

Travel Survey being circulated. House captains met with children to discuss it and it was reassuring to know a lot of children walk with parents.

School Inspection

Lovely feedback emails/cards coming into school for teachers. There are five key priorities which are being developed coming out of the inspection and the school are taking these forward, more detail will be provided at the next meeting. Other schools have visited the school to see the work we have been doing, including today a school from the Borders.

KM is going to present the school inspection to the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families on 7 March at City of Edinburgh Council with Tim Hall attending on behalf of the Parent Council.

KM shared the output from the Safe from Bullying survey taken in November amongst P6-P7 children. It is a COE survey carried out annually with the questions set by COE Council.

There has been a significant increase in the percentage of children agreeing that "My school is good or very good at dealing with bullying?" to 83% which is ahead of the COE average of 73%. 18% of p6/p7 pupils answered the question "I have been bullied in my school in the last year" though that doesn't reflect the number of children who have reported bullying. The school is very proactive when it comes to addressing the issue of bullying and dealing with bullying. A current pupil group is also looking at this.

A number of questions were posed by the PC:

Do the school use sum dog? KM advised it was something they were looking into, some children who don't have access to ICT wouldn't be able to use it but it is something they will consider.

KC commented that the lollypop lady wasn't in attendance one morning. KM advised that she had been caught in traffic. KC asked whether the Council update the school if a lollypop person is going to be absent and whether it's possible to move the location of the lollypop ladies to the Early Stages entrance in the case of absence. KM advised that while there is a supply group of lollypop people it is quite difficult to get supply as there aren't many in the group. If the school are aware of absence they inform parents as soon as possible. A couple of times KM and Alison McLean have taken on the role.

3. Traffic concerns

Concern was raised in relation to Stagecoach buses reversing along Burgess Road though it was felt that the AAA coaches seem to be a little better with less travelling in convoy. It was felt that if the buses left the High School a little later it would be a lot safer and ease the congestion on Station Road.

KM commented that feedback from the children's traffic group may make a difference by asking parents to park further away. It was also noted that the parking at St Margaret's is causing an issue - there are no passing places as parents are parking right the way along Station Road.

Can we encourage more children to bike to school in P6-P7 and consider fundraising for some bikes for children who don't have one? It was also asked whether there is an opportunity to give bike

ability training to younger children which it was noted is targeted at P6-P7. KC will ask her husband about doing bike ability training. KM advised her that Heather Darling is the person to contact to take this forward.

4. New School website

It was agreed that the new school website looks fantastic but the Parent Council page is empty. AK has contacted Mr Carson to gain access to the website to edit and update. ACTION all to consider what type of things could we put on it in addition to Minutes and Agendas of meetings?

5. Final Assembly

This has been on the agenda for some time and KM will speak directly to the parent who raised this.

6. Mobile Phones at discos.

A concern was raised that mobile phones at the upper stages disco were very noticeable and what if children don't want their picture taken or where do these pictures end up. There is no reason that children need mobile phones at the disco as every child's parent /guardian is aware their child must be collected by an adult. KM will mention in the next newsletter when there is a disco that mobile phones aren't allowed.

7. Any other business

HD gave an update on behalf of the PTA who has raised a lot of money. A new outdoor classroom has been purchased and will be down in the early stages playground. It won't have a roof due to the wind and it won't be used when raining. To address the concerns around the wind, it will have higher sides and back and will offer shaded area in the warmer weather. This classroom offers a much larger space than the one with the roof.

HD is looking into lottery grants. An application was put into Scotrail for the library but was unsuccessful, so she is going to apply again for bike tracks. Lottery funding can be applied for every year, the lottery are clear that it has to have a community link.

KM advised that the pupil group have come up with a proposal for a Dress Down day on 15th April 2016. This will help meet the shortfall between the money raised by the PTA and the actual cost of the outdoor classroom.

KM advised that a parent is doing a sponsored cycle to raise money for two mobile kitchens, one for Early Stages and one for Upper Stages. A Just Giving page has been set up by Mr Bark and details are in the newsletter.

It was noted that not everyone remembers to bring in the £1 when there is a fundraising day or charity fundraiser such as the dress down days. KM advised that the staff collect the money from the children at the start of the day. Parents at Dalmeny Primary have a direct debit

arrangement in place for things like this and KM agreed to explore ideas like this to help families who want to support the school in this way.

HD advised that they are discussing having a summer disco at the PTA meeting and details will follow.

KM advised that the Janitor's position has been advertised following the retirement of Mr Hemphill.

CW advised that the next meeting will be the AGM. AK will do a report as Treasurer, CW will give a report as Chairperson and KM will give a report too. CW confirmed that she is happy to remain as Chair person.

AH advised that she is happy to liaise with the Parent Council if there are any issues we want to bring to the High School Parent Council such as issues with buses, traffic etc.

CW thanks to all who attended. AA will minute.

Next meeting and AGM Tues 24 May 2016