



Annual Report on DSP Activities

May 2015 – May 2016

It has been another busy year for the DSP and I would like to thank my fellow office bearers, DSP members, parents, children, teachers, the Head Teacher, our local councillors and wildlife rangers for all the fantastic support that we have had across the year. It is only through everyone's generosity – both in terms of time and financial support – that we have been able to achieve the programme of clubs and events, and raise the significant funds for the school, which are documented in this report.

Miranda Mayes, Chair

Office Bearers 2015-2016

Chair: Miranda Mayes
Vice Chairs: Sasha Spring
Treasurer: Mark Baird
Clerk: Lynne Kilcullen

Members 2015-2016

Parent Members:

Katty Baird
Sonia Bruce
Kelly Burns
Hazel Doris
Elly Douglas-Hamilton
Miryam Fergusson
Mandi Hodgson
Jane Hogg
Joanne Hood
Samantha Hutchison
Adalene Lammie
Harley Loudon
Victoria McArdle
Carol Middleton
Pamela Smith
Nat Spring
Annabel Stirling
Sharon Wellwood
Becky Wilkins

Councillors:

David Berry
Tim Day
Jim Goodfellow

OUR DSP YEAR

Summer Term 2015

The Summer Term began with confirmation that our application for a £1500 Community Council Grant for staging for the school (to be shared with the wider community) had been successful and that the DVA had also donated £1000 towards it. With the Dirleton Fete & Games Committee also giving us £1000 towards it this raised a total of £3,500 to cover the cost of the staging which was used first for the P7 leaving concert.

In June the DSP successfully ran the Tea Tent at the **Dirleton Fete & Games** on a very cold, wet day! We raised a fantastic £1,344 (despite the weather!) which the Fete & Games Committee very generously doubled and donated to the school. Thank you to all the parents who baked cakes for the event and to all who gave up their time to help on the day. Particular thanks to Jane Hogg who led its organisation. Music was also provided by some of the school pupils, along with other children, and supported by musical members of the community. Particular thanks go to Sasha Spring for organising the music, to Cathy Johnson – who supported the string players and provided a Ceilidh at the end – and to Gill Girma who supported the pianists.

P7 Outing – the DSP contributed towards the P7 Go Karting outing; particular thanks to Samantha Hutchison and Diane Wright for organising the outing and accompanying them on the day.

P7 Hoodies – we also funded the P7 leavers hoodies. Thanks to Sam Hutchison for organising this.

P7 Disco – Sonia Bruce and Sam Hutchison organised a P7 leavers' disco; thanks to them and to everyone else who helped on the night.

Autumn/Winter Term 2015

In October we held another Apple Festival – a fun and educational event which was once again enjoyed by all, and this year a good crop of our own apples and pears was harvested for the event! Fuller details are shown separately in the Outdoor Development and Learning (OLD) Group Report. Thank you to Sonia for organising the Festival and to all the parents who helped organise specific events and helped on the day.

Halloween Disco – particular thanks to Mandi Hodgson and Jo Hood for once again organising the ever popular Halloween Disco. And thanks to all the other parents who helped out on the night, and to Robert and Hazel Doris for once again generously providing ice creams for all the children.

In November a Community Planting Day was held, as detailed separately in the in the Outdoor Development and Learning (OLD) Group Report.

3 Wishes Survey – DSP members submitted their wishes for the school and community via the Community Partnership 3 Wishes survey. To our knowledge none of our priorities were selected to be taken forward, although at the time of writing we have not yet seen the final report.

Christmas Cards – thanks to Carol Middleton for once again organising the Christmas Cards for the children; they raised a wonderful £115.80 for the school.

Christmas Fair – following the success of the first Christmas Fair in 2014 the DSP decided to run one again in 2015. In the run up to the Fair the children had Friday morning craft sessions at which they made many things for the craft stall including jewellery, bath salts and reindeer hot chocolate kits! Huge thanks to all the many parents who helped in advance with the Christmas crafts, raffle prizes, organising stalls etc and for all the help on the day from parents, guardians, grandparents etc running stalls and providing refreshments and entertainment. Thanks also to Mr Moody for freeing time on Friday mornings for the children to make the crafts. The Fair made over £2,500 with a profit of £2,225.

Christmas Pantomime – the DSP contributed towards the children attending Cinderella at The Brunton Theatre.

Carol Singing at Tesco – thank you to Sharon Wellwood for once again arranging for the school to carol sing a Tesco. Having raised so much for the school at the Christmas Fair it was decided to donate all monies raised to charity this year. An excellent £260.61 was raised for East Lothian Aid for Refugees. Thank you to all of the parents and children who came along.

Spring Term 2016

Christmas Crackers – the DSP donated £100 for new Christmas decorations for the school, to include the cost of crackers for the dinner tables, for 2016.

School Inspection – the DSP played an active role in the school inspection and held two meetings focusing on the inspection report following its issue. The concerns of parents regarding its quality, clarity and accuracy were expressed in a letter to Graeme Logan who has strategic responsibility for the curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment in the school years across Scotland including all school inspections. The DSP will work with the Head Teacher to support improvements going forward to address issues raised within the report.

Letter to Education Department – the DSP also sent a letter to the Education Department to ask for additional funding to cover the additional travel costs the school incurs due to its location, requesting an early decision on the possible continued secondment of a member of staff to support staff planning for 2015/16 and expressing concern about the recent school inspection report. Our concerns were matched by councillors at an Education Committee meeting attended by the recipient of the letter and the new Head of Education.

Beetle Drive – the Spring Term saw the welcome return of the ever popular Beetle Drive! It was well attended and much fun was had by all. A big thank you to Sonia Bruce, Hazel Doris and Sam Hutchison for organising the event.

OLD (Orchard & Playground Development) Group – a Community Planting Day was held in March to prepare the ground for a wildflower meadow and carry out general maintenance; particular thanks go to Katty Baird and ELC wildlife ranger Dave Wild and his volunteers. A big thank you also to Elly Douglas-Hamilton for donating oak stepping stones for the orchard.

Summer Term 2016

Audit – the Accounts were successfully audited for which thanks go to Mark Baird for keeping them in such excellent order and to Ivor McCardle for giving his time to audit them.

P7 Hoodies, Outing & Disco – the DSP has funded the P7 leavers hoodies (thanks to Sasha Spring for organising these) and will be funding the P7 Outing and arranging a leavers disco.

Dirleton Fete & Games – the DSP will once again be running the Tea Tent at the Fete & Games for which it is hoped we will receive a donation towards books for the library.

Throughout

Clubs:

The DSP has led or funded a wide range of clubs throughout the year including:

- The French & Spanish Clubs: a big thanks to Miryam for organising these, not just this year but for the last several years – the clubs and in-school support she has provided have really helped to raise the profile of languages within the school; thanks also to all the parents who help with the clubs
- The Art & Crafts Club: thanks also go to Miryam for organising and running the Art & Crafts Club and to all her parent helpers, especially to Fiona Macintyre who helped each week
- The Wildlife Club: a big thanks to Katty Baird for running this again this year, to all her parent helpers and to the ELC wildlife rangers.

East Lothian Association of Council Members Meetings:

Nat Spring attended a number of these meetings on our behalf in 2015 – a big thank you to him for doing that and for keeping us updated on key issues discussed at these meetings.

Sonia Bruce and Katie Johnson kindly agreed to try and take turns attending these meetings in 2016.

Area Partnership Meetings:

A big thank you also to Vicky McArdle for attending the Area Youth Network meeting on our behalf.

Summary of School Items Funded or Part-Funded by the DSP 2015-2016

School Staging - £3500

Playground equipment & hard landscaping - £1,458.45 (from Civic Pride Fund)

Junior Librarian Software Licence - £285

Kitchen Equipment - £265

Looking Forward – Approved Funding

Funds have been approved and set aside for:

SEAL maths resources – circa £2000

New bark chips – circa £1500

ICT equipment – circa £1500

Junior Librarian Software Licence - £285 (to be provided annually by the DSP)

Library books – up to £2000 (hoped to be funded annually from donations from the Fete & Games Committee)

Play Pod (to be funded from existing funds, a grant or future fundraisers)

Looking Forward – DSP-Led Events

Wildlife and orchard events during Health Week

Organising & running the Tea Tent at Dirleton Fête & Games in June

Mini Bioblitz in September

Apple Festival in October

Christmas Fair (?) in December