

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING



MAY 16TH, 2017

Description	Action
<p>(1-2) Welcome & Opening Prayer Mr. Bryan Heaney welcomed everyone present and led the opening prayer in absence of Father Scally. (Apologies and attendances are set out at the end of the minute.)</p> <p>(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A revision of March's Minutes to incorporate additional comments and information on the school's behaviour plan, the school partnership initiative. Also 'SQIP' to be read instead of 'QIP'. The previous minutes are approved and to be distributed to all parties.</p> <p>Agenda item - School meals:- focus group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The idea would be to report before the end of term and feedback to the parents for the next school year; alleviating possible concerns that are voiced for and during the junior years. The success of this action would rely on a functional good communication to be implemented. ❖ The focus group is set-up and led by Mrs. Josephine Beech-Brandt. After initially inviting parents to get involved which resulted in a few positive responses, it is the view to tie the initiative in with the new ParentPay system, from which parents will be given the opportunity to order the school meals. When ParentPay comes in, it'll be possible to see how the orders of the meals are dealt with. The exercise in-situ will thus produce suggestions that will reflect a more accurate representation of the children's lunch time. <p>Agenda item - School Partnership</p> <p>The action plan is divided into four keys: numeracy, literacy, global citizenship and wellbeing. Should you wish to get involved, please email admin@st-peters.edin.sch.uk to register your interest on the following actions plans: Help to create the reading den in the library - Take part in the initial meeting of the International Committee - Help shape and deliver the Partnership Schools programme for 2017/18</p> <p>Referenced in detail in the Head Teacher's report.</p> <p>The literacy aspect has been translated in improving the library use by creating a reading den/corner. The action is being developed based on the pupils' initiative & design managing a fixed fund given by the PTA. The next step will involve ordering the goods and organising the new corner space.</p> <p>Agenda item - Educational Attainment</p> <p>The exercise is to gather information in order to carry out a comparative study on the educational attainment. After further discussion with Mrs Nazarian, it appears that last year's CfE levels of Edinburgh schools have only been shared but there is no release from previous years. CfE levels will also be shared this current session. With the introduction of new Scottish Government tests next year, attainment data will be shared by the Scottish Government. It hasn't been possible to source other information and the PC is seeking to get this information just for the PC's own use. Agreed at meeting to contact the Council to make an initial written request first; before sending a formal FOI in absence of any response.</p> <p>Agenda Item - Survey Deferred.</p>	<p>PC Clerk</p> <p>Parent Council + School</p> <p>JBB</p> <p>ST</p> <p>AT</p>

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<p>Agenda Item - New Behaviour Plan</p> <p>Referenced in detail in the Head Teacher's report.</p>	
<p>(4) Website</p> <p>The School website has been created with the aim of being the front line between the school and the parents. As such, the Parent Council is interested in ensuring that it is kept updated with all the school information and events. It is suggested parents be reminded of the website resources through the school's newsletter and by also tagging all the latest information onto it. Noted there is also a hyperlink to the website from the ParentPay website.</p> <p>As regards to whether the pupils are engaged actively in uploading their classroom information; Mrs Nazarian confirmed that class blogs will be uploaded by a group of classroom/digital leaders. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to progress it just yet as the main focus has been firstly to get the website up and running.</p> <p>The parent Council suggested that the website should play in active part in putting resources in place for the new P1 parents and it would benefit looking into it ahead of the next PC meeting. Having all information uploaded will ensure parents' concerns are put at ease and facilitate the teachers' work in having all relevant information readily available to answer those concerns. The idea would be to have it ready by the end of June for August.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the parent Council also proposed the introduction of an informative '<i>welcome to the class</i>' leaflet to all pupils from P2 to P7 at the beginning of the school year which would incorporate basic useful information on their class such as teacher's introduction, days for PE, art, etc. Circulated in paper form as well as uploaded onto the website. St Peter's welcomed the idea.</p> <p>It is the unanimous view the website to be kept up-to-date with continuous reminders to parents to maximise communication and get the parents into the habit of using the website. Parents Council to look at website in conjunction of the school.</p> <p>Aside of the above, noted there is an issue with the display of the time zone which requires to be corrected. School to look into.</p>	<p>St Peter's</p> <p>St Peter's</p>
<p>(5) Agenda item - Modern Languages education</p> <p>Parent council expressed concerns raised by parents about the second language provision from the school. It is understood there is a level of inconsistency in the delivery of the second language across the school and the Parent Council queried how the CfE targets on second language training were met. The PC also enquired on bringing in parents to possibly help support the teachers' work.</p> <p>Aside of the above, the CfE on languages also advises on delivering a third language no later than P5 – where the expectation is that every school should be providing this language training framework by 2020. The Parent Council enquired on the school's long term plan to meet this target.</p> <p>Mrs Nazarian answered the school 'second language being Spanish; all teachers are self-learning, as well as a large proportion of them attending weekly classes at St Thomas to ensure increased confidence and fluency. Alternatively, to accommodate new staff coming into the school, teachers do swap classes to teach the foreign language. Depending on the age and stage being taught, weekly 30 minute direct teaching sessions are followed up by regular shorter sessions throughout the week. The Council has also provided teachers with a series of lessons in the form of PowerPoint presentations on basic knowledge with a pronunciation tool. This represents a useful additional resource for teachers. Teachers are becoming very confident in acquiring the skill, with the St Thomas' cluster schools implementation of 1+2 Languages being described as 'exemplary'. Mr Montenegro, a Modern Languages teacher from St Thomas, offers support to teachers and has been involved in some teaching in P.7. Parents are welcomed into the school to share their skills and talents.</p>	

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<p>The third language is French and is to be taught from P5 to P7. It has just been introduced and, as such, for this year, the P7 would have a French exposure. The school has paired with St Mark's Primary with P.7 pupils from both schools organising and hosting a French café experience. There is also an emphasis on learning about the country and culture, as well as the language.</p> <p>Lastly, there is a project within the cluster schools to develop a "1+2 language passport" which would encompass the basics skills for each stage that are expected to be covered.</p> <p>The parent Council is querying whether a committee could be set-up to invite parents who are bilingual in Spanish-English, French-English and provide activities or resources out with golden time event. A brainstorming meeting could be organised to develop opportunities for ideas and themes, etc.</p> <p>The Parent Council also highlighted the importance of the transition of the language to follow up with St Thomas. Reminded the importance is the exposure to a foreign language in order to facilitate the assimilation of a third language.</p> <p>Mrs Nazarian welcomed the idea to meet with a group of parents; however at this time in the year, the implementation of the idea would have to be the following school year and could be incorporated into the Partnership School Initiative under the international committee development. Meantime, the Parent Council indicated parents could initially meet separately and report/liaise later with the school. All welcome the idea.</p>	PC (?)
<p>(6) First communion & breakfast organisation</p> <p>The Parent Council is asking whether the school could arrange for an informative leaflet to be circulated to parents as to what is to be expected. Also queried on the involvement of <i>Cook Morningside</i> to caterer free of charge for this event. The Parent Council stressed out the importance for it not to be perceived as a promotional act. The PTA will cover the rest of any expense. It is important to make sure that the initiative is not felt neither as being a cost saving exercise nor a sponsorship event. PC Chairman to liaise to PTA for feedback.</p>	BH
<p>(7) Relationships Education</p> <p>Highlighted never got covered last year for P7. Mrs Nazarian explained that due to the school closure last year, the planned programme could not be delivered as normal. She also confirmed that after P.6 and P.7 school camps, a meeting for parents from P6 to P7 had been organised to discuss the programme.</p>	
<p>(8) What is happening in the School:</p> <p>Agenda Item - Staffing</p> <p>Covered in Mrs Nazarian's report.</p> <p>Agenda Item – ParentPay's launch</p> <p>Mrs O'Connor gave all present a detailed update on various aspects of the new system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In view of the above, the Parent Council proposes to voice their concern at this early stage to query the possibility of having the fee pushed back to the Council itself. The PC intends to raise it to the educational management, the ward councillors and the area group meeting. ❖ At the next Parent Council meeting, the school will be in a better position to review and share the preliminary outcome of the ParentPay system. The Parent Council is interested in finding out what can be adjusted within the new system and keep a close note of items that the parents would like to see in the future as part of ParentPay. <p>Note: The ParentPay website has a direct link tab with St Peter's own website. Again, it is important to highlight that ParentPay will not include payments for separate Clubs activities. (Please refer to the Parent Council March's minutes). General information can be also found on : http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1515/online_payments_for_schools_and_early_years.</p>	PC

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<p>Changes to the School Meals with ParentPay Pre-school and P1 to P3 still have to log on and order for their free meal. The main meal can only be selected at present. Starters and desserts will be indicated for information only. To make the order of the lunches happen, it requires a sufficient uptake in parents activating their ParentPay account.</p>	
<p>(9) Head teacher's report See attached report.</p>	
<p>(10) PC Chairman's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No external meeting since last general meeting. ▪ Attended the school's international garden party – positive feedback from parents. ▪ Next cluster meeting – follow up on the agenda of any item to report or feedback up into another meeting involving councillors. ▪ Involved in the board panel with Mrs Nazarian for the appointment of the Principal Teacher. 	
<p>(11) Reports of activities that affect St Peter's, Community Councils etc. Bicycle training within the school framework: see Head Teacher's report.</p>	
<p>(12) Any other business Misc. Reported the protective metal barrier at the end of South access path onto Canaan Lane is loose and pose a safety concern. Mrs O'Connor to liaise with the Council to remedy.</p> <p>(13) Closing Prayer</p> <p>Apologies: Mr. J. Evitt, Mrs. K. A. McAdams, Mr. G. Mone, Ms. L. Kennedy, Father Scally.</p> <p>Attendance: Mrs K. Nazarian, Mrs O'Connor, Ms Dowey, Mr. B. Heaney, Mrs. A. Tierney, Mr. N. Thorin, , Mr. A. Crichton, Mr. S. Tait, Mrs. J. Staermose-Johnson, Mrs. M. Cresswell, Mrs. M. Saliba , Mrs. C. Daverin, Mrs. J. Carter-Dailly, Mrs. A. De Bonrosto, Mrs. J. Beech-Brandt, Mrs. E. Farrugia, Mrs. E. Meyer McKeon.</p> <p>End of meeting Bryan Heaney thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday 6th June 2017 at 7pm.</p>	

Parent Council Meeting

16th May 2017

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

- Congratulations to Mrs Dowey, recently appointed permanent Principal Teacher. Mrs Ballantyne continues to work with Mrs Dowey every Monday to cover Support for Learning
- P.1A teacher – Miss Boyle
- P.2A teacher – Mr Reading to replace Miss Taylor
- Mrs Hand – one day a week teaching Art to replace Mrs Taylor

Students

- Miss Bell and Mr Henry, both B.Ed 4 students, successfully completed their final placement at the end of March
- Miss Fachberger, Austrian student teacher, at Edinburgh University, completed 2 week placement
- Miss Kelly, PGDE student, and Miss Daher, MA3 student, currently at St Peter's

Bike Ability Training

Mr Evitt (P.7 teacher) and Miss O'Sullivan (P.6 teacher) completed training on 17th March. Bike Ability training scheduled to start on 25th May with P.6-7.

Pupil Council/Partnership Schools

A highly successful joint venture was organised by the Pupil Council through the Primary Schools of Cooperation initiative and the Partnership Schools group. The children decided on the theme of their garden party, which was to celebrate the diversity within our school and local community. Both groups were overwhelmed by the support shown for the baking competition, recycled potted plant competition and dressing to represent a country. Our judges were very complementary about the school community.

Sacramental Programme

The P.3 pupils took part in the celebration of First Reconciliation on 26th April at St Peter's Church and 29th April at the Sacred Heart Church.

Preparations are well under way for Confirmation for P.4 pupils from the Parishes of St Albert's, St Columba's, St Mark's, St Peter's and the Sacred Heart on Friday 26th May at St Mark's Church.

Following a decision by Archbishop Cushley, in future years, children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in P.7.

Father Kevin has been a regular visitor to the school, often joining the children at lunchtime and getting to know them.

Edinburgh/Paris/Madrid Partnership

At the end of March, Edinburgh hosted a group of 30 Head Teachers, Depute Head Teachers and Teachers from Paris. St Thomas of Aquin's cluster was asked to be a part of this event. Four teachers from both primary and secondary schools in Paris spent a day at St Peter's observing in classes and

meeting with members of the SLT. The following day the whole group met at St Peter's to discuss the possible e-twinning arrangements between our schools.

Shortly after the Easter holiday, an invitation was extended from the French education authority to the Head Teachers of the schools in Edinburgh who had hosted their teachers for a visit to their schools in Paris. Last week as part of a group of 10, which included Head Teachers, Depute Head Teachers, Teachers, Development Officer and Quality Improvement Officer, I visited the secondary and primary schools of the teachers who had come to St Peter's. Meetings were held to discuss possible joint projects between the schools. We left on Tuesday morning and returned on Wednesday evening. Tuesday evening was the official launch of the Paris/Edinburgh/Madrid partnership. Next week the Edinburgh group will meet again to discuss our next steps with the project.

Behaviour Survey

We have noticed a positive reduction in isolated physical incidents, which we are delighted about. Feedback from pupils and staff across the whole school highlight that the children are happier with the way in which these are being managed. The children like the clear system and are pleased that when they move to their new class that the system will remain the same. They have also said that disruptive behaviour in class has greatly reduced. The children have identified our next step which is to look at having more consistency with the amber rule. If a child is repeatedly going on to amber throughout the day or week for more low level destructive behaviour they should move to red. Enough time has been given for all children to understand our new system. All children have been spoken to by their teachers following a staff meeting where pupil's views were discussed. We all agree as staff and pupils that we should implement this. Individual needs within classes will be taken into account. There will be particular children for whom we have individual plans and whose parents are aware of this. Our next step will be to survey our parents to gather their views.