

GLENURQUHART PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 14 September 2017 at 6.30 pm

Chairperson's Report

Session 2016/17 was a new experience for both me as Parent Council Chair and our recently appointed Head Teacher Mrs Laird. I took over from Hugh Montague as Chairperson last September who has done a fantastic job over the years and thank him for that. There have been many changes both inside and outside the school during the last year with the total transformation of both the kitchen and the outdoor play area. Many of these changes have come about because of the positive leadership that we can see from Mrs Laird who along with Principal Teacher Miss Mullin has brought some much needed stability and enthusiasm which the Parent Council would like to acknowledge. Although there have been some staff changes these have been positive for both the school and the children and for the first time since I moved to Drumnadrochit we had 2 male teachers in the Primary School, one of whom produced the very momentous all school show which everyone who attended enjoyed very much. Both Mr Brown and Mr Everett have moved on to pastures new as well as Miss McLoughlin and since Parent Council last met there have been 2 new teachers appointed (one probationary). This was communicated prior to the school summer break with Mr Macleod taking over P1/2 and Mrs Lindsay MacDonald P5/6. Mrs McLean has also returned to the school following her maternity leave. The Parent Council looks forward to developing this new relationship with Mrs Laird and hopes that the coming session will see as much positive feedback and change as the last one.

Unfortunately the situation with the Gaelic unit remains the same with the children going to BSGI and transport being provided. The recent meeting in June which I attended provided an update on the current position. At the moment without a GME teacher at GUPS the children cannot return here and this will remain under review.

Parent Council met 5 times during session 2016/17 although there were additional fundraising meetings and others to discuss funding applications with Mrs Laird. In November last year I attended, on behalf of Parent Council, the annual Highland Council Parent Council Partnership conference and the Public Consultation regarding Scottish Government proposals to Governance changes. The online survey regarding proposed changes to Governance was available to all and Parent Council sent communication to parents to highlight the opportunity to have their say.

The Parent Council said goodbye to Janet who after several years as Secretary has handed over to Jenny. We thank Janet for her time with us and for staying on the extra year. Welcome to Jenny and as I prepare this report I anticipate that Fiona, Vice Chair and Nichola, Treasurer will remain in post as will I for the coming session. The additional support of all parents is valued by Parent Council particularly the efforts of those who organise and support any fundraising events. We are very lucky to live in a community such as Drumnadrochit where the generosity of the parents and others who live here is fantastic. We have had great support for our fundraising events such as the family ceilidh and spring disco. The ceilidh being such a huge success it will likely become a regular event. The success of these events is very much down to the amount of effort that everyone puts in so thank you for your support. Now that we have a gambling licence in place selling raffle tickets for these events will prove more profitable and last year's efforts have allowed for the purchase of goals along with some of the other great outdoor equipment we have now had installed and made. Many generous donations from families in the community have added to this and they are very much appreciated. The children seem to be extremely happy to have such a fun outdoor area to enjoy and for Parent Council this makes fundraising very worthwhile.

Mrs Laird has been successful in gaining funding for various projects including The Bubble and Cookery sessions however at the moment our recent Scotmid application requires some changes and this needs to be discussed at our first Parent Council meeting.

Finally as we returned a few weeks ago we have embraced further change as we have moved to a four and a half day week and new start and finish times. This along with so many other things I could mention is why parent involvement and engagement is so important and we hope to welcome new parents to future Parent Council meetings. The dates for these will be set for the full year in advance for 2017/18 which will help to give everyone that opportunity. Thanks to all who have contributed to date and to those who will continue to for the coming months.

Regards

Lynn Milton
Chairperson GUPS Parent Council