

Maxwellton Parent Council Meeting, Tuesday 3rd September 2024, 6:30 to 8pm

Attending: Taylor Bell (Chair), Mrs Cooke, Louise McIver, Lianne Davidson, Laura Doig, Morna McKenzie, Lesley Ann Monteith, Lianne Blake, Ruth Purdie, Angela Prentice, Jennifer McKell (Minutes)

Apologies: Susan Stirling, Jacqui McPhail, Kirsty Sproat

Headteacher's update

Pupil Council elections are taking place next week and P4 to P7 have been invited to apply.

After school clubs and lunchtime clubs have started. These have been very popular to the extent that they are oversubscribed and have been split to cope with numbers.

Parental feedback from the P1 transition programme has been rated excellent so far. We will build on this to ensure this is positive moving forward.

Our Eco groups start this week with children from P5 to P7. We will be working towards our Green Flag with the help of Mrs Murphy, and this should hopefully be achievable in 18 months.

P6 and P7 have been offered tennis at the local courts until the October holidays. This may be offered to P4 and P5 after the holidays. We will seek an in-school provision for P1 to P3.

Homework grids will become available on Parent Portal this week. Homework is not mandatory and we encourage parental involvement, discussion and active learning over passive activities.

An amazing job done for the Family Fun Night – this was a huge success

Our primary 6s have been fabulous as Waste Station Champions – it's amazing to see them working together and with the younger children. Izzy in the kitchen has been very complimentary!

Staff undertook their first Teaching Writing Explicitly training this week and it was very popular. We hope this will have a positive impact on the children's writing which will be our main focus for raising attainment this year.

Support interventions, boost groups, Nurture and Board Games and Buddies will start in the next couple of weeks. We are working on assessments and working out the logistics of staffing and groups to make the best use of resources.

32 new iPads have been ordered using Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). These should arrive within a few weeks.

We are looking to establish our Parent Helping Hands Groups.

Family Fun Night

The family fun night was a great success with lots of positive feedback from those who came along. Lesley Ann let us know that the night raised £1851.92. Minus costs of £515.18 this produced a profit of £1336.74.

This will provide an excellent start to the long-term funding goal of new interactive boards in classes.

The group were very satisfied with Alan's contribution as DJ on the night and agreed that the fee paid was worthwhile for the size and scope of the event. We may ask Alan to DJ at future events however members agreed that for smaller events such as discos we will consider alternatives. This

could be a pupil from Calderglen High School or perhaps a groups of P7s. Universal Connections were mentioned for their offer of training in DJ desks. Mrs Cooke suggested this could make a new after-school club e.g a digital leadership committee.

Fundraising

The group discussed ideas for future fundraisers. Lianne D highlighted some simple ideas used at Mossneuk Primary such as a picnic in the school grounds where parents and carers were invited to have lunch with their children and charged a small fee. Taylor also noted an idea from another school where they hold multiple small fundraisers such as charging a £1 to allow children to bring their scooter to school. Angela also mentioned an old idea of the Silver Mile where children are invited to bring in small change as part of a competition between classes to see which can create the longest line of coins.

Mrs Cooke suggested that mini-fundraisers could replace the monthly dress down day that charges pupils a £1 to not wear school uniform. Mrs Cooke noted that dress down days have a negative impact on the children's behaviour. The groups agreed with the mini-fundraisers instead of dress downs days. One example might be a crazy hair day.

Sustainability

The group noted the success of Maxi does Vinted and that installing an honesty box had perhaps encouraged more people to take the clothes on offer. Building on the success of this, the group agreed to monthly swap shops where children will be invited to bring in seasonal items to donate or swap. In September, children will be encouraged to bring in pre-loved Halloween costumes. In October, the item will be winter jackets; November will be Christmas jumpers and January will target shoes. Laura noted that she had a friend who has a business (Hoola) selling pre-loved children's clothes who may buy any leftover items as a way to manage the amount of clothes that could be donated. The group liked this idea.

Morna asked whether it was possible for Maxi Does Vinted could be used as an enterprise project as discussed at an earlier Parent Council meeting but Mrs Cooke said that it had not been viable for the class selected to take this forward.

Mrs Cooke said that the book fair normally held during Parent's Evening has been cancelled based on earlier discussions with the Parent Council. Parents and carers will be asked for donations of pre-loved books in good condition (adult or children's books) and these will be organised for sale at a Parent Council book fair. This will provide further funds for the school but also provide greater and more affordable choice for parents and children who like to buy a book at Parents' Evening.

Halloween Disco and Christmas Fayre

It was agreed that the Halloween Disco would be held on Wednesday 30th October and the timings would follow those at other events so from 6 to 7pm for P1 to P3 and 7:15 to 8:15 for P4 to P7. Alan will be asked to DJ but the expectation is that we may have to find an alternative as the fee may be unaffordable for this event. Taylor will create a Flyer for advertising. We will not charge a ticket fee for this event due to the success of the Family Fun Night but donations of £1 will be welcomed. Jugs of juice will be made available plus a small sweet for kids as they leave the disco.

There has been lots of interest in the Christmas Fayre taking place on Friday 29th November. Taylor will produce a flyer to go out before the September weekend initially inviting parents and the school community to buy a stall at the event for £15 plus a raffle donation, before opening up to the wider

community. Mrs Cooke requested that pyramid scheme businesses should not feature which the group agreed with.

Any Other Business

Lesley Ann noted that Louise now has bibs for Netball but the kids still need shorts/skorts so she offered to cost these and the group agreed.

Next meeting: Wednesday 2nd October at 6:30pm