

DUNNOTTAR PARENT COUNCIL

3rd Meeting of Session 2015/2016

18th January 2016

Present: Krystal Young (Chair), Lisa Williams (Head Teacher), Elaine Marshall (Co-opted), Fiona Stark (Mackie Rep), Sharon Sanderson (Parent), Richard Cormack Corrigan (Parent), Jill Black (Vice Chair), Elaine Crawford (Parent), Cllr Raymond Christie (Co-opted), Mandy Senior (Secretary)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** There were apologies from Dawn Ewan and Caroline Andrew. KY asked everyone to share their favourite memory from last term.
2. **Minutes:** Points arising from the last minutes were:
 - a. There will be a 'Twitter' night on Thursday 4th February at 6pm.
 - b. There will be more pop up uniform shops throughout the year.
 - c. LW had looked into moving the information boxes to the back of the school but it was felt that they were so old they would fall apart. It was agreed that all information is available so message boards outside aren't needed.
3. **Science Update:** Science is one of the 3 curricular areas on the School Improvement Plan for session 2015/16. The staff have 190 hours allocated to collegiate planning and the Science Working Group have been allocated some of those hours to focus on improving the learning and teaching of Science throughout the school. It is done on a 3-year rolling programme with the Experiences and Outcomes clearly defined so that each child covers everything they need to but there is room for teachers to choose a topic that interests them. Work can be done as a main topic or as a mini topic and classes share what they have learned at assemblies. There will be a Science Club starting this term and there will be a Science Week focusing on 'Water' with lots of workshops and input from Techfest. Planning formats used when planning this week show progression throughout the school, so although the same topic might be done by P1 and P7 the learning outcomes would be very different.
4. **School Motto and Mascot:** LW showed the Parent Council the new 'Olly the Otter' mascot costume which is fantastic and has been adjusted so that Archie Wark and Erin Young's winning house colour costume designs are now incorporated. LW went on to say that the winning Motto - We Shine - is known by all the children and had been updated on all the school literature.
5. **Staff Appreciation Day:** KY has the letter ready to go out to parents and asked LW to distribute it. A meeting will be held with LW to arrange times for KY and MS to go into the classes to work with the children and also a time to meet with the House and Vice Captains and the Pupil Council to get input from them. LW said

she would like to see if she could borrow some PSA's from other schools at lunchtime on May 4th to cover playground duty so that as many members of staff as possible could be present at the Staff Appreciation Lunch.

6. **School Ties:** KY asked if it was possible to get Dunnottar 'zip' ties (pre-knotted ties) to make putting children's ties on easier. LW said she did like to see the children in ties but that wearing them was optional. She said she would look into the zip tie option.

7. **AOCB:**

- a. LW explained that a Quality Improvement Visit was taking place in school this week and asked for it to be put on next meeting's agenda so she could give feedback.
- b. LW updated the Parent Council saying that Golden Time on a Friday afternoon has been swapped for 'Fun 31'. Article 31 states that 'Children have the right to relax and play' so there are now a number of clubs that the children can opt into for a 3 week block before trying something else. This means the children are mixing with all ages and trying different things such as 'relaxation', 'table-top games' and 'music'.
- c. LW said the staff have been involved in one charity fundraiser this year; 'The Big Dip' where a number of staff went into the North Sea on New Year's Day. They raised a fantastic £3,485 for CLIC Sargent. On Sunday 20th March they will be doing a raft race on the Tay to raise money for 'Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland'.
- d. KY asked for feedback after the school was evacuated due to a flood warning. This had not been serious and it was at the end of the school day but some parents wondered what would have happened if it had been earlier. LW explained that there is a sign-up sheet on the Council website so that parents can be alerted to a change in the status of a school. Bus Companies will also contact parents if their children need to be brought home early and the school would also contact parents directly. If there is a problem overnight the Council Website updates the status of every school by 8am and information is updated on Twitter. LW is going to put a note in the next newsletter reminding parents of the Council Alert System.
- e. RCC asked about library books as his daughter had come home with a book that was a bit too old for her. KY said the helpers at library did try to direct the children to age-appropriate books but didn't feel they could ban a child from choosing a book. It was agreed that the children would be reminded which shelves to choose from and that teachers would do a final check on books chosen.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7pm in the staffroom.