



## Campie Community

### Campie Primary Parent Council Annual Report 2015/16

Well, another school year has flown by in a whirlwind. I'll be honest...when I first sat down to write the annual report I thought "What have we actually done this year?"

Often, it is not until we are forced to reflect on the time that has passed that we take stock of all that we have accomplished, both as individuals and collectively.

As a Parent Council we have spent the 2015/16 school year conducting and participating in various consultations; both for internal projects and contributing to local and national initiatives. We have focussed our fundraising efforts on our planned playground upgrades and continue to work tirelessly to represent our school within the wider community.

In 2015, the newest addition to the school team came in the form of our new Head Teacher, Pauline McKay. Our commitment to the Campie Community has only been enhanced by her strong, dynamic leadership of the school and our core aim is to continue supporting Pauline and the management team in achieving the goals set out for our school.

#### **Parent Council: School Activities**

October saw our fundraising team host the annual Halloween parties. The turnout was amazing and all the children who attended made an excellent effort with their costumes. There were music, games and ghostly stories – something for everyone. As usual the fundraising team (and a band of willing victims...I mean volunteers) put on a superbly spooky evening.



Children in Need came to Campie in November under the guise of 'Strictly Come Campie'. All the children (and teachers) were given the opportunity to strut their stuff in the school playground. The music was pumping and everybody got their moment on the 'main stage'. None more so than a selection of teachers (including the senior management team) who will forever be immortalised on social media with their dance performance going viral via the Campie Community Facebook page. The efforts of the school did not go unnoticed further afield either, with the Campie name being put up in lights to recognise our contribution to the cause.

## Campie Primary Parent Council Annual Report 2015/16



Suggested Post



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A huge well done to Campie Primary School and all the other BBC Children in Need fundraisers in East Lothian. You really are the Champions of Change!



All the children in the school designed a bespoke Christmas card again this year with one member of the Parent Council taking on responsibility for collecting the orders and money. No small task; and one that comes with great responsibility (you wouldn't want to lose that one child's design!!!). The money raised went directly to the library to make small changes that would make the space more user-friendly for our readers.

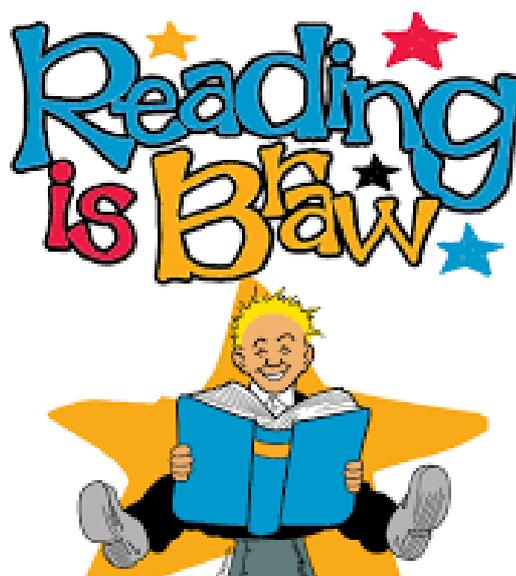
The last event in the 2015 calendar was the Campie Christmas fair. A vast array of festive crafts, stalls selling bespoke gifts, Santa's Grotto and other fun and games were on offer. The fundraising team worked tremendously hard and delivered an event to be proud of, raising over £1300 towards the playground improvements. They definitely deserved their place on the 'Nice' list for all their efforts!



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### Reading is Braw

In March, Oor Wullie set down his bucket in the Musselburgh Cluster and encouraged all our children to pick up a book. Why? Because Reading is Braw. This initiative saw the whole school engaged in reading for enjoyment and was designed to make the love of reading filter into all aspects of life, both at school and at home. The Parent Council were thrilled to support our school in their participation in this event and it is safe to say it was a resounding success.



### Summer Fair



Roll up! Roll up! The carnival came to Campie this summer as the fundraising group decided to mix things up and have a veritable fiesta on the school grounds. Candy floss and cakes, balloon animals, photo booth antics and crafts were just the beginning. The Campie Community enjoyed a fun-filled day for all the family while adding more than £1500 to the playground fund. A huge success and a credit to the imagination and innovation of our fundraisers and their team of volunteers.



Over the 2015/16 year we provided support to various school projects, outings and groups; helping the Support Base have unforgettable experiences and adventures at school camp, seeing another group of P7s off in style and making sure everything was awesome for Lego lovers by providing start-up funds for the new Lego Club, are just some examples.





## **Campie Primary Parent Council Annual Report 2015/16**

What followed in the next few months was a series of meetings with builders, designers, playground companies and council members, our fair share of red tape and a financial mountain (or tree in our case) to climb.

With our new goal in sight the Playground Improvement Team approached councillors for advice on available funding and practical help and applied for grants to fund larger pieces of the project.

Writing grant proposals was a step into the unknown for many and required a huge time commitment from the team members. The chair and the treasurer were there to fill in the information gaps and (luckily for us) our very own resident fundraiser was on hand to provide support and advice.

Looking ahead to the next school year, the Playground Improvement Team will continue their focus on the planned upgrades and sourcing external funding alongside our own fundraising efforts. A massive amount of work has already been completed to lay the foundations for a successful project and I have every confidence that we will achieve our goal. As they say, "Rome wasn't built in a day" ...and I bet they didn't have to get planning permission!

### **Looking Outwards**

Campie Parent Council actively participates in the wider education community and regularly attends East Lothian Association of Parent Council Meetings. Staying informed about local and regional initiatives and issues, and raising any points directly affecting our school in this forum allows us to better serve our school community. During the 2015/16 school year it was highlighted that changes to council policies were preventing small local businesses from operating as normal within our schools to provide extra-curricular activities to our children. Working in parallel with the business owners this was raised by Campie Parent Council at the ELAPCM resulting in a review of the changes and subsequently allowing these activities to be offered in our school again.

Our previous contributions to discussions surrounding the provision of Police Liaison Officers in the Musselburgh area also proved fruitful when the finalised report was taken under consideration and the role reinstated in support of parent and community opinions.

We also continue to have a member of the Campie Parent Council working on the Musselburgh Area Partnership group, contributing to decisions regarding local spending.

At a regional and national level, we have contributed to various open consultations over the past year that will help develop future strategies, policies and frameworks of the education system

## **Campie Primary Parent Council Annual Report 2015/16**

including; the National Improvement Framework, Children and Young People Services Plan and the ELC Play Policy, to name but a few.

The biggest responsibility for ensuring our school community were engaged in a consultation process arose during April, when East Lothian Council launched a wide reaching consultation on the New Additional Secondary Education Provision in the Musselburgh Area. As both Parent Council representatives and individual parents/carers, we actively participated in the information sessions and public meetings hosted by the council throughout the consultation period. We also enthusiastically encouraged members of the wider Campie Community to engage with the process; resulting in a good turnout at meetings by a wide selection of our parent forum. Part of our role as a Parent Council was to compile a collective response to the proposed provision – a task which proved more difficult than anticipated. The views and opinions of the Parent Council members were diverse (to say the least), which inspires confidence that we as a group are representative of the wider school community.

In June we issued our final response; sharing general concerns and questions raised by the proposal, mainly focussed around potential community division, catchment areas and the current and future education provision at the existing Musselburgh Grammar School. Our response was well received by East Lothian Council and will be used to formulate a decision on the future education provision for our children.

### **In Summary**

The communications team have worked over the past year to maintain the momentum that has built on the social media channels and have grown the network of Facebook groups available to our community. With new members, including a link to the fundraising group, continued communication with the parent forum across several platforms remains the core goal.

The fundraising group set their focus firmly on the playground improvements and have delivered a few key events during the past year. As usual, the fundraisers never cease to amaze with their ever more ambitious ideas and event plans and there are many more fundraising events to come in the next school year.

In addition to the fundraising group, one member of the Parent Council has taken on the mantle of grant proposal writer, a new role within the Campie Parent Council. Success in securing a grant will be integral to raising the necessary funds to transform our playground facilities for our children and future generations.

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This year saw Campie Parent Council welcome several new faces and for us that means new opinions and new skills. As a group we are always looking outwards to our community and beyond to represent our school in the best ways possible and utilise the resources readily available to us within the Campie Community.

Thank you to all the Parent Council members for their continued dedication and effort, to the school staff for their support and input, to the volunteers for giving us their time and to everybody within the Campie Community who has the good of our school in their hearts and minds. Before I start to sound like Gwyneth accepting an Oscar, all that remains is to outline our focus for the next school year.

Our goals for the future are not small but they are by no means insurmountable. With a strong fundraising focus we will deliver on our playground improvement plans and continue to support the school in ongoing projects. As a Parent Council we will continue to engage with as many of our parents and carers as possible and nurture the developing sense of community within our school.



Laura K Munro

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Chair, Campie Parent Council

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