

Campie Community
Campie Primary Parent Council Annual Report 2015 – 2016

com·mu·ni·ty

/kə 'myʊənədē/

Noun

1. A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.
3. Campie Primary School, Musselburgh, East Lothian

There have been 10 parent council meetings since I last wrote an annual report – and what a busy year it has been. The Playground 'Dream Team' have inspired us all with their work towards re-vamping the playground; the parent forum have been consulted on several areas that matter to the school and its community and the Parent Council has worked tremendously hard to represent the school externally and deliver on its commitments to the school.

Head Teacher Recruitment

The Parent Council has had its biggest responsibility this year representing the school forum after we had heard that Mrs Beveridge had accepted a new post in Midlothian. As soon as this knowledge was public the Parent Council invited Val McIntyre, Principle Officer Education Department, East Lothian Council to come to a meeting and tell everyone what recruiting a new Head Teacher would involve and our responsibilities around this. At this meeting 2 Parent Council representatives were nominated to represent the parent forum. The reps (Shona Blakeley and Laura Munro) had to complete recruitment training and consult the parent forum on the appointment of a new Head Teacher.

After completing the training, finalising research, extracting detail from the job description and consulting with East Lothian Council a survey was circulated to gather opinions about the appointment of a new Head Teacher. The results of this survey remain confidential – it was very well received with many people putting a lot of time, effort and thought into their responses. The data within the survey was used by East Lothian council to design specific elements of the recruitment process. David Scott – the school's QIO (Quality Improvement Officer) was very impressed with the response rate, the depth and breadth of the survey. **Thank you to all who took part.**

Although we were very sad to see Mrs Beveridge leave, we wish her well at her new school and were delighted to be able to offer Mrs Pauline McKay the post of Head Teacher at Campie Primary School. We are looking forward to the coming years with the new leader of our school.

Parent Council activities

In October the parent council met to work on the 'Campie Community plan' this has been developed but still to be shared widely with the forum. It is a text heavy document that needs a more engaging way to share. The objectives have been designed to link with the Curriculum for Excellence. A key feature of the plan was to develop a logo and a strapline – children at the school designed both and they now feature prominently on our website, across our communications and on social media. **Our strapline is 'Together we will make a difference'.**

A long standing member of the Parent Council, who has now left as she no longer has children at the school, said that the best way to 'share the plan was to live the plan' and that the idea to refresh the playground was an excellent way to 'live the plan' – with this in mind the playground initiative began in earnest.

In addition to the above the Parent Council fundraising group delivered 3 parties in October; 2 Halloween Parties for the children and one race night for adults.

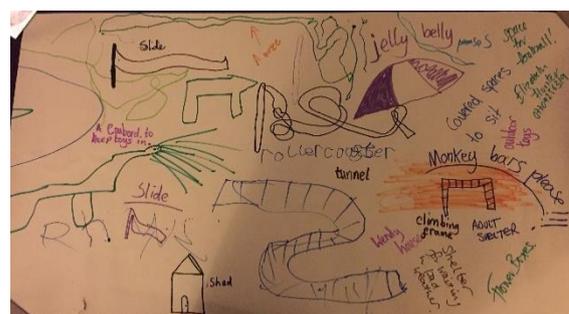
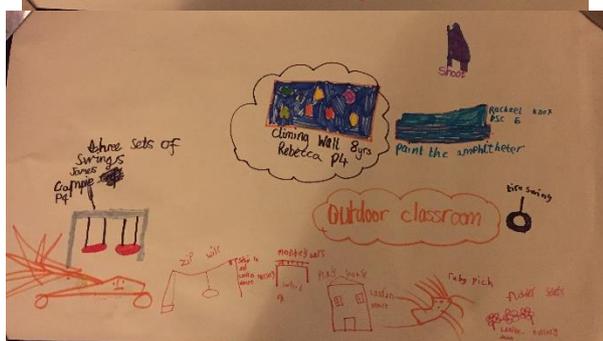
The Parent Council had a stall during parent consultations to raise awareness of our activities, speak to parents and carers and sell tickets for the Race Night.

November saw the launch of the new logo, strapline and website. The Communications team, ever diligent in their efforts to reach as many people as possible, added a voicemail and text message service to their range of

existing communication options. There is now around 10 different ways of communicating with the parent council with high, mid and low tech options for all.

December was the month of the Christmas Fair which the fundraising team and their volunteers delivered with great style; a slight change in layout to stalls meant we were able to increase our income from stalls and offer a wider range of products to those visiting the fair.

One special stall to mention was the Playground Stall – which saw many children and adults share their thoughts on what a new playground should look like and have:



This stall and the information gathered was to be very useful later in the school year.

There were two significant fundraising success this month; organised in school but supported by the Parent Council. These were the Cash for Kids fundraising and the Burma Bake Sale combined saw more than £1,000 being donated to other communities, a fantastic achievement for all.

In January the Parent Council held a special meeting to recruit a Playground 'Dream Team' with as many members as possible from the parent forum; this was a well-attended meeting and as a result a working group of 8 people got together to consult, research, develop and report back to the Parent Council. This groups was made up entirely of parent forum members and also had wider interest from Campie Community as it was joined by a representative with no children at the school but with an interest in education, playgrounds and attainment. This founder member remains on the playground group to date.

During January the Parent Council began a piece of work regarding the concerns felt across Scotland regarding teacher numbers; at the time Campie was having to deploy all members of the Senior Management Team (HT and both Depute HTs) into class rooms. This was not felt to be a sustainable situation. A small group was set up (consisting of parent council reps, a parent forum rep and with due representation given to the teaching needs of the base) and delegated to decide a course of action on behalf of the Parent Council and Parent Forum.

During January the Parent Council encouraged as many people as possible to respond to East Lothian Council's main issue report.

February saw the campaign about teacher numbers concluded. The small group had decided that the best way forward was to raise awareness amongst the entire forum, encourage them to learn more about this situation and if they agreed to sign and submit a pre-written letter. This activity was not without its criticisms – mainly that more consultation was required, but did have several positive outcomes; over 100 letters were delivered to the council which saw us getting a response from the Head of Education, awareness of the situation about teacher numbers was increased and parent council reps were able to have at least 75 face-to-face conversations with parents and carers in the playground.

[NB: In September 2015 the Scottish Government have announced the Inspiring Teacher campaign to encourage more teachers to enter the profession <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Teacher-recruitment-1d77.aspx>]

By February, the Playground Dream Team had prepared a creative brief, compiled a short list of companies to contact and were in the process of arranging appointments to meet company reps for site visits.

During April the Parent Council were once again present at the parent consultations, hosted a talk from Callum Maguire about the Children's University at a Parent Council meeting (decision deferred until new HT in post) and responded to a parent who wish to volunteer to re-vamp the Parent room.

Before



After!



It's hard to believe that this is the same room!

The Parent Council agreed to purchase Campie sports strips so that our young athletes can wear Campie colours whenever they compete on behalf of the school.

The Parent Council arranged lots of communication messages to support a parent organising a pub quiz on behalf of the school and the base as they held their 'Campie Campers' fundraising to allow for a camp experience for children who would otherwise not have that opportunity.

In May the Parent Council received the results of the Junior Apprentice competition – although only 21 children took part (at a cost of £21) they raised over £700 towards school funds – imagine what might have been possible if 200 children took part? It was agreed that this would run again in the future but with more interaction with the school so that the learning opportunities could be maximised for the benefit of the competition and Curriculum for Excellence.

The Playground group (who dropped the name dream team as they are a modest bunch) reported back to the Parent Council with a wonderful array of options, planning, graphics and concepts to share. It was agreed to fund banners so that parents could see the results of their work at the summer fair.

In June the Parent Council's fundraising team organised and delivered another wonderful fair – with added playground zest. The Playground group had a prime spot at the entrance to the playground so that they could speak to as many visitors as possible.

Miss Elgin gamely sat in a bath of beans to raise funds for the school.

Parent Council supported the Thingyan water festival to allow for some inflatable fun during the day.

As the school year drew to a close several parents mentioned that they had school uniform they no longer needed whilst other parents were hoping to kit out for school more economically – this led to the Parent Council creating, as a result of requests, the 'Preloved and Perfectly Practical' branded clothes rail in the parent room. It has so far raised over £40 for school funds, saved uniform from going to landfill and helped parents re-stock at bargain prices (it operates by means of an honesty box).



Help these clothes
find a good home!



August saw Mrs McKay take up her post and become a key part of Campie Community – I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her many happy years with us.

In September we were approached by the Chair of Pinkie Parents to consult the forum about the loss of a school's Police liaison officer – it was decided that the communications team would set up a Facebook poll to respond to this request; this poll was very successful and was shared by Pinkie Parents and Musselburgh Grammar School, was seen by at least 1,162 people and shared widely. The results have been sent to Pinkie Parents for them to consider next steps.

In October we held another playground tidy-up session; topped up the bark in the willow garden, trained the willow branches to become the den (and in doing so protect the phone lines above), planted, pruned and painted. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents drop in and out as the day went on. Those there at lunch time shared a pizza lunch with everyone.

Over the course of the year the Parent Council has been working towards 'living the plan' and showing that together we will make a difference. We've shared information about (at least 4 consultations); the HT survey, parental involvement survey from East Lothian Council, the Main Issues Report and the poll about the Police

Liaison officer, we've shared bulletins from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC), the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFSS), Education Scotland, Glow, information about activities to do at Book festivals, Museums and more.

Our social media continues to be well received – the communications team strategy is to signpost our likers and followers to the school website at every opportunity and have posted links to minutes several times in an effort to raise awareness of Parent Council activities. Campie Community now has 310 likes on Facebook – with a response rate (marked by Facebook!) of 100% within 15 minutes and 63 followers on Twitter. Our email address and voicemail/text messaging service are seeing growth in the numbers using it.

The Parent Council are also making lots of use of the groupcall text system, newsletters and speaking to people in the playground in their ongoing effort to look outwards.

Parent Council members have represented the school at the Local Area partnership meetings, training and the East Lothian Association of Parent Council meetings (ELAPCM) to name but a few.

As I said earlier, it has been a very busy year –thank you to all the Parent Council members, the wider forum, volunteers, staff and everyone in Campie Community. We couldn't have done it without you.

There are some big tasks that await us in the future; the playground, delivering the Campie Community plan and continuing to grow and embed our community, but, 'together we **WILL** make a difference'!

Shona Blakeley
Chair, Campie Parent Council

Campie Community
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Together we will make a difference