

AGM Monday 11 May 2020

Chair's Report – Shirley Cathcart

I bring this Chair report to you under very unusual circumstances. Things have not quite turned out like any of us imagined but in true form our school and parent council are pulling together to make the most of what is a very difficult situation.

Despite all activity stalling in March the Parent Council team and fantastic band of helpers have had an excellent year bringing in an amazing **£9,348.63**. before expenses. Here's an update on what we've been doing this year.....

1. New Members

We were delighted to welcome some more new members on to our committee this year who have taken on an active role during meetings and events. We will continue to promote the Parent Council at future induction and open days (see your child at work) We did set up a news board during the parents evening to show some of the work of the Parent Council and how much had been raised, we also have our Roll Banner on display at school events to keep the Parent Council at the fore of everyone's mind. We plan to continue to do this. We will be updating the Newsletter and PC Information sheet to be distributed with the new P1 packs sent by the school.

2. Contribution to Class/Early Learning Projects

The Parent Council were delighted to make numerous contributions to the school throughout the year:

We donated a total of £6689 to the school to help with School Ties, Sport equipment, Class trips, Christmas Panto, Tig Tag Science Resource, School App, Sky Academy, Mugs and Playground Equipment. We hope to continue to be able to support the school and give a huge thank you to the committee and helpers as without their help we would not be able to do this.

3. Back to school Disco

For the first year we held a Back to school disco in place the shorts & shades disco due to a busy May/June. The disco was a great success as the new P1s were excited to attend their first school disco and the P7 weren't too cool to still attend a primary school disco! We do plan to hold this again in new term, all going well.

4. Lucky Numbers

We received a better response to lucky numbers than the previous year which we think is due to the winners being drawn out during assembly the previous years. This made the children ask parents to take part so they could get their names called out when the draw took place

5. Bag Packing

We completed a bag packing session at B&Ms in November, this is always a good day and lets the children help first hand. Thanks to the children in P5-7 and staff who gave up their time on a Saturday to ensure this was a success.

6. Christmas Tea Towels

We decided on Tea Towels which the children would be involved in. Victoria was able to source a very good producer and we made a fantastic £627 through selling these through the school. We would look at using this supplier again as they do supply many products. Many thanks to Victoria and Jan for coordinating this.

7. Christmas Gift Sale

The Christmas Gift Sale never ceases to amaze. A huge thanks must go to all of the helpers, teachers and support staff who do so much to help in the run up and on the day. Yet again we had fantastic stock and as soon as we finished on the day we started to buy again for 2020. I must give a personal thanks for Claire and Lynn for their guidance during the gift sale and help with what to purchase. The Children love this day so we are delighted to keep this going..

8. Scottish Evening

The Scottish Evening was a fantastic evening. It is always a delight to attend this event and the Parent Council are delighted to support this evening – the children do so much work on their poems and this is a highlight of their year. We had a fantastic raffle with donations from Border Biscuits, and many parents handed in multiple prizes, thank you to Helen Logan for once again making up the hampers. We had a donation for tea/coffee service which helped to boost the funds on the night. The event was well attended and a marvellous time had by all. Thanks again to all involved, including our piper Jan Beattie and as our resident accordionist Iain Cathcart was unavailable the audience had to make do with me! , .

9. Family Bingo Night / Summer Raffle

Unfortunately due to the current circumstances with COVID-19 we have had to postpone our planned Family Bingo night, we do hope to reschedule for later in the year and the Summer Raffle 2020 is not taking place but again we do hope to have this at a later date.

10. Facebook Pages

Facebook continues to be a great platform to get key information out to parents/carers. At the last count, our PC page has 346 Likes which is up 49 since last year (297 likes in 2019). Posts have reached up to 3500 people. We have been using the Facebook page in conjunction with the school Twitter and School App to keep parents up to date throughout the year and more so in the last few months as a way to communicate important information and also fun things to do during lockdown.

<https://m.facebook.com/LanarkPrimaryParentTeacherAssociation/?ref=bookmarks>

11. School App

The School App is an important tool to keep parents up to speed with school news. The Parent Council have agreed to pay for this facility going forward. This has been a great investment and has hugely improved communication from the school to parent/carers.

12. Hardship Fund

The PC continue to support the school maintaining a fund of £100; to assist the school in providing support for those who may need financial assistance throughout the year. This fund continues to be used at the school's discretion. The Parent Council is not provided any details

on what this is spent on but we do receive notification if the fund has been used which will then be topped up as required.

13. HM Inspection

In October 2019, the school were notified that they were to receive an Inspection from HM. The school put in a great deal of effort into preparing for this inspection and their work was well awarded with a fantastic result of 3 Very Goods and 1 Very Good for the Primary Stages and 3 Goods and 1 Very good for the ELC – There were 2 areas raised for improvement which the Parent Council will support in achieving this as required. Well done to all staff on this tremendous inspection result

14. Tesco Forest School Payment / Co-op Fund

The PC were approached by Karen Dobbins to help support a Forest School initiative through the Tesco Token scheme in order to raise funds for **Learning Together, Growing Together** which will work with pupils who have been identified as needing support to develop confidence, self-esteem and outdoor skills. We were successful in raising £2000 from Tesco. Karen also submitted an application to Coop which is currently sitting at almost £1000 – thank you so much to Karen for her help with these fund requests.

15. School Business Meetings

We continue to attend School Business Meetings with Mrs Crook in our commitment to support the school on matters of business pertinent to education, curriculum and the interests and development of our pupils. To date we have supported in following items and will continue to do so:

- Continued Parental Engagement
- Promoting partnership between School, Parents and pupil
- Operational Improvement Planning

The Parent Council meeting has developed over the last year and our meetings have focused more on the business aspects. Fund raising still remains an important aspect of the Parent Council and the support of members, the school, parent/carers and are our pupils is essential in continuing to raise much needed funds for the school.

16. New Post - Treasurer

As I moved from Treasurer to Chair we are delighted to welcome Jan Tower as Treasurer, Victoria Jack continued as our Secretary. Many Thanks to Jan for taking up this role.

17. Retiring Chairs

During our 2019 AGM Lynn and Claire stood down as Joint Chair, but have taken an active role supporting myself, Victoria and Jan over the last year providing invaluable help and guidance. We are sorry to see you go but we welcome you back anytime to help with our future fund raising events!!

18. School Support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Crook and her team for their continued support of the Parent Council. We look forward to working together in the coming year.

I would also like to thank all of our committee members for your help and support during my first year as Chair, it has been a pleasure working with you all. Look forward to when things get back to normal so we can continue to work on building on the great work which has been done in the last year.

I am very proud of the work done over the last year and look forward to the year ahead and hope to see you all in person very soon. In the meantime please all keep safe!

Thank you

Shirley Cathcart

Lanark Primary School Parent Council Chair