

# Parent Council AGM

20 January 2016

## 1. Look back on achievements in 2015

**Shinty:** it was a good year, consolidated the provision on Fridays, looking forward to welcoming more children.

**Class reps:** They are there to support the school and the classes. Reps are doing well, all posts are currently filled.

**Events Team:** Raised nearly £4,700 between 3 events for the Parent Council. Events are good for community building, lots of parents are involved in the organisation of events.

**Out of catchment issue:** There were lots of good meetings between the parent council and representatives of the education board at the City of Edinburgh Council and at the last meeting, CEC declared that until further notice the catchment for the school would officially be the City of Edinburgh and the Lothians. It's important to note that all the meetings with CEC were very open and warm and they were very positive about the school.

**Building works:** There was a concerted lobbying campaign by several members of the school which resulted in a hearing at the council and modifications to the existing plan made to enhance child safety.

**Lego league:** The school team came second in the Edinburgh tournament and were the winners of the robot knockout competition. They also had a chance to showcase their robot at the parliament at an IET (Institute for Engineering and Technology) event, where they spoke to Alasdair Allan and Nicola Sturgeon.

**Code Club:** This has been well attended. The club has been awarded Star Club status by Code Club Scotland.

**Football:** The club is run by parents volunteers. It's been quite successful and reasonably well attended. There are teams for C4 and up, 2 C4/5 teams for the second half of the year.

## 2. Head Teacher Report

### Highlights and progress in 2015

#### Learning and Teaching:

- focus on the development plan
- Math program in place for C1-7
- Introduced SEAL math in sgoil-àraich
- Gaelic Language framework introduced from sgoil-àraich to C7
- 1+2 language initiative
- Series of Comenius visits
- Extended 3rd language provision to C5, L1: Gaelic; L2: English; L3: French or Spanish

- Hope to work with other language groups in the community in the future (eg: German, French or Polish parents)
- Better learning, better teaching: all staff involved in a range of trainings
- Forest schools has been very successful. All teachers have had some training in Outdoor Education, the Forest School experience is for 4 classes. Forest kindergarten in sgoil-àraich. Plans for playground development.
- Updated approach to personal learning planning. Extension of on-line sgoil-àraich profiles to C1, new iPads have been provisioned for this.
- Positive achievements despite issues about staffing.

### **Assessment and Monitoring of Progress**

- Tracking system in place to monitor progress
- Standardised assessment used from C4-7 in math, English reading and at C3 in Gaelic reading
- Baseline assessment used in C1. Follow-up assessment used in C2 on progress in literacy and numeracy
- Teachers are meeting with the SLT termly to look at information and use it to inform classroom practice

### **Additional Support:**

- Increased number of support assistants
- Appointment of new SfL (Support for Learning) teacher: teach, consult, assess staff development and collaborate
- Partnership with psychology services, speech and language and many other bodies
- Focus on emotional well-being: Emotion talks, attachment difficulties, restoration practices

### **Wider Achievement:**

- Fundraisers: Médecins sans frontières, Clic sargent, MacMillan Nurses, etc...
- Code club, Star Club, Lego League, Scratch
- Choirs participated in performances and competitions including Glee. Represented at local and national Mòd. Clasarch players in traditional music, Nativity and carol singing
- Film-making (C6), School guides (C7), Castle guides (C5), Buddy system
- swimming certification at C5 and participation in swimming gala

### **Engaging with parents**

- Open morning for all parents in March 2015. The next one is on 23 February 2016
- Gaelic learning opportunity with Commun na Gàidhlig classes, Ulpan, Newbattle Abbey and links with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- Tête à tête, conversations about learning, Online profiles
- Collecting views, feedback eg. transition to C1, Personal Learning Planning

### **Supporting Students and Newly Qualified Teachers**

- Supported 3 NQTs through probation
- Professional engagement with new approach to teacher training

- Engaged with University of Edinburgh in creating a new Gaelic teacher training course
- Supporting 4 student GME teachers in placement
- Supporting student nursery nurses in SVQ
- Supporting students from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

### **Transitioning**

- 58 children transitioned from nursery to C1
- 40 children transitioned from home to nursery
- 21 children transitioned from primary to secondary

### **Next Steps**

- Focus and invest in ICT
- Further develop skills and expertise in self-evaluation, including the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education
- Further develop skills and expertise and curriculum in English and Gaelic literacy in order to raise attainment in learning

### **Thanks**

- Staff team
- Parents team (Parent Council, Comman nam Parant, key events team, everyone who contributes)
- Partnerships (Oganan, Commun na Gaidhlig, Higher Education Institute, NHS, Bord na Gaidhlig)
- Pupils

## **3. Playground**

- Thanks to Mary and Lucy for the success of the project
- There is a bid with a contractor the school likes but one more bid is required to comply with procurement rules
- There are issues across the city with regards to Health and Safety and Liability
- A plan is drawn a ready to be implemented
- Project ready to start in a few weeks' time

## **4. Staffing**

- Met with Liz Grey before Christmas to explain concerns and struggle to find and retain staff
- Spoke to Bord na Gaidhlig before the meeting
- There are 26 graduates in June ready to go into primary GME. An estimated 6 teachers are needed in August. Hoping for 2 of those graduates who have asked for Edinburgh assignments specifically. There may be one or two more that could be hired who haven't asked to be placed anywhere in particular.

- Asked if secondments are possible
- The conversion course is being advertised across the city
- Plan to visit teacher training institutions
- Bord na Gaidhlig have a range of strategies to improve provision of teachers

**action:** Set up a meeting for a parental working group to look at this issue and how parents can help

## 5. Music and Extra-Curricular Plans

- There are several things going on in the school (see above) but not much coordination or focus on ensuring something is on offer to everyone. Need to set up a working group.

## 6. Parent Survey

- Alison Preston sent a draft proposal to the PC mailing list. Further discussion to be had about the subject

## 7. Elections

- Chairs: Ed McCabe is stepping down, Fiona McNeill is staying on for another year and is joined by Marianne O'loughlin
- Secretary: Jean-Loup Rebours-Smith is stepping down, Annabel Harrison agreed by proxy to take over the post
- Treasurer: Andrew and Fiona Cameron are stepping down, Laura Irvine is taking over the position
- IT Coordinator: Kenny Beaton is to stepping back and is being replaced by Greg Gulrajani

Minutes from the previous meeting having been released at the 11th hour have been read and approved before the meeting closed.