

LIVINGSTON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF PARENT COUNCIL – Tuesday 10 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Mr David Cohen Chairman
Mrs Louise Turnbull Head Teacher
Mrs Moira Young Clerk
Mrs Marion Cochrane
Councillor Andrew Miller
Councillor Bruce Ferrie
Mrs Jennifer Cleaver
Mrs Lesley Miller
Mr Graeme Spence
Ms Karen Wilkinson
Mrs Rona Broom
Mrs Iris Edge
Mrs A Muirhead
Mrs Shona Patterson
Mrs Marina Copping
Mr Peter Wilson
Mr George Smith

Apologies: Mrs K Falconer, Mrs P Nicholl, Mr A Atkins, Mr J Muirhead and Mr D McLellan

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Chairman gave brief recap of AGM and website.

Head Teacher's Report

As part of our commitment to Global Citizenship, Mrs Turnbull spoke to the meeting of the recent global link being made with Uganda. The purpose of this link is to develop Global Citizenship within a real context, to enable children to correspond with children in Uganda, to develop greater understanding of Uganda as a country and make comparisons with Scotland and Livingston - similarities and differences. P1 recently had a Uganda

Museum, which was a great success. The sum of £67.63 was raised by this event. Our link school in Uganda is called Kiryandongo Primary School.

£500 in-house fundraising has to take place to support this link.

We have applied for and received the Foundation level of the International School Award which we are delighted about. We will now work towards Intermediate and Full International school award.

- Writing Improvement Plan - plan focusing on writing using a system called VCOP. We are making very good progress with this and the children are motivated by using this as it provides a context for them to improve.
- Special Writing Project - This is currently underway at the moment in school which should run up to Christmas 3- 3 1/2 weeks. More information will be issued to parents nearer Christmas. Hopefully an Open Morning will take place on the last day of term.
- Students in School - Currently we have 2 B.Ed students in school and also 3 students from feeder Secondaries on Work Experience.
- Nursery - Nursery parents will have probably noticed the different layout of the Nursery this term, this seems to be working well with the integrated area with Wraparound and Nursery to accommodate all children, providing more flexibility. However Nursery children will remain the responsibility of the Nursery staff and the same applies to Wraparound staff.
- Nursery numbers will once again increase in January to 50 children in the morning session. A new Nursery Nurse will be employed on a temporary contract to accommodate this increase until the summer. Head Teacher will letter parents this week. Councillor Miller said that this situation should not happen in the future as West Lothian Council are changing the placement process for next session.

Wraparound provision will continue as normal.

- Footballers - Mrs Turnbull congratulated our footballers on currently being top of the football league and at the moment still undefeated.
- Shoe Box Appeal - 92 shoe boxes have been received in school; she thanked everyone for the support.
- Whithaugh Park - Everything now in place for P6 camp. Timetables and further information will be issued nearer the time.
- ICT Update - 8 new laptops and data projectors have been installed into all classrooms.
- TV - Our reception TV at present is away for repair, cost of repair still to be confirmed, may be that it might be cheaper to replace.
- Sympodium - Head Teacher was very excited with this, it is now up and running for use in the Gym Hall. Head Teacher will approach Mr Stewart to pilot for PE lessons - it effectively turns the screen into a smartboard by allowing you to interact with the computer using smart software.
- Visualiser - we are going to be involved in a pilot using a visualiser to further support developments in writing and across the curriculum.

Originally it will be Mrs Hare our P4 Teacher who will pilot with her class and selected stages across the school.

The visualiser will enable us to project examples of children's work onto the smartboard which can then be used as discussion to 'up level' and as a method of sharing good practice.

- Head Teacher asked for any feedback with regards to the new layout of the Newsletter. Response was very good, we will continue with the new layout on publisher.
- Group Call - Head Teacher still no further forward with the costing of this system - Mrs Muirhead volunteered to find out more about the cost to the school and let Head Teacher know.

- Family Bingo Night - This has been organised to take place in the Gym Hall on Monday 23 November with doors opening at 6.00 p.m. and "Eyes Down" for 6.30 p.m. P7 class are also organising a Treasure Hunt to take place in school on Tuesday 17 November at a cost of £1.50 per child.

FUNDRAISING

With the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairperson spoke to the meeting. Mrs Miller currently working hard with the Christmas card designs and she thanked everyone for their support. Cards can be ordered on line or through the school.

Christmas Fair has been organised for Friday 4 December 11.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. There will be a Christmas Draw; printed tickets will be available shortly. Any raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

Halloween Disco was once again very successful and around £275.00 profit was made. Again many thanks for your continued support.

WEBSITE

Graeme Spence and Drew McLellan have been into the school to collect photographs for the website.

Possibility of some fundraising events mentioned e.g. Dads and Lads Night, Wii Evening and maybe Table Tennis.

Since the AGM and the launch of the website the stats show

- September 500 hits
- October 1300 hits
- November so far 2800 hits

Head Teacher suggested that Steven Coates could update staff and P7 pupils regarding uploading and training.

LAND AT HERITAGE FARM

Councillor Miller voiced concerns re West Lothian Council. He intimated that this ground will not be released until LVPS has capacity to accommodate further pupils. He said that Head of Property, David Forsyth has no plans to market this land for at least the next 2 years. At the moment there is only a provisional brief. A new brief will be prepared at a later date.

Councillor Ferrie agreed with Councillor Miller that this had been a designated area since 2001 and that the Parent Council should wait for re-draft, then voice their concerns.

Parent Council agreed that the land could not be released because the school has not the capacity to accommodate further pupils.

Peter Wilson spoke to the meeting regarding the proposed housing at Heritage Farm. While he was Chairperson of the Parent Council there was never any mention of this proposed development, even when the catchment area was changed there was no mention of this development.

Once again Councillor Miller assured the meeting that this matter would take quite sometime to reach Head of Property.

Peter Wilson asked that his concerns be noted in the minutes.

TRAINING - ROLES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Anton Atkins had already noted his intention to attend the training meetings. Mrs Lesley Miller also voiced her intention to attend.

The Chairperson told the meeting of the next Cluster Reps Meeting at Harrysmuir Primary on 1 December 2009 he asked for further Reps to contact him.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parking - still a major issue at LVPS. Currently our Community PC Ryan McCartney has contacted the Business Centre re parents using the car park. Parent Council appreciate all his help with the ongoing situation.

Open Door has given permission for parents to use their car park. Unfortunately some parents are not adhering to the rules laid down by Open Door.

A suggestion was made that the Parent Council contact the Livingston Village Inn regarding the use of their car park for dropping off and collection times.

General discussion was that parents need to be educated regarding parking.

Walking Bus

Mrs Cochrane has proposed re starting the walking bus, letter has been sent out asking for volunteers to help staff with this. Possibility of 2nd walking bus starting at Kaims.

Concerns were voiced regarding walking children to school through Charlesfield Road. At this time of year this roadway is very slippery with fallen wet leaves. The responsibility is with West Lothian Council to make sure that this roadway is kept clear. Parents being asked to contact the Council direct with any routes to school problems.

Pupil Council

Chairman asked that Pupil Council Reps be included in the next meeting. Head Teacher to arrange for Reps to attend.

Little Villagers

Mrs Muirhead told the meeting that Little Villagers are keen to improve link with the school.

Suggestion that further links could be put on the website e.g. Little Villagers, Curricular Activities.

Notice board - School will purchase a new notice board to be situated inside the pagoda, also that the pagoda roof needs to be made waterproof as soon as possible. Head Teacher has given approval for janitor to carry out the work.

Mrs Muirhead told the meeting about the problem that Little Villagers have had with their outdoor storage box. Mice have caused problem, hopefully the matter is now resolved.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 January 2010.