fort William. They played a whole day of shinty entirely in Gaelic. It was a great experience for our young players and enjoyed by all.

Our annual Bliadhna Mhath Ùr game was played on the 2nd Jan 2017 and 2018! We had the traditional fire pit, bacon rolls, home baking and hot drinks for all as well as some amazing Shinty. This is a truly family event which has gone from strength to strength. Our 2018 gathering exceeded all expectations with a turnout of around 50 people, with new players and their families joining us as well as some of the Aberdour Shinty Club. We ran some Shinty training followed by a few friendly games, including the annual children vs adults final match which the children won 5-4!

Tayforth men and ladies have started to train next to the youth training on a Saturday morning on the Meadows. This not only provides inspiration to the youth players but is also a supportive environment for our youth girls who can train and play with the Tayforth ladies. We have already seen the benefits of this approach and look forward to this developing throughout 2018. Parents beginners are also welcome to join in!

As well as the run of indoor and outdoor league fixtures the next big Shinty event in Edinburgh will be held during the Meadows Festival in June 2018. Shinty was a big part of the 2017 Meadows Festival and we plan to build on this for 2018. Similar to last year we will

be running Primary and Secondary School tournaments on the Saturday and Sunday mornings along with taster sessions for new players and their families.

For more information about our club visit

<https://edinburghshinty.org/> .

Cycling / *Rothaireachd*

Bikeability was delivered to all of C5 last term. C6 will be this term and C6/C7 trips in summer term. A course was also run to train more parent volunteers last term. All resources and certificates were provided to children in Gaelic.

Feedback / *Fios-air-ais*

Any feedback on the content of this report is welcome at the AGM or via email to the Parent Council: parentcouncil@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk.

Mòran taing,

Comhairle nam Pàirce Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce