



Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

March 2019

Parent Council – a time of change and opportunity

The Parent Council (PC) is a group of parents who meet five times per year, usually on a Monday evening 7-9 pm in the school library. All meetings include a head teacher's report and generally include parent-raised topics or a visitor presenting an issue of interest. If the school needs to consult parents, the PC is the official body it immediately turns to. A major role of the PC is the opportunity (after an evenings' training session) for parents to be involved in the interview process for promoted teacher posts. The PC is a unique way to hear about the school: staff changes, changes to the school day or other new ideas. As the meetings are "open" you need not be a member to attend, although if there is a vote only members are able to vote (with the Chair having the casting vote). The head teacher is not a member but is invited to PC meetings, as is the staff representative.



The PC oversees a number of working groups, which meet to discuss ways to help the school. In general, they meet on the same night, and after their small group sessions they summarise their discussions so everyone can find out what each group is doing. Again, it's a great way to hear what is going on at school! The groups are: Business & Enterprise, which organises the job fair and "Meaningful May" when they arrange practice job interviews for pupils; the Environment Group, which helps the school with eco-related topics; Health & Wellbeing, which runs events that support pupils and parents; and the Communications Group which posts the parent-related news on the website and helps to keep the website relevant to parents.

The PC has a number of parents who will be leaving in May, as their children are in S6. This provides a great opportunity for new members to come onboard! The task is not onerous as there are only a few meetings each year, and it is an excellent way to find out more about the school and be involved in positive changes to help your child's education.

Why not come along to the next Parent Council meeting on 23.4.19 and find out more about how we operate? All FHS parents and carers welcome!

Firrhill has a wonderful PTA and their fundraising has benefited so many groups and clubs over the years. We are very grateful to them and appreciate all their hard work. However, the PTA is also very short of members and needs more helpers to provide a friendly welcome and refreshments at events and to do essential fundraising!

The PC would love to have more members or helpers for events – please contact Fred Bell firrhillpc@gmail.com if you would like to help.

The PTA would love to have more members or helpers for occasions please contact Jon Buglass ptafirrhill@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Parent Council funds new picnic tables

All of the Parent Council (PC) working groups can request funding to enable them to achieve their aims. The Parent Council is grateful to Margaret Hampton, treasurer, who manages the PC accounts and provides a report at the Annual General Meeting.

The Environment Group bought a fifth picnic table with Parent Council funds and delivered on 10 September.



The Environment Group makes regular requests to the PC to gain funding for its eco work at the school. Since 2015, the group has added six recycled plastic picnic tables to the area at the front entrance of the school. In total, three picnic tables have been funded by the PC and three by the PTA – these benches are used during breaks and lunchtimes. With the addition of a sixth picnic table (which arrived on 18 February) and finally a portable white board – bought with Eco funds raised through the Rag Bag unit – the area can become a useful outdoor classroom!

A parent volunteer needs to apply to the PC on behalf of the Environment Group for PC funding and then organise the purchase of items to enhance pupils' lives – this job could be done by any parent who attends some Environment Group meetings each year. If you could do this, please email: carolyn.harquest@btconnect.com

The school Eco Committee chose "School Grounds" as one of their three topics. The addition of the new picnic table will help towards gaining our next Green Flag.