

## **MELDRUM PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (MPiP)**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm, School Staff Room**

Attendance – Ruth Scott, Jane Turnbull, Helena McKerron, Ewan Alexander, Jill Good, Amy Paterson, Christine Williams, Lesley Buchan, Jane Brown, Carol Harper, Katrina McCartney, Hazel Fraser, Leah McKinnon.

1. Apologies – Donna Sim, Gary Donald, Julie Farquhar, Rebecca McLennan, Kathryn Rintoul, Jo Lord, Libby Davidson, Alastair Beaton.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes accepted with no amendments

3. Matters arising

- Update on school bus situation. CH spoke with Sean Jamieson yesterday. Aberdeenshire Council are continuing to liaise with Burns Coaches to try to find a solution which suits all parties. Burns have agreed to use a smaller bus for the problem route which will make it easier during bad weather and hopefully alleviate the situation. Sean has suggested a meeting before the October holidays with himself, Burns Coaches representative and a member of the school's management team.
- Funding application for netball and basketball court. April deadline was missed as awaiting quotes from Robertsons. June deadline was scrapped so now the deadline is end of September and the application is considerably longer with more information required. LB aiming to have application in by deadline and will update when more information available.
- Road safety update. Bollards have now been installed at the bottom of Meadowbank but still no confirmation of date for Visirail Barriers on Commercial Road. LM provided the timeline of proceedings to date for Sheila Marr who will continue to pursue this matter on behalf of the School. CH spoke with Aberdeenshire Council who confirmed that Robertsons have given consent for modification of the baffle (zigzag) gate to meet standards for wheelchair/buggy access. This gate will become the main entrance/exit with the Visirail Barriers fitted outside.
- Childcare survey. Rebecca Sales reports excellent response from school with 85 responses received to date.

94% of respondents wanted more childcare for primary age children in Oldmeldrum.

50% needed childcare and had difficulty accessing it.

62% had needed childcare in the past and had difficulty accessing it.

62% would be needing childcare in the next 2 years.

81% required before and after school care.

RS spoke to Catriona Ewart at Aberdeenshire Council who said this showed a demand for primary age childcare in the area. She is speaking with 2 childcare providers. However the council has no obligation to provide out of school care, so can only support rather than run the service. The council can assist with finding a venue and with set up. The stumbling point in Oldmeldrum is venue. Meldrum Academy is not an option and Oldmeldrum Pavillion does not meet the requirements to be used for childcare. The childcare provider would need to have a plan for how to transport children between the venue and the school.

The school had contact from Caroline Hay-Crawford, Development Officer Childcare Strategy. The childcare survey undertaken by a Meldrum School parent in May/June apparently was a good start but will be insufficient for Council purposes. Aberdeenshire Council Childcare issued their own Childcare Survey to parents on 26th August. These are required to be returned to School by Monday 12th September.

- Funding request. Fisher Offshore have very kindly offered to sponsor the school football team this year and will supply 10 new strips. The team has requested additional funding for some new socks, no more than £50. Vote was unanimous yes.
- Parent query re school playground security from previous MPiP meeting. "NB asked about security – anyone could easily walk into the playground and approach the children. CH advised that there are always PSAs outdoors in the morning, break time and lunch time when the children are out and the children know the boundaries not to cross. Risk assessments relating to the school site were carried out by Robertsons/Aberdeenshire Council. CH spoke with Health and Safety Adviser at Aberdeenshire Council who has confirmed that our supervision arrangements are adequate.

#### 4. Head Teacher Update

##### Staffing and School Roll

Mr Beaton remains signed off work and in his absence Jane Brown and Carol Harper are jointly Acting Head Teachers. They have met with Sheila Marr, Quality Improvement Officer, this term and she continues to support the school moving forward. All other staffing remains as advised before the Summer Holidays. Our one vacant post (part time PSA) was interviewed and appointed last week. Carol and Jane hope the successful candidate will take up post in October.

School roll sits at 359 children in primary and 81 in nursery.

#### 5. Treasurer's Update

Balance was £3203.70 at the end of last year.

Income: £128.40 – rag bag collection

Expenditure: £1102.50 – teacher's allowance (£2.50 / head)

## 6. Fundraising Update

Rag Bag- cheque was received for £128.40, this was for collection from the banks in car park over the holidays.

A large collection has been arranged for December- bags & info will go out nearer the time.

Spree Books- is in full flow at the moment. Return date is tomorrow.

Cauliflower Cards- Artwork will be sent home over the last 2 weeks of September for return on Friday 30<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Fayre-date is 26th November, 10-12. Stall holders starting to be booked. Donna Sim is seeking volunteers to help with the planning and organising.

## 7. MPiP Group Reps Update

Halloween Disco-planning in progress for the disco this year being held on 28th October.

Once costs are finalised, letters will go home to children. A few changes being made to the format this year in light of last year and what we learned. The venue will change from the gym hall to the dining hall and changes in the way children are dropped off/picked up. Change of disco supplier and cost will be based on disco, glow sticks and a snack.

Drop in sessions and suggestion box is a work in progress, with Rebecca McLennan to approach the school in the coming days to establish when a room will be available for us to commence. These will be attended by group reps and will be an opportunity for parents to drop in with any question, suggestion or such. We are looking to make this an informal, friendly opportunity for people as a bridge between MPiP and the school. We will continue this based on demand.

We will be manning a stall at the Christmas Fair with excellent condition, pre-loved school uniform. All proceeds go to MPiP. Though we have a selection of items which were previously unclaimed, unnamed lost property, we would welcome any donations from parents.

We feel it would be nice to send out an occasional Group Reps newsletter. This will be forwarded to RS for distribution via the MPiP mailing list. This way we can

effectively communicate our plans and seek help with events, donations etc. MPiP Group Reps have extended an offer of help with fundraising and will happily assist with any fundraising activities.

At the Group Rep meeting it was asked if it would be possible for the MPiP Group Reps to have a Facebook page. It was discussed that MPiP has a page and that additions on behalf of the Group Reps could be posted there. Feedback during the meeting agreed that having one single Facebook page was preferable.

All in all very positive and we are looking forward to seeing how things develop.

#### 8. AOB

- Rainbow Rogues – a group for parents of children with additional support needs.

They meet the 1st Friday of each month at Meldrum Academy. It's organised through Biff Barrow from the Community Learning and Development team.

*A FREE and friendly Support Group for Parents*

*with a child of Primary School age*

*with additional support needs*

*meets*

**1st Friday of every month**

**9.30 – 11.30am**

**in**

**Community Room 2**

**At Meldrum Academy**

**Please contact Biff Barrow CLD Worker on**

**01651 871323 if you would like to come along!**

- Wasps in the Early Stages Playground. This is a regular problem at this time of year. Children are eating snack indoors, this has helped. A fake hive could help keep wasps away in future, needs to be placed in April before wasps arrive to build their nest. LB to research further.
- MPiP have posts to be filled at the AGM on 21/9/16. These posts are Chair, Vice Chair and Vice Secretary. Leah McKinnon will be stepping down as Chair due to other commitments. She has held the post for 3 years, has enjoyed working with everyone and feels that it has been a thoroughly rewarding experience. If no Chair Person is elected then a member of the School management team will be required to chair meetings.

**Next meeting MPiP AGM Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 7pm, School Staff Room**