

East Linton Primary School – Parent Council  
General Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7pm online

**Present:** Lyn Jardine (Chair), Gill Gardner (Head Teacher), Margaret McKay (Principal Teacher/P7), Innes Jardine (Treasurer), Deborah Stitt (P1), Becca Bell (P2), Neil Morland (P3), Evie Thomas (P4), Leigh Pleasance (P6)  
Anne Hunter (minutes)

**Apologies:** Vera Hoban (Dunpender Community Council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made to P7 pupils Rory Boyle, Lily Proudfoot and Peter McConnachie.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. P7 presentation

A collaborative film made with Catherine Wheels Theatre Company was shown. Rory Boyle described the story and process behind the making of the film during a topic on Islam. It follows the journey of the fictional character Karima Haq who left home and sailed to the UK to find her mother who was employed at Whittinghame House around a hundred years ago. School involvement started with a letter in a bottle which had to be decoded and investigative skills were required to discover further details as the story was acted out. Noren Haq, a writer, was employed on the project to assist with the interactive learning and the letters she sent to individual pupils were very much appreciated. It was a surprise and a pleasure for pupils to meet Noren in person. Rory explained how much fun everyone had dressing up and being filmed and how interesting it was learning co-operatively about other people's daily lives and the insight it had given into Islam.

Lily Proudfoot reported on the ongoing session with Columba 1400. The introductory session covered Columba 1400 values and introduced the values we can offer others such as honesty and what we'd like back. It also raised the question of what qualities wanted from a leader. The Awareness Session covered the values and qualities wanted in friends, family and community. Core values were picked from a list and gradually whittled down to six core values. Honesty and loyalty were the qualities looked for in a friend. The desire was for family to be respectful and responsible and for the community to be responsible and to display humour. The sessions take place via Google meet where the leader asks questions and answers are given on a website. Following the session journals are filled in and activities or tasks are completed in class before a video is watched and questions answered from the work carried out. Lily explained that the work encourages collaboration and thinking about desired values and qualities. It also improves awareness and observation. As it is in collaboration with other schools in the cluster it will be useful in the transition to high school.

Peter McConnachie described the first school trip post Covid. They travelled by bus to the site of the 1745 Battle of Prestonpans as part of their topic on Jacobites. Captain Johnston led them to

key points around the battlefield where they discovered a map detailing the formations of the Jacobites and Redcoats and a Church where the Jacobites waited and scouted for Redcoats as well as the memorial to everyone who died in the battle. Although the rain poured down and they did feel they were in a bog it was fun to learn from an expert.

Margaret McKay told Lily, Peter and Rory how proud she was of them for speaking in front of everyone. Lyn Jardine thanked Lily, Peter and Rory for their interesting and articulate reports and it was agreed this was a good way to bring the school to life for the Parent Council and regular updates of this type would be put in place.

#### 4. Apologies and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October were approved.

##### Matters Arising

Leigh Pleasance reported that the Horizons group, with the assistance of over £2000 raised by the school, had all the money required to apply to the Home Office for permission to bring a family to East Lothian. They are currently looking for suitable accommodation which needs to be in place before they can be matched to a family who would then arrive approximately three months later. The fundraising day at school was a great help, really positive and provided relief from a huge administrative process.

Gill Gardner confirmed the Behaviour Policy is nearly complete and will be distributed to all.

Margaret McKay informed the meeting that Joanne Allan from East Lothian Council is constructing a plan of action to share the Catherine Wheels film with other schools. The council equality officer will share it with appropriate charities. It will also be shared with MSPs in the hope it will be discussed in parliament.

Margaret McKay also confirmed that the junior road safety officers will speak to assembly next week and will take forward the concerns expressed at the last meeting around speeding.

Lyn Jardine reported that Network Rail was addressing the long list of conditions attached to the planning consent.

#### 5. Finance Report

Innes Jardine has completed the handover from Jane Perkins. The current balance as at 1/10/2021 was £2512.88. £200 for leaving gifts will be paid from that.

50/50 draw has not taken place since July. There will be a Christmas draw.

#### 6. Funding Requests

It was agreed to provide £200 to fund Christmas parties for the whole school.

#### 7. Chair's Update

Lyn Jardine reported that the learning estate consultation is now live. Deborah Stitt and Neil Morland expressed disappointment with a bland consultation which is no clearer on the plans for East Linton and seemed to mis-represent ongoing issues with the size of the playground.

They will help Lyn Jardine put together a response on behalf of the Parent Council. Lyn Jardine confirmed the 30<sup>th</sup> November as the date for the information event for the Dunbar cluster.

Individual representations from as many parents as possible are to be encouraged.

#### 8. Head Teacher's Update

Gill Gardner will encourage more pupils to report to Parent Council. She paid testament to the hard work of everyone including external partners that such learning as we heard about could take place during the pandemic. The two new members of staff, Mrs Nicki Munro and Mr Barry Mattinson, have settled in well. Mrs Lockhart Ross will hand over P5 to Miss Walker from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Miss Reeves is having an additional career break and P3 will be covered on Thu/Fri by Miss Kerry White taken on recently as a committed teacher with experience within East Lothian. The nursery team are working together to cover the lack of a nursery support worker. Recruitment is proving difficult throughout East Lothian and Mid Lothian. Additional funding has been provided for teachers in East Lothian in central teams and cluster teams but there is concern whether there are teachers to fill the posts.

Tracking meetings are underway with each teacher and senior nursery staff involving discussions about each child to provide snapshots of progress through year. Asthma and allergies training will be completed next week and staff will be sharing best practice on how to teach spelling. The Moderation Model which describes the teaching and learning cycle in all schools has been annotated and turned into an interactive model. It will be available on the school website to provide parents with insight into all aspects of teaching and learning. This is unique to East Linton Primary and feedback is requested. The model will be updated during the year to keep it current. It will be shared at a meeting with parents when this is possible.

Recipe books have been delivered. It was agreed that the school will pay the £205 printing cost and gather the payment for the sale of the books and will inform the Parent Council how the profit is spent. Evie Thomas confirmed the turnaround for an additional print run is two weeks.

#### 9. Fundraising

Leigh Pleasance asked whether the Parent Council could fund other projects with Catherine Wheels to ensure other pupils have the opportunity to take part in this unique style of learning. Margaret McKay confirmed there had been no cost to the school as Catherine Wheels approached them with a desire to try this with P6 having previously worked with P3/4 at Athelstaneford. East Lothain Council are keen to roll it out to other schools. Catherine Wheels are also keen to take on other projects with schools and are also working with old folks homes which could tie into the intergenerational work in school.

#### 10. AOB

Margaret McKay reported no response from David Gilmour on website training. Anna Lockhart Ross will meet with him and share her knowledge as required.

Gill Gardner confirmed there are no signs of being able to meet in person anytime soon.

#### 11. Next meeting

**Thursday 16/12/2021 – 7pm – online via Google meet**

27th Jan

10th Mar

28th Apr (Neil Morland to chair meeting)

9th Jun (AGM)