

# **Campie Parent Council Annual Report 2012/2013**

It has been another busy year for Campie parents as the parent council was involved in the recruitment of an entire new senior management team – head teacher, depute head and principal teacher. We took part in a mini HMIE inspection of Health and Wellbeing at the school and organised our usual fairs and parties for the pupils.

## **Senior Management Team Recruitment**

Campie has had several changes of head teachers in the past few years. We began this session with Catriona Mackinnon as Acting Head. Ms Mackinnon was appointed as Acting Head for one year and this term of office was due to finish at the end of the 2012. East Lothian Council (ELC), in conjunction with Campie Parent Council, decided to extend the term until the end of the summer term as it was considered best to appoint a Headteacher for a full session, starting at the beginning of the 2013 academic year.

The first recruitment round was unsuccessful, but a second internal ELC recruitment process resulted in the selection of Debbie Beveridge, our current head teacher. Two parents were involved in this interview and a further two were involved in the recruitment of Alison Elgin as Depute, following Cathy Clarke's early retirement. A further parent council member was involved in the recruitment of Dawn Slight as Principal Teacher. As there were such huge changes in the SMT, it was decided that Mrs Beveridge should start at Campie at the beginning of May.

All panel members of the three interviews were very happy with the new members of the Campie team.

## **Health and Wellbeing Inspection at the Musselburgh Cluster**

Parents spoke to inspectors from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education about health and wellbeing in the school. Five education authorities were asked to take part in this mini inspection to enable the HMIE to have a greater understanding of how Health and Wellbeing was being taught throughout the country. East Lothian was one of the authorities chosen and selected the Musselburgh Cluster to take part. A group of six parents from the parent council and the parent forum volunteered to speak to the inspector. All six primaries and Musselburgh Grammar were also visited by the team of inspectors.

## **Storytelling events**

The parent council paid for every child in the school to attend a storytelling session with professional storytellers. Macastory came and performed for the P1s to 7s and One Red Balloon held performances for all of our nursery children.

All events proved hugely successful with very positive feedback from pupils and staff.

## **East Lothian Association of Parent Council Meetings**

Campie School is very active at East Lothian level and we continue to have representatives attending meetings along with many other East Lothian schools. These meetings are a good opportunity to find out what is happening in education on a national level and also to find out what's going on in different schools in the district.

This year, representatives from Campie and Musselburgh Grammar attended Nourish, a conference at Queen Margaret University aimed at getting better food into all public buildings in the district. After listening to a presentation from the Soil Association on Food For Life Catering Mark, we asked a representative to come along to the ELC meetings. We also invited someone from the council's catering management team. ELC joined the **Food For Life Catering Mark** and has already achieved the bronze award. Primary school menus have been changed to reflect this. The Catering Mark is the Soil Association's prestigious national food award, and the only UK-wide certification scheme that provides a guarantee that food is fresh, seasonal and better for animal welfare. Bronze, silver and gold tiers encourage caterers to make step-by-step progress towards using more local, free range, fair trade and organic ingredients to produce healthier menus. ELC is now working towards its Silver Award.

Campie parents were involved in initiating a debate on the provision of school-based therapy for East Lothian's children in need. **Place2Be**, a counselling service in place in six primary schools, came to the end of its three-year tenure and received an outstanding audit. Campie joined parents and headteachers from the six schools to campaign for Place2Be to continue in the six schools. However, funding has been withdrawn by ELC and, as yet, no other service has replaced it. Place2Be is an integrated school-based service, offering swift access to counselling and other services. It supports pupils with emotional and behavioural problems who often miss out on receiving adequate help from statutory services. Campie representatives have taken part in many important discussions and have raised issues and made sure the school has a strong, district-wide voice.

### **Library**

We have now given about £9,000 to the library; £4,500 has been given this year. This has been a major project for us and we are still committed to the refurbishment until the library is completed. The work carried out in the library has largely been done by a team of parents.

### **Maths Challenge**

This continues to be led by parents who come in one morning every week to help improve the kids' maths.

## **Bikeability**

The parent council tried to initiate Bikeability training from Active Schools for parents to enable them to take pupils out for bike rides.. After lots of discussion, Active Schools could not provide training at any Musselburgh school, but invited parents to go down to Haddington. No parents felt able to travel with their bikes to Haddington.

## **Fundraising and community building**

We continue to provide a high level of events and activities for the entire school community and raised a considerable sum of money. We have had two highly successful fairs, a third Halloween party and a Campie/Burma ceilidh. We also gave pupils an opportunity to make Christmas cards and calendars. The fundraising team is a good mix of parent council and non-parent council members who continue to provide excellent quality entertainment for the whole school. The fundraising team also organise the P7 leavers disco and the P7 Campie Year Books. The PC bought new school reading bags for all Primary 1s, and it is hoped that this will continue every year.

We have always tried to foster a sense of community in all of our events.

## **Campie's Burma Link**

Last year, Campie's P7s made a film, *From Musselburgh to Mae Sot*, to try to encourage MPs and the Department of International Development to save our Global School's Partnership, a three-year friendship between Campie and the Child Development Centre for Burmese refugees in Mae Sot, Thailand. The filmmakers, who are now at Musselburgh Grammar School, came back to Campie to show, parents, staff, councillors, members of the Burmese community and Fiona O'Donnell MP their film. As a result of this night, Fiona arranged for the film-makers and Campie children who were interviewed in the film, to go to Westminster to speak to Baroness Glenys Kinnock, who has a close interest in Burma. The parent council paid for the trip, which was hugely successful. As a result of this trip, an anonymous donor came forward to pay for a Burmese teacher from CDC to visit Campie during this session.

A very successful Campie/Burma ceilidh was also held to raise cash and awareness and to celebrate the partnership.

## **Curriculum for Excellence**

Following several discussions on Curriculum for Excellence at parent council meetings, a survey was drawn up to ask what the parent forum's understanding of this was. We had more than 100 responses, which were collated by parents and fed to Mrs Beveridge. An initial look at the survey revealed that most parents felt they had some understanding of the new curriculum. We need to look more at the findings and work out how to proceed. Work will continue on this in the new session.

## **Constitution**

In May a group of parents decided it was time to look at our constitution as this had not been amended since parent councils began. Three meetings were organised and the aims of the parent council were redrawn along with a draft constitution. This will be looked at by the parent council and passed to the parent forum in due course.

## **Communication**

A communication team was set up to look at the website and put on more useful information for parents. This is still a work in progress, but is already providing a good service.

A massive thank you to all parents who help out at the school and at the many events and issues the parent council is involved in. Meetings are open to all parents and carers and everyone will be made welcome.

Gaynor Allen  
Chair of Campie Parent Council