

Welcome (Karen)

- Karen welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
- Karen thanked everyone involved in Parent Council for their hard work this year and noted that the Parent Council had found a niche in supporting communication and volunteering in the school. She hopes this will continue and develop as we move into next year.

Treasurer's Update (Karen)

- Colin was not present but Karen noted that no money had been spent (apart from the money to the school for the fence) and none had come in.

Election (Karen)

- Whilst she wasn't at today's session, Janine was thanked for her many years of work to support the Parent Council.
- Roles elected:
 - o Karen Kerr as Chair
 - o Colin Reekie as Treasurer
 - o Doug Paterson as Secretary.
- Karen noted that more volunteers for these roles would be very welcome across the next year. Karen is keen to allow someone else the opportunity to Chair and Colin's child would be graduating out of school after next year so a new Treasurer will be needed too.

Bikeability (Judith)

- Parent Volunteers training fell through due to Trainer's illness. Judith seeking to re-arrange this.
- Sessions planned. 12 children have signed up. Parent Volunteers helping.
- Going ahead this year as a pilot, hopefully extend to another run of Stage 1 and extend to Stage 2 next year.
- Need more Parent Volunteers for next year. Please signpost any further Parent Volunteers.
- Great that the school have been able to buy bikes to support all kids / families.

Head Teacher's Update (Ms McIntock)

- **Thanks to all involved this year:** Karen for organising tonight's meeting; all for attending; Janine for her work across the years on Parent Council and to all for volunteering for next year.
- **COVID update:** Restrictions are reducing outside school but less changes inside school now, but optimistically looking forward to next year and planning next year's Risk Assessments. Without testing, the school asks parents to keep the kids at home if they are unwell. Other viruses are peaking (chicken pox, etc.) so thanks to all parents for keeping the kids off when they are unwell.
- **Staffing:**
 - o Vacancy for Mrs McDavid, will be filled through the Council-wide recruitment process. The post will be filled with a permanent teacher to Comely Park and LM will have a say in this.
 - o Prior to COVID, CP rarely had absences. COVID changed this and continues to have an impact. As well as COVID, missed medical procedures being caught up on. Biggest impacts on Mr McGrath and Miss Moore who have covered lots of classes. There is also a small group of loyal supply teachers. Not something to be concerned about – just quite different for Comely Park. Looking forward to having a more settled session next year.
 - o Lots of parent queries about when the kids meet next year's teachers. The school have more work to do in this area. Five temporary teachers in place which the Council needs to confirm. Still planning a Meet the Teacher session but later.

- Cuts coming; mostly impacting CP on Management time/resource. The workload won't decrease.
- Mrs Laird joined CP as a Parent Helper 23 years ago as a volunteer when her kids were young. She's still with us. Well loved. The team at school will mark her leaving. Given her tenure, parents will be asked if they would like to contribute as the team expects there will be requests from parents to do this.
- **Placement Requests:** High number of placing requests into Primary 1. Not all were granted. Some parents have put in an appeal. Numbers are restricted in class sizes and the school isn't able to expand easily due to the building.
- **School Improvement Plan:** Still pulling this together as it's based on Self Evaluation / Attainment. Across the last school year, the focus was on literacy, numeracy and Health & Wellbeing. Next year, the focus is on Sustainability. Massive driver in the school and will continue to be so. The Rights of the Child is embedded into law. This session, the school have their bronze award for Rights Respecting schools. The school will also look at STEM. Other points:
 - **Cluster Improvement plan.** Across the last 2 years, the focus has been on Transition during the Pandemic but the team hope to look beyond that across the next year.
 - **Looking at school enrichment.** Teachers looking at how to expand extracurricular activities.
 - **Leadership at All levels.**
 - **Parental Engagement.** The team wants to bring back even more than was lost during COVID. Not having parents in the school for 2 years has had a big impact.
- **Falkirk Council Parental Engagement Plan.** This has come out in the last couple of days. It's a draft version. Side note: The Parent Council can make this available to anyone who wants a draft.
 - Funding will be continued for Parent Councils.
- **Ukraine:** The school has its first Ukrainian pupils and more are expected. The team at school were blown away with everyone's generosity with the drive for donations for Ukraine.
- **PEF funding:** For the first time this year, it'll be committed to for the next three years. Small reduction but certainty in the numbers so easier to plan. Some restrictions on how to spend PEF money including reporting on how it's spent and the income it has. Team focus on how to use this money to support children who have barriers to learning. This includes having Mrs Switzer (Support for Learning teacher) and Support Assistant resources as well as having more Apple TV resources. Also have created library resources within each area in the school (as the library hasn't been available during COVID) – focus on finding books that represent all children in the school (25% of the children in the school don't identify themselves as White Scottish; more than 20 languages spoken in the school – desire to have all kids see themselves represented). Also done some training on Maths mastery: skills-based rather than resource-based teaching. Guides provided on the school website to support parents to help their kids. Parents are welcome to call for more help.
- **Building.** There's been a request to have the exterior of the school (doors and windows) painted during the Summer holidays.
- **Fence.** Not moved much further forward. Not enough time to apply for an intended grant. Plans haven't changed so there's a will and desire to do it next year.
- **Parking around the school.** This has been an issue for some time. Increase in complaints about parking in surrounding streets and under the flats opposite. People often want to remain anonymous when they complain. Some aggression noted (Parents to Residents and Parents to Parents).
 - **ACTION:** Could we consider how to address this going forward. Could we involve the kids in this? One to pick up in the new term. Iain is particularly passionate about this and is welcomed to lead this if he would like this in the new year.
- **School trips.** These have started again which has been lovely to see – especially the little ones who haven't had the chance during COVID. Thanks to the PTA for funding the buses. Bus costs have gone up which the team will speak again with the PTA to understand if they can offer more to support the trips – currently having to ask parents for more than £10
- **P7.** Unfortunately didn't get to Dalguise but a range of fun local activities planned and their Leavers Hoodies. Big thanks to the PTA. P7 Transition days to high school happening. The High School has been helpful in coming to the school for activities as well as these visits for the kids to the High School.
- **Jubilee Party.** All looking forward to the party.

- **Seasons for Growth.** Initiative where the team work with small groups of children experiencing loss or bereavement. Working in partnership with Trinity Church (separate from the Church but use the trained staff).
- **P1 Induction.** Happening for new arrivals this year in person.
 - o **ACTION:** Parent Council to check diaries for 14th June – in the afternoon. Option for someone to come along and explain what the Parent Council is about.
- **Sports Day.** A bit different from normal but excited to have parents involved.
- **Whole School Assembly.** Not had one for 2 years. Will happen outside.
- **P7 Leavers Assembly.**
- **Question from Parent on Go Kids Using the School across Summer:**
 - o Previously there has been tension over the Summer holiday lets. There has previously been damage and cost to the school.
 - o Go Kids don't have keys so can't open/close the school. Summer let requires a Janitor. Mr James takes his holidays over the Summer break so it can be challenging.
 - o It was decided to move them to Kinnaird as they have their own premises. This Summer, Kinnaird are doing building work. Probably going to go ahead this Summer but won't be permanently back in Comely Park in the Summer.
 - The school has very little storage. The big main cupboard is in the hall. Many of the school's resources are in the cupboard in there. It's a huge cupboard. The school had intended to review the Early Years resources which requires access. It'll take a couple of days to do this. The cupboard also needs painted. The school are trying to overcome the difficulties but it's quite challenging.
 - The Local Authority has assured CP that it won't be at CP every summer.
 - Rachel Travers explained that Woodlands offer various camps and multisports activities across the Summer.

Question:

- Will there be a catch up for P2 parents not in school yet? Yes there will be.

Close

- More thanks to everyone involved.
- Special mention to Judith for working so tenaciously on Bikeability. This will create a great legacy for the kids.