

Pencaitland Parent Update Issue 8 - Feb 2012



WEB: <http://edubuzz.org/pencaitland/parents/>

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Welcome

We are very happy to welcome Maureen Egan on board as our newest member of the Parent Council and you can read more about all your parent representatives on the school blog. Our aim is to represent **all** the parents in school as best we can. If you have any issues, comments, questions, ideas or feedback about any aspect of school life then we would love to hear from you. You can speak to us in person or send us an email to pencaitlandpc@edubuzz.org and we will discuss it at one of our regular meetings. We also want to help keep you up-to-date with what is happening in school through the blog and our newsletters. In this issue we update you on the things the **Parent Council** and the **PTA** have been working on.

Sarah Kurt-Elli
Chair, Pencaitland Parent Council

Homework Survey

In November as part of the schools Homework Policy Review we carried out a Survey to allow parents a say in how homework is approached. Homework can be a major link between home and school and judging by our response rate is something that parents feel strongly about!

We have been seeking ways of listening to the views of all parents across the school and so we ran an on-line questionnaire, gave out paper questionnaires, held daytime and evening focus group for parents as well as a focus group with the Pupil Council. We had a fantastic response - so a big thank you again to all who took part. These views have been collated by the Parent Council and you can read a short summary of them on the **school blog**.

Staff have already met to discuss these findings and a new school homework policy will be drafted. This will be looked at by staff and the Parent Council first, after which the whole parent body will have a chance to see and comment on the draft. This may feel like a lengthy process, but we hope that by taking some time and involving teachers, pupils and parents, we can get the homework policy right.

“
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Sound System Funding

The Parent Council has recently been successful in securing a grant from **LEADER** funding for £1,500 towards the long-awaited sound system for the **school hall**. The **PTA** has kindly agreed to fund the remainder of the project, which should now be going ahead in the very near future. This should make a huge difference to the regular performances that the children give.

Residents of the Glebe

Over the years there has been anger and upset felt on both sides (by those who live in the Glebe and families attending the school) about the on-going issues of **dogs barking** at the school gate, **dogs fouling** and **parking problems**.

I am aware that recently there has been a rise in tensions. Although this is not strictly speaking a School issue, it does affect school parents and the Parent Council will therefore discuss this at our meeting on the March 26th.

If you feel that you can offer practical suggestions or can see a way forward to try and improve any of these situations, then it would be really helpful to email us at pencaitlandpc@edubuzz.org. Please let your thoughts be known, so that the Parent Council can act on your behalf.

Dates for Your Diary

Technology week will be held the week starting **12th March** and the children will be participating in a number of different activities with a focus on Technology.

The week will end with another **Grandparents Day** on **Friday 16th March** which this time will have a particular emphasis on technology. It would be great if grandparents could **bring something from their own childhood** with them to show to the children.

Do you want to know how the school makes sure that all the children receive the same quality of education? The school will be organising a **Curriculum Evening** on Assessment and Moderation on **Tuesday 6th March 6:30-8pm**. The aim is to offer parents more information about new assessment approaches and reporting procedures in school.

On The Blog

If you are not already using the **School Blog** or calendar, visit the website and you can use it to keep informed through **email updates**, the Parent Council's **Twitter ID** or **RSS**. If you'd like any help or advice on how to set any of these services up, contact Ralph Averbuch from the PC at pencaitlandpc@edubuzz.org

If you would like to see the Parent Council's **Action Plan** you can view an up-to-the-minute copy by clicking Parents in the top menu on the school Blog and selecting '**Action Plan**'.

Spring term Parent Teachers Association news update

The PTA team are getting back into gear for lots more fundraising during this term. But first we have to spend the staggering profits from last term!

We are looking to survey as many parents and children as possible to find out where they would like the money that has been raised to be spent within the school. Look out for our team of PTA people with clip boards in the school

playground or alternatively you can fill in the reply slip to the flyer, respond to the post on the school blog, or simply email **PPSPTA1@gmail.com** to let the PTA know your views or ideas for how we can best spend the funds. We look forward to hearing from you!

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to Janis and the **PTA calendar team**. We sold 183 school calendars before the Christmas break and made a profit of over £1,300.

I think there is just one calendar left if anyone would like it!

Thank you to the teachers and pupils for all their fantastic Olympic artwork – we couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you also to all the local companies who have supported the PTA Calendar with their adverts.

Charlotte Taylor
PTA Chair
Pencaitland Primary School

New this term

* The playground artwork has been completed and will go up in the school soon.

* PTA funding has been given to the pupil council for the purchase of a **new storage shed** for new playground toys.

* The PTA **French club** is hoping to offer taster French sessions with each class.

* The newly completed **upper area library** has been stocked with £600 of new books.

* Angela Cook is trialling **new curtains** for classroom areas affected by bright sunlight within the school.

We are in need of:

Parents to plant the newly delivered trees into the school grounds.

Parents with a love of sewing who might consider making **new stage curtains** (materials provided!).

20 **Volunteers** to marshal at the 10K fun run on the 24th March.

Parents with **extra plants and/or time to assist** with the re-planting of the nursery planters now situated in the school playground.

Fundraising this term

Friday 2nd March

PTA Family Ceilidh with the Andrew Warren Band. **Venue:** School Hall, 5.30pm to 8pm. **Tickets:** £4 Adult, £3 Child, £12 Family available through school office. Event Catered, drinks available to purchase. Children under 2yrs go free.

Saturday 24th March, 2pm

PTA and Playgroup Fun Run 10K, 5K and family 3.5K fun run and 10K bike trail.

Should be a fun afternoon, Poster and registration forms have been sent out via email this week, flyers will follow shortly. Anyone requiring a registration form please contact: Charlotte Taylor on **01875 340987** or email charlotteleopold@hotmail.com.

Marshals wanted!

We need 30 marshals to run the event so if you would like a ringside seat please get in touch!

Entrance for the Fun Run: 10K (ages 15yrs and above) £10, 5K (ages 11yrs and above) £10, family 3.5K run and 10K bike trail (no age limit, under 11yrs require accompanying adult) £2 per person.

All proceeds to be split between the PTA and Pencaitland Playgroup, registered charity number SCO0003.

Spring Fayre Update

Date: **SAT May 26th**

We're looking forward to presenting you with a frenzy of activities, gory science, fabulous food & big bargains! The PTA really enjoy this event & love that pupils & parents get so involved in running the day.

We are looking for toy & book donations, lucky dip & tombola items & home baking, but this year we would also appreciate your help with raffle prizes. Anyone with a skill they are willing to offer as a raffle prize please let us know, we'd be very grateful. We're also looking for traditional prizes, e.g. vouchers or donated items. The raffle can raise £800-£1000 & this year we hope to sell more tickets than ever!

Anyone happy to help sell raffle tickets or to be involved in organising the spring fayre, please contact **PPSPTA1@gmail.com**, everyone welcome!

