

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 24th October, 7pm

Attendees: Ruth McArthur (chair), Sarah Smith, Moira Fell, Theresa McCallan, Hazel Leggate, Linsey Crooks, Elspeth Martin, Tia Gallacher, Dave Legg, Richard McGowan

Apologies: Wendy Russell (vice chair), Barbara Lee

1. Mobile phones in the classroom

Richard McGowan had discussed the use of mobile phones in the classroom with staff and outlined the agreed policy as follows. Mobile phones are not part of the lesson by default and should be kept in bags during the lesson. However if the teacher permits the class to use a mobile phone for a set purpose as part of the lesson then they are permitted to do so under the supervision of the teacher.

2. PEF Funding

£49,200 has been allocated to LHS in PEF funding to be used specifically to increase numeracy, literacy & wellbeing of children receiving free school meals.

A small amount has been spent on blazers for a few children who otherwise would not have had the means to purchase one.

Richard McGowan advised that four positions had been advertised & filled among existing staff giving extra hours of work and a salary top up funded by PEF. Positions are as follows:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Literacy | Ms Smith (RE) |
| • Numeracy | Mr Ray (Maths) |
| • Attendance & Engagement | Ms Robison (Biology) |
| • Health & Well Being | Ms Ballantyne (Home Economics) |

Approx. £20,000 of the PEF funding has been allocated to this scheme which will be reviewed in January 2018. There will be targeted measurements to assess it's success including data on attendance, late coming, exclusions and test scores. If it is deemed to be working the scheme will continue till June 2018, otherwise it will be replaced with an alternative.

3. Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre has been rescheduled to Saturday 2nd December 10am – 2pm. The group discussed various ways the PC might support the fayre. Suggestions included a home baking stall and a photo booth. Unfortunately Barbara Lee who is organising the fayre, was not in attendance, so it was difficult to know what had already been organised. Richard McGowan agreed to ask Barbara Lee to forward details to Elspeth Martin. These are attached at the end of the minutes.

4. PE Kit

Richard McGowan showed the PC a red t-shirt which he proposed would be compulsory PE kit from August 2018. PC agreed. This will be paired with black shorts or leggings. Ruth McArthur suggested that this could be made available from January 2018.

5. AOB

1. **First Aid during PE.** Agreed PE teachers should be carrying first aid & medication to Glebe playing field.
2. **Rugby head guards.** Sarah Smith asked if head guards for the rugby team could be considered as other schools the rugby team are playing are wearing these head guards. Elspeth Martin advised some rugby clubs discouraged the use of head guards as there is conflicting evidence suggesting players actually use their heads more when wearing the guards, giving a false sense of security. Richard McGowan will discuss with Mr Hill, rugby coach & player for his opinion and advise the school's position.
3. **Bus Transport.** Concerns were raised about school bus transport, Richard McGowan advised parents should take up any issues directly to the bus company
4. **Merit System.** Concerns were raised about the current merit system, there seems to be a lack of consistency among teachers on how these are used and some children don't know when or why they have received a merit or demerit. Richard McGowan asked parents to email him directly with any concerns so that these could be investigated.
5. **Smoking.** Richard McGowan advise that for fire safety reasons he was unable to lock school gates at break times, so children are still able to leave the school and smoke during breaks. There is one further security camera required to eliminate a blind spot and there is no budget to purchase this. It's possible that community officers may come in at some point in the future to help tackle the issue.
6. **Litter.** PC expressed concern at littering by pupils. Richard McGowan advised that he was seeking to get more bins on Strathaven Road. Linsey Crooks suggested that pupils be encouraged to litter pick as many have done this in primary school and there is no reason why this should stop in high school.

Next Meeting Wednesday 15th November, 7pm.

This meeting will be used primarily to discuss PC involvement in Christmas Fayre.

Actions

1. Ms Lee to forward details of Christmas Fayre (complete – attached below)
2. Mr McGowan to discuss rugby head guards with Mr Hill
3. Mr McGowan to provide list of dates for future parent council meetings.



- Date: Saturday, 2nd December, 2017, 10 am – 2 pm
- Entry: £2 for adults (includes coffee and cake), children under 12 free

Matters arising:

- Tickets – being designed by YAA group. Will go on sale after the October break.
- Publicity – letter for parents, school tweet and text message to parents to advertise event – B Lee to prepare letter and issue to parents.
- Letters to local businesses to request donations- B Biggart will send letter template to H Laird. Businesses can have their names on the programme/promotional materials.
- Pupils who contribute (either by giving of their time or donating a prize) can be awarded a merit.
- Invite community police to the event – B Lee.
- The crafters require....wine corks (Mrs Lennon), material (for the sewing club – Mrs McLelland).
- The layout of the activities was discussed. Most stalls will be in the street area. Teas/coffees will be served in the School Library. Blue boards will be used to block the corridor at the HE base.
- YAA have proposed hiring a bouncy castle (Frozen theme). Cost of hire: £70. We have asked SLC Leisure if we could place the bouncy castle in the Games Hall. Awaiting response from Mark Lloyd.

The current list of stalls/activities include:

- Tea/ coffee and mince pies – with Fairtrade tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sugar (donated by Fairtrade group – G Sharp. Assisted by YAA – Shannon, Erin, Alannah, Isla)
- Craft sales tables – Mrs Yule, Dr Brand, Mr Biggart, Mr McMenemy
- Tombola and/ or Chocolate tombola – Mrs Laird, Miss Parsons, Mrs Fair
- Carol singing – Miss Whitefield (from the bridge – 10.30 am, 11. 30 am, 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm??)
- Face painting – Mrs Ritchie and pupils
- Pupils could make posters to advertise the event, with photos of things available for purchase – art pupils, (YAA – Kirsty and Emily)
- Art and design stall – Mrs Jack
- Christmas decorations (displayed on Christmas tree) – Mrs Forbes, Mrs Ritchie, Mrs MacLeod, Craft Club, YAA – Iona, Maya, Ciarra, Chloe)
- Jewellery, crafts, sewing club gifts - Mrs Forbes, Mrs Ritchie, Mrs McLelland and pupils

- Hat and scarf stall – Mrs Jack
- Christmas plants – Science dept
- Nail bar for children – Mrs Scott, assisted by Seniors/ Leadership team
- Baking stall – Mrs Ballantyne, Mrs Miller
- Decorate a cup cake or biscuit or gingerbread man – Mrs Ballantyne
- Bouncy castle (YAA – Shannon, Erin, Alannah, Isla)
- French/German food stall – Mrs Stirling, Ms Tully, Miss Kerr, Katie Spence
- Iceland souvenirs – volcanic ash – Mr Burns
- Raffle – Mrs Wright and Pupil Council
- Balloons (YAA – Kirsty, Emily)
- Santa’s Grotto – Miss Whitefield (elf), Mr Brown (Santa) – Post Box for Santa Letter, cost of visit to Santa – gifts/selection box for gift??
- School branded Christmas cards – Art pupils
- Young Enterprise activities- chocolate sleighs
- Baby clothes – Mrs Dunbar
- Cuddly toy stall
- Hot dog stand (YAA – Olivia, Nicole)
- Paper mache penguins – Mr Sharp
- Go carting (YAA – Maya)
- Calendar with pupils’ art work
- Fairtrade stall – Fairtrade goodies and tablet - (YAA – Shannon, Erin, Alannah, Isla) – Mr Sharp
- Christmas music over speakers – playlist required, DJ required – Erin & Isla
- Decorations for School – Iona and group
- Craft table – Mrs Martin (mum of Tess and Robbie)
- Craft table – reserved by Mrs Yule
- Invite an author – Pupil in 1L2 will invite his uncle, Ross MacKenzie, who wrote the Nowhere Emporium, to the event.

The next meeting will take place the end of October/beginning of November to discuss progress, agree on the layout for the Christmas Fair and identify tasks that need to be completed before and on the day of the Fair.

Other suggestions, which can still be accommodated –

- Possible music recordings on CD - (YAA – Shannon, Erin, Alannah, Isla, Stuart)
- Staff/pupil panto
- Indoor car boot sale
- Paintings
- Bake off competition
- Photo booth
- Bricks4kids Lego
- Emergency Services in carpark
- Inflatable challenge – alternative date for this event
- Dancing display
- Primary choir performance
- Personalised gifts
- Santa Dash
- Games
- Stocks and sponges
- Christmas wrapping service

- Wheel of Fortune

Supporting others:

- Reverse Advent Calendar
- Christmas hamper for elderly
- St Andrew's Hospice charity fundraising link – sponsor a bauble on the Christmas tree – sign name on bauble – pass baubles and money to Hospice