



## Record of St Andrews Parent Council Open Annual General Meeting 2015- 2016 which took place in the school on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at 6.30pm

### 1) Musical Entertainment

A small group of the school children entertained everyone with songs they had learnt as part of the Battle of Jutland/WW1 commemorations project work. Audience participation was required for one of the songs which was well received as was, the opportunity to hear the children play their instruments. Thanks to Jenny Keldie and Gemma McGregor for co-ordinating this.

### 2) Chairpersons Report

A Massey, Parent Council Chairperson, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. (Apologies had been received from A Drever, E Shearer and S Woods)

The following report was then given.

#### **What the Parent Council (PC) has been doing over the last year:**

- We have continued to support the school in various ways.
  - We ran a very successful Christmas disco
  - We helped on the door at the fantastic school shows – the Stable Boy and Pirates of the Curry Bean and offered help and support with Parent’s evenings.
  - Carried out lots of fundraising... raffles galore, a bake sale, jar jamboree and organising Suzanne Lee to come into school to take photos.
  - Thanks are given for all donations and support - over £2000 was raised for PC funds, plus monies that went to school funds (£420 from Christmas raffle for example).
  - With the money raised this year we have supported the Accelerated Reader Programme and helped to purchase additional books. We have also contributed to the purchase of 15 iPad Minis.
- It has not just been about fundraising though:
  - We have been looking at our official role this year and the need to clarify our responsibilities. In particular, it has come to our attention that extra-curricular sporting activities that are funded by the school are within the remit of the Parent Council, and therefore there needs to be closer involvement. Kirsty, secretary of PC, is co-ordinating a small group looking into how these sporting activities are run and how we can better support the coaches. This is with a view to streamlining certain procedures to make life easier for our coaches and to make sure activities are covered by PC liability insurance... more to follow in the coming year.
  - The Parent Council would like to record a big thank you to all our coaches / volunteer parent helpers for all that they do throughout the school year to facilitate these activities.
  - We continue to represent views of parents – keeping pressure on for things that matter to us – the school extension, car parking, safe crossing. We also responded to a questionnaire regarding the updating of the Orkney Local Development plan.
  - We produced our parent council newsletter in February.
  - Last but not least, we have been looking for ways to support (our wonderful caretaker) Conrad in looking after our school grounds and have come up with a plan to assist. If any parents/guardians/members of the community can spare even half an hour, please drop into

the school office and see the gardening book with list of jobs, and please do get involved.

There is further information about this on the Parent Council notice board in the foyer.

- More thank yous:

- To parents and carers, family and friend and members of the wider community - thank you! We couldn't have done any of this without your help and support.
- To Mr Taylor and all the staff at St Andrews Primary, teaching and non-teaching who so often go above and beyond the call of duty.
- A special mention to our "helping hands". This is a list of people who are happy to be contacted for additional things – such as helping with school trips, baking, and helping with PC events (if you are happy to help out at extra things please pop in to the school office and they will add your name to the list of helpers).
- A personal thanks to those on the Parent Council and those who will be stepping down at the end of this term – Gwen Hall, Sylvia Donaldson, Kay Groundwater, Marlene Budge, Steve Woods and teacher representative, Rachel Picken. This will also be my last year, so I would like to add a plea for new members.
- A particular thanks also to local councillor Andrew Drever, who unfortunately couldn't attend the meeting but who has come faithfully to our meetings throughout the term and frequently helps out, offers advice and support, donations and cake!
- We are incredibly lucky and very grateful to have such a supportive school and local community. Thank you!

### **3) Treasurers Report**

G Hall, Treasurer, gave an overview of the 2015-2016 financial report. The main points noted were - the surplus for the current year is £728.06 which when added to the balance from May 2015 means the Parent Council fund has an overall balance of £2,360.83 at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

### **4) Minutes from previous AGM**

The minutes from the previous AGM, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, had been circulated by K Swan, Secretary. These were proposed by Gwen Hall and seconded by Sylvia Donaldson.

### **5) Pupil Council review**

Representatives for each Class did a fantastic job of reading out the pupil highlights for the year which are given below for those who weren't able to attend.

#### P2's

- We have enjoyed learning about the human body in our project work and have really liked doing experiments.
- We have really enjoyed learning about the Battle of Jutland especially finding out about Jack Cornwell, battle ships and making clay poppies to remember all of the people who lost their lives for us in WW1
- We like reading in P2 and love that we have so many different books to read. We have books from the library van, from our school library, ones that are in the class and our group reading books. We all enjoyed our class reading books that Mrs Dass read us too.
- We are all proud that we have got better in our spelling and mental maths tests.

### **P3**

- We enjoyed organising Children in Need to raise money for people in need. We worked in groups to run the games stalls. In doing this we learned how to count coins and know how much change to give.
- We have enjoyed learning new things and how people are feeling in Roots of Empathy. We enjoyed seeing baby Elin when she comes to visit our class. We have learned how to keep babies safe and happy.
- We have improved our concentration in maths so we can learn new things. We've been using cubes and times table sheets to help us with division. We've also worked on adding subtracting and multiplying.

### **P4L**

- We enjoyed our farm trip this year
- We have enjoyed learning about Scottish history-particularly the Kings and Queens e.g Mary Queen of Scots.
- We have enjoyed learning about Animal habitats and Space.
- We enjoyed making rockets in our space project.
- We have enjoyed learning how to divide and do chimney sums with addition and subtraction this year.
- We have enjoyed learning about Neil Armstrong's trip to the moon.
- We have enjoyed learning about Skara Brae and are looking forward to our trip there in June.
- P4 class improvements: this year P4 have got better at writing, maths, handwriting, and becoming more confident speakers.

### **P4B**

- Primary 4B can't believe how quickly this year has flown!
- It has been very busy, with the class especially enjoying rugby, PE and music.
- History has been something we have really enjoyed too as we have learned lots of new information and done a lot of research to find out about different people in Scotland's history.
- We think that researching topics like this helps us learn and remember about things better!
- We feel we have improved in our art, handwriting, maths and reading.
- One of the highlights of Primary 4B was our trip to visit the farm and learning about the Battle of Jutland. We are very excited about the planned visit to the battleships on Friday of this week which will be very interesting and something we will remember for a long time.
- We are also looking forward to our trip to Skara Brae and the Ring of Brodgar in a few weeks time, so we have a few highlights yet to come before the end of Primary 4!

### **P5**

- Topic: We have really enjoyed all of our topics in P5. In Egyptians we mummified an apple and created sugar cube pyramids which was loads of fun. In Get Moving we made our own model

buggies and tested them out on different surfaces. Recently we've focused on World War One and learnt loads about the Battle of Jutland and some key events in the war.

- Cycling: We have enjoyed cycling this term and we are learning how to be safe on the road. It is lots of fun and we are learning different things about cycling and looking after our bikes.
- PE: We enjoy PE because we get to do a mixture of activities and because it is good to be active and keep fit. We've particularly enjoyed having Mr Garson as a teacher doing rounders, gymnastics, climbing frames and basketball. We also liked learning how to play badminton with Miss Pottinger.
- Reading: P5 have enjoyed the new accelerated reader course. We like reading books for points, getting to read books at your level, doing the quizzes and getting a reward.

## **P6**

- Our Victorian Project-Victorian day: It was fun to see what it was like to be a Victorian; It was fun making the toys; It was really realistic.
- Our trip to Hoy: It was good to be away from school; There were lots of different things to do; It was very fun; We learned about new plant and new mosses; We loved all of the walking; We liked canoeing; We also enjoyed orienteering.
- Our Mug For Mornings Enterprise: It was fun making the mugs; Running a real business was fun; The launch night was also fun; It was fun but hard, especially wrapping the mugs.
- Maths: We learned lots of new methods; We liked percentages, function machines and the bubble method; It was challenging; We liked having lots of it; We enjoyed all the methods.

## **P7**

- Bowling festival: In P7 we have been involved in many activities and we would like to share some of our good memories with you. Firstly we were invited to come and play at the bowling festival in Kirkwall which was a competition that you played in mixed up groups from other schools. Most of the groups had around 5 people per group, who were all mixed up from some other schools. At the end of the whole competition all the points that your team and every other team had won were all counted up to see who was going to play in the final. One of the teams that got in the final was actually the team that Zoe and Nairn from our class were in. It was very exciting watching the final and in the end the team that Zoe and Nairn were in won.
- WW1 bake off: In Term one P7 did a world war one bake off, the two things you could choose to bake were carrot cookies or chocolate oatcakes. The winner of the carrot cookies was Isla and the winner of the oatcakes was Finn. AT the end you could make anything you want for the show stopper round and there was three winners and they were: Eilidh, Zoe and Katie - they were all amazing cakes.
- Sea Food in Schools: Another event that we went to in P7 was called the sea food in schools held in KGS. When we were there we got a chance to eat and make some banana and fish and we had a chance to have a taste of it. Another thing we did there was hold fish, crab and lobster, everyone enjoyed it.

### **Pupil Council responsibilities:**

- Achievement Assemblies and House captains
- Pupil council help every week choose a star pupil who has shown kindness to others
- hand out class teacher Super Hero awards ( Photo)
- In addition to this we have identify playground equipment that has needed replacement:
  - Plastic Stilts; Space Hoppers; Footballs; And new scrap for the scrap pod
- We have also played an important role in identifying a need for new library books and we spent over £1600 on new books
- We also decided and help buy 15 new ipad minis for all classes to use.

### **6) Head Teacher Report**

Mr Taylor gave the following report stating that he felt it was a real privilege to part of the community and be charged with the responsibility, along with all the staff, to continue to provide an excellent education for all pupils!

- It has been a busy and productive year at St Andrews and I have been very impressed with how supportive and well the staff, pupils and parents have worked together as we have continued to navigate through staff and pupil changes. The following is a brief summary of the life and work of the school community this year.
- There has been a fantastic range of learning experiences throughout the year which have been recorded in the school bulletins - including brilliant Christmas and Easter show performance and involvement in the Norwegian Constitution Day and Battle of Jutland commemorations.
- A huge thank goes to Eilidh and Ruth our art teachers and Conrad for planning and completing our Poppy installation on time.
- We also take the opportunity to celebrate pupil achievements often from outside the school. And we have had plenty to celebrate this year. Many Sporting achievements from our Footballers, Netballers and Rugby Sevens Teams and climbers (Ellen Cooper). Again it has been an outstanding year for our schools sporting achievements. And of course none of this could happen without the dedication and support that comes from our parent coaches and families who make this all happen. Many thanks from St Andrews Primary. What a fantastic job.
- Both David Hall and Andrew Rendall stand down from Primary football coaching as their children move up to KGS. I just want to acknowledge their dedication and hard work over the years. They will be missed by pupils and staff alike.
- We continue to enjoy our link with North Ronaldsay School and our visit from Teigan and Miss Work every Monday. Next session I am glad to announce that we will continue to support Teigan in providing 2 days a week. Miss Work will team teach with the P7 Teacher.

### **School Roll**

- The school roll rose last year with over 20 new pupils. It has stabilised this year with a slight increase. The total now stands at 184 - 230 pupils. This is fantastic but continues to put pressure on our school building, facilities and of course car parking.
- We have been busy this year with our School Improvement agenda! We have evaluated and taken action on our:

- Literacy and reading
  - Accelerated reader: Increase motivation, promote independence and improve comprehension
- Pupil Learning Journeys
- SFL Staged intervention practice
- Capital Buildings Project
- Our priorities for next session include:
  - Literacy and reading
    - Accelerated reader; In school Moderation
  - Building our Curriculum
    - Curriculum Programmes: HWB; Maths; French
  - Learning for Sustainability
  - Assessment Practice: Learning Journeys
    - Children reflecting on and tracking their own learning

### **Capital Project update:**

- We have made some real progress with plans to add more space to our current building.
- We have managed to keep to time scale with work starting in 17/18. There have been changes to nursery provision which are expected to be in place by 2020. We have had to relook at the nursery accommodation

The key features will include:

- A new Nursery including new outdoor play space and adjacent car park
- New Hall with changing rooms and toilets accessible from outside
- An additional Classroom to be used as an art room and GP space (including reusing the nursery space to create a large classroom and a smaller kitchen space to develop our HWB programme
- New Foyer and office space which free up rooms in the current admin area to act as tutorial rooms and meeting spaces
- Next Steps: Car parking continues to a safety concern which is often raised at Parent Council. I am glad to announce funds are going to be released to start the work on a new car park starting this summer holidays. This will see the addition of around 30 new spaces. There is an application in the paper this week to start the tendering process
- New concept plans to be available beginning of next session ready for staff and pupil input.

### **New Session**

- The new school year will see a few changes at St Andrews. We are able to keep all 8 primary classes, so we will have nursery, pre-school, P1, P2, P3, P4, 2 x P5s, 6 and 7.
- Staffing and classes have now been decided and I will be sending out a Newsletter to inform parents of their child's class teacher for next session prior to our 'Moving up' afternoon on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> June.
- There are few changes to staffing this year. I am delighted to announce that Alison Miller has now been made permanent here at St Andrews and Helga Moss will be moving from the nursery

to cover Margaret Kirkness' position on a temporary basis this coming Year. I am also glad to announce the return of Lindsey Moar to the school.

- Regarding the vacant position in the Nursery we are hoping to recruit before the end of the term. We are also recruiting at the moment for a teacher to cover the probationer teacher one day a week and teacher mentor cover one day a month.
- Sadly we say good bye to Joanne Pottinger (P5) and Gwen Coltherd (p3) and Rachel Picken P4L and Mr Garson our PE teacher this session. We wish them well and thank them for their hard work and their valued contribution to the school.
- I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our staff who make this school the safe, active, healthy, and achieving learning community.

### **Parent Council**

- Working with the Parent Council has been a real joy. As always so well organized and run with a clear understanding of how to best support the life and work of the school. It provides such an important role by giving a voice to the parent body.
- In light of I strongly encourage any parent to get involved, not only will you enjoy the social aspect but also have the satisfaction of knowing you have made a difference.
- As mentioned by Andrea previously it has been a busy and successful year of fundraising activities.
- This has enabled the PC to top up the school fund. This year this money has paid for new books for the library our subscription to the AR resource, £1500 towards 15 new iPad minis and pay for transport for many school trips.
- I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the staff and parents to offer a huge vote of thanks to your commitment and dedication to the Parent council and this great school.

### **7) Refreshments and opportunity to look round the WW1 displays**

Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed with all present being invited to stay for refreshments and take the opportunity to look round the WW1 displays the pupils have created.