



## **2011 Annual Report from the Partnership**

### **Meetings**

In 2011, the Partnership met seven times, with the AGM being held after the PSP meeting in February. The minutes of meetings are available on the website at <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/knoxparents/psp-meetings-minutes/>.

### **Membership**

There are currently ten parent members of the Partnership. Donald Smith and Greg Cookson, having attended meetings for a while, were confirmed as members at this AGM. Sally Cunningham and Dave Neillans were also nominated as members and elected at this AGM. We were very pleased to welcome these new parent members. Tim Holden resigned as Chair at the end of the school year and Vicky Cole was voted in as new Chair. Greg Cookson has been selected as vice-chair. There have been three teacher members in the PSP this year; Linda McInnes, Sarah Ingham and Kath Anderson. After several years on the PSP, Linda has offered to stand down to allow other staff to take part. We would like to thank her and Tim for their commitment and dedication over the years

The Head Teacher attends all meetings.

### **Issues Discussed by the Partnership during the School Year**

The PSP has discussed various issues raised by parents this year:

**Chemistry:** After several parents raised concerns, we handed this issue over to Mrs Craig who liaised with the Chemistry department. Mrs Craig advised that classes had been observed and staff were reflecting on comments that had been made. In response to a question on the Science Club, Mrs Craig said that there had been a club in the past but there had been problems with staffing this. However she was looking at it possibly re-starting, perhaps on a basis that included other sciences as well as Chemistry.

**Curriculum for Excellence:** Parents of S2 children told us that they are apprehensive about the curriculum in S3. Mrs Craig gave a presentation to the PSP, and assured us that no chances would be taken with the children's education. A pamphlet explaining matters will be handed out and an information evening will be held, though the date has yet to be decided. When questions were raised about narrowing down the breadth of subjects in 3rd year, Mrs Craig explained that this was currently being discussed with the key concepts being relevance and skills.

**Duke of Edinburgh:** As the MAAP course comes to an end, parents were interested whether the Duke of Edinburgh scheme could be run at the school. Mrs Craig has been in touch with the Outdoor Education Department to consider this possibility, also consulting Kim White, the PSP member who has been most involved with Duke of Edinburgh. Communications are still in process.

**The PSP has used its website to raise awareness of school issues amongst parents:**

Traffic around Campus: This is an ongoing problem which worries school staff and parents equally. Our children's safety is regularly being put at risk when parents drive their children into the school campus and we have highlighted this concern to parents.

School Web Resources: We have used our website to remind parents that, if the school has to close because of poor weather or for any other reason, then pupils can access work from the school website. Parents should ensure that the school has updated emergency contact numbers.

Mobile phones: We have reminded parents, from our website, that mobile phones should not be brought into school but, if that is unavoidable, then phones should be left at the office for safekeeping.

### **The PSP has been actively involved with the school this year:**

Derek Simpson has attended meetings with the KASG, and they have been invited to PSP meetings, in the hope of greater collaboration between the two groups for the benefit of the pupils and school.

When Rwandan visitors came to the school in December, we were asked along to meet them. The Chair joined them on a tour of the school which was enjoyable and enlightening. The pupils were friendly and welcoming and a credit to the school.

The Chair and Kim White sat on the panel that interviewed applicants for the post of depute in January this year.

The Chair attended the S1 settling-in evening where she gave a brief presentation on the work of the PSP.

Ian Smith has regularly attended and contributed to the meetings of ELAPCM and has reported back to the PSP.

### **The Year Ahead.**

In the coming year, the priority for the PSP is to encourage and enable parents to support the pupils by sharing their skills and experience with the school. Any suggestions from the parent forum will be much appreciated.

We hope to use our website more to the parents' advantage by facilitating discussions on a variety of issues concerning parenting generally, and not just school related matters. Again, all suggestions for topics will be very welcome.

### **Vacancies for Parent Members**

There are currently vacancies for parent members in the Partnership. This is an excellent way of becoming more aware of, and involved in, the work of the School, and of having your voice heard. Please contact us via our website for more information.

**Vicky Cole, Chair**