

## CAMPIE COMMUNITY

Campie Primary School Parent Council Annual Report Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

**"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."** *Helen Keller*

I have been mentally drafting this annual report for months now, the same idea has remained throughout this process. This annual report is about you all, it is about teamwork. You are all a wonderful group of people, drawn together out of a desire to make a difference for every child within our wonderful Campie Community. The inclusion group, on submitting their winning application to Your Voice, Your Choice used the phrase 'Campie Cares'. We really do and you are all the epitome of that belief. Thank you.

Andrew Carnegie said that: **"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organisational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."** We have certainly been able to achieve some uncommon results.

This is the end of my second year as Chair and the second time I have been privileged to hold this position. In that time, I have watched us as we progress through the stages of group development. This is a process that allows groups to grow, face challenges, tackle problems, identify solutions and deliver results. There are 4 main stages; forming (where a group forms to work), storming, (groups shakes themselves out into their new roles), norming (everyone in the team shares a common goal) and performing (group is productive, successful and delivering).

We most recently entered the forming phase of team development when the Inclusion group was formed and since then have rapidly moved through the stages of team development; we have spent around 18-months in the performing phase, with many examples of great work being delivered by the Parent Council (PC) team, associated sub groups and volunteers who support the variety of events arranged by the PC. Of course, none of this '*performing*' would be possible without the support of everyone in Campie Primary School, the office team and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

**"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."**

*Henry Ford*

A review of the minutes since the last AGM show that as a PC we have been active in delivering events for the school community, sharing consultations, and representing the parent forum as we raise any questions or concerns on their behalf.

This year is also the first year we have been able, thanks to the support of the SLT and the school, increase the rotation of PC meetings to include a daytime meeting on a Friday morning. This has meant that we were able to welcome visitors not normally able to attend an evening meeting. The Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday rotation of PC meetings will remain in the calendar for the time being.

At the end of the last AGM and report I suggested that as a PC we worked towards the following objectives:

- Increased efforts to encourage a more diverse membership of the Parent Council
- Delivery on planning efforts to improve the Playground – work started at the Christmas Fair in 2015!
- Growth and interaction, of and between, sub-groups
- Delivery on events such as the Christmas and Summer fair, community building, fun events
- Delivery of annual favourites; the Halloween party, Christmas cards, Easter events and more
- Sharing consultations as widely as possible
- Representing the views of parents and carers
- Helping to make Campie Community a wonderful educational home for our learners

I'm delighted to say that we have made progress or continued our delivery in all these areas;

The addition of a Friday daytime meeting was part of our plan to encourage a more diverse membership of the PC and while membership has remained stable; the number of people interacting with us has increased over the year. As members of the PC it is up to each and every one of us to ensure that the PC is as open as possible – it is up to us to speak to our Community in the playground and encourage them to share their voice whenever they can. So, to further this aim I have a challenge for you all – speak to one new person every month, speak to someone you have never spoken to before and learn a little about them while sharing a little about the PC. Yes, it might be difficult – but it is worth doing. I find it difficult myself but have always challenged myself to do it and now I challenge you too!

This year has seen the Playground Team fulfil some long-held ambitions – the container for Loose Parts Play (LPP) was delivered, fit out and filled. The exterior was decorated thanks to support from Ruth Quilietti-Bird, the school, pupils and a host of volunteers – we even have our very own Campie version of the Musselburgh robot. Excitingly the Team have made significant progress towards the installation of special turf, Goals and Basketball hoops with a cheque for over £19,000 being written to cover the purchase and works involved. We anticipate seeing some progress (weather dependent) around this very soon. I wish I could adequately share with you the number of hours given by the Playground Dream Team to bring this project to life – we owe them all a debt of gratitude. Thank you so much Tansy Main, Elizabeth Hunter, Pauline McKay, Richard Cooke and Sophie Neale. This group of people know more about East Lothian council red-tape, special turf, delivery lorry logistics and shipping containers than you can imagine.

The subgroups have again been busy this past year; working independently where needed but also supporting each other whenever possible. Volunteers (PC members and non-PC members) from all groups have helped at fairs, coffee mornings, inclusion events and our regular annual events.

On the subject of events the PC has maintained annual favourites with fairs, Hallowe'en parties and Christmas cards. Supported school events like the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, meet the teacher events and parent consultations. Thanks to work of the Inclusion Group we have also been able to deliver some new events for our Community with coffee mornings, frequent outings for the clothes rail and a 'Get Set for Summer' event supported by several external organisations.

Frequent consultations are shared by the PC via social media and in PC minutes – this is a statutory responsibility of ours but perhaps one that is a little misunderstood. We can track engagement with our social media posts but are then unable to track if this translates into people in our community completing the consultations. Nevertheless, it is a role we will continue as it is

important that people in our community know what is happening in their area and beyond. All East Lothian consultations can be accessed via the Consultation hub here: <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk> and Scottish Government consultations can be found here: <https://consult.gov.scot>

Every PC member must encourage the flow of views of the parents and carers in our community from and to the PC meetings. This is an area that we can continue to improve upon. Meetings are advertised via the School noticeboard, via social media, including the creation of Facebook events for each meeting, and by members of the PC as well. I must remind you all that it is your responsibility to invite people to meetings as well as to canvas the views of parents and carers. This can be done by requesting an agenda item in advance or by notifying the PC during a meeting for discussion either at the next meeting or discussed by the relevant parties outwith the meeting. We are fortunate that we have a PC member to represent every year group including the nursery as part of our membership.

The communications subgroup is vital in sharing messages with our community and, due to the wonders of social media, is often the first point of contact for many comments and questions. The Comms Team (or Comms), as they are colloquially known, deliver their work across all of the PC subgroups and are key in ensuring we meet our statutory responsibilities. They advertise consultations and help us represent the views of parents and carers by sharing messages both ways. At the time of writing this report our Facebook page had a response time of 90% with a 22-minute response time. Our response rate has been as high as 100% and our response time as low as 5 minutes. Given that this page is managed entirely by volunteers this demonstrates the commitment to the task. In the last 28 days our page reach has been as high as 4,211 (a growth of 2.3K) with page views at 680 – a growth of 324 on the previous 28 days.

Comms have recently been able to link all the year group pages to the main pages – which allows for better representation of our Community and means that Campie Community page admins can track themes across the pages to bring them to PC meetings. Comms also share the news from PC meetings in a more engaging format than minutes and respond to a variety of requests to share information and create information.

Comms Wednesday items are shared when possible with recent posts and events being around #beathestreet, the Hallowe'en party, a poll to consult on a minor change to the Campie PC constitution, a way to get an Annual Explorer pass to Dynamic Earth, school photos and the #GlobalStrikeforClimate



Thank you to all of our Comms Team (Laura Munro, Jenna McBirnie, Terri Buzzeo, Lynne Kerr, Lesley Balharry, Nicola Dixon, Laura Sanders and Shona Blakeley) many of this team wear multiple hats and are part of the Comms Team to share the work of their sub group so particular thanks are

due to Laura and Jenna who are the backbone of Comms, in future months Terri will be taking on a more active role with our website.

The Fundraising Subgroup (Nadine Lowry, Elizabeth Hunter, Lynne Kerr, Linsey Brown, Hazel Sayers, Clare Paterson, Susan Heaton and Terri Buzzeo) are a wonderful bunch who seem to have a double responsibility; the raising of funds and the delivery of events that bring Campie Community together. This is another team that works across many of the groups; with frequent communication required and liaison with volunteers and the school. Fundraising really put the FUN into their name when they put on events that are more about having fun than raising funds. Special mention to the Hallowe'en party and the Easter letter hunt. Thank you all for your contributions over the year.

Connected to the fundraising group and the Playground Dream Team and the Inclusion Group is our very own Grant Writer – Lydia Kerr who has had significant successes this year. Thank you – your time and talent has been a boost to the children at Campie who have benefited from the funds you have raised.

Thanks to Kirsteen Wishart and the many volunteers in the Inclusion group (who wished to remain nameless) for all the work you have done this year to encourage all members of the community into the school and for maintaining a particular interest in the keeping the cost of the school day down, having reviewed the [toolkit](#) on this matter it is good to note that Campie Primary School and the PC are meeting many of the suggested ways to keep the cost of the school day down – though we can work towards more.

Looking ahead to the coming months I find myself wondering how we can continue to achieve every day; these objectives should help inspire us:

- Create a mail chimp newsletter to communicate with Campie Community
- Consider starting new subgroup(s) to look after fun events and volunteers
- Recruit new members of the PC
- Recruit a new Chair
- Update the Campie Community website at least once per month and drive visitors to the website via social media
- Continue our excellent work around the cost of the school day; introducing at least two new initiatives over the next 12-months
- Work with the school to restart a School Improvement Plan subgroup to include PC members and members of the Parent Forum
- Consult about streaming future PC meetings via Facebook or other means

Thank you all for everything you have done over the last year, I think you can all be happy and proud with what you have achieved, and the difference made for the children in Campie Community.



**Shona Blakeley, Chair, Campie Primary School Parent Council**

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**Together we will make a difference**