



Comhairle nam Pàrant
Taobh na Pàirce

www.parantantaobhnairce.org.uk

Aithisg Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail *Comhairle nam Pàrant*

Parent Council AGM report

January 2019

Introduction / *Ro-ràdh*

We are pleased to present to the Parent Council this AGM report summarising parent council activities in 2018. This report reviews key aspects of Parent Council activity for your information.

The report covers

- Parent Council meetings
- Class reps
- Finance report
- Small Sums Scheme
- Fundraising
- Events
- Development of GME
- Working groups
 - Outdoor learning space group
 - Wraparound group
 - Acoustics group
 - Fundraising group
- Sports
 - Football
 - Shinty
 - Cycling
- Feedback

Meetings / *Coinneamhan*

We had five meetings in 2018:

- Monday, 22nd January (AGM)
- Wednesday, 14th March
- Monday, 14th May
- Monday, 10th September
- Wednesday, 14th November

Planned meetings for 2019 (others TBC):

- Monday, 21st January (AGM)
- Wednesday, 13th March
- Monday, 13th May

All Parent Council meetings took place at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce at 19.15. The meetings attracted between 20 and 45 people. Minutes from our meetings can be accessed on the Parent Council website:

<http://www.parantantaobhnairce.org.uk/documents--sgrigraveobhainnean.html>.

Each of these meetings was followed by a Friday morning follow up meeting in the Janitor's House at 11:30 for those unable to attend where the chair/s recapped the agenda items and discussions around each point. The Friday meetings are more informal and children are welcome. They have lasted about 45 minutes.

Class reps / *Riochdairean clas*

The Parent Council coordinates the class reps. The purpose of the class rep is to act as an informal point of contact between parents and the classroom, parent council and school.

- This will include sharing information from the school and PC with parents and also passing parents' views back in return.
- It is a complementary role and does not replace more formal communication channels; full details of the role are available from the PC.

Thank you to all the parents who are class reps, who help support all the Parent Council initiatives and keep their classes informed and up to date.

Finance report / *Aithisg ionmhasail*

Financial Report for 2018

At the end of 2018 we had **£12,902.93 in the TnP bank account.**

£2,184.05 relates to the acoustics fund. So the **PC funds are £10,718.88.**

For 2018, our income was just under £17,000 and our expenditure was just over £14,000. This includes donations to the school of £5,675 and the small sums scheme payments of £1,770. Please see the table in the appendix for more detail.

Money already accounted for:

- Roughly £500 is due to Edinburgh Council in relation to the C5 Burns Supper.
- There is an additional £700 which we promised to projects from the Spring 2018 SSS awards.
- An additional £2,000 will be awarded for the 2018 Winter SSS.
- About £2,800 will go to the school – the profit from the Christmas Fèill.

So that leaves the PC with just under **£4,700 in the bank.**

INCOME		EXPENDITURE		PROFIT
Summer Fair	£3948.61	Costs associated with Summer Fair	£504.82	£286.17 plus a £3,157 donation to the school
Christmas Fair	£3,205.94	Costs associated with Christmas	£386.24	£2,819.70 donation being given to the school.
Halloween Party	£992.21	Costs associated with Halloween party	£640.77	£351.44
Cinema night	£435.46	Costs associated with cinema night	£123.14	£312.32
Miscellaneous	£2,371.80	Miscellaneous	£1,075.50	£1,296.30
Christmas cards	£4,113.00	Costs associated with Christmas Cards	£3,204.42	£908.58
		Small Sums Scheme	£1,770.25	-£1,770.25
Bike Gala	£547.59	Bike Gala	£41.96	£505.63
Totals	£17,334.61		£14,162.15	£3,172.46

The miscellaneous income includes yearbook and uniform sales, bake sales, easyfundraising (£284) and money from the City of Edinburgh Council (£691). The miscellaneous expenditure includes funding for: the noticeboard, raffle licence, jumpers for C1, Picnic for C1 and paying for the hosting of the website.

Small Sums Scheme / *Sgeama Shùimeannan Beaga*

We budget to provide each Small Sums Scheme (SSS) with £2,000 of funding. The applications for the Winter SSS totalled just over £2,7000. The acoustics project has applied for funding and the committee wanted to suggest that the PC provides the acoustic fund with funding outwith the SSS.

If you agree then we would propose to fund the following projects:

- £366 for the Edinburgh Marathon Festival so that t-shirts can be bought for the entrants and fund some places for children (this should co-ordinate with the running club that was given a SSS award in Spring 2018 to buy t-shirts to keep costs down and perhaps co-ordinate training efforts)
- £250 to support the Sdradagan Dhùn Èideann club as their grant from CnaG is being cut
- £100 for material for an Origami workshop run by a parent
- £280 for 4 waterproof jackets for teaching staff to enable them to take children outside
- £276 to fund 3 x 2 magazine subscriptions (Week Junior and Aquila) for the school library
- £220 to purchase a badge making machine to make Gaelic language badges to sell at Fèill etc
- £500 for a Science Day with Fun Scientists
- £150 for 1 trug for the nursery

Total: £2,142

Proposal for the AGM

We would like the TnP PC to vote on whether they agree to provide the acoustics fund with £1,000, dealing with their application for funding outwith the SSS to facilitate a larger donation. This would also allow the projects listed above to all be funded from the Small Sums Scheme.

Fundraising / *Togail Airgid*

Fundraising activity is coordinated by Caroline Pretty. Thank you to her for all her help this year working across a range of activities and events, writing grant applications, and working up ideas for new avenues to raise money.

We are lucky to have some very enthusiastic and committed parents who have contributed to the acoustics fundraising activities this year. Bec Phipps ran a Horrible History Tour of the old town and Greyfriars graveyard and raised £387 for the acoustics fund. She also set up the "Loud clothes for a quiet school" own clothes day which raised another £254. Rebecca Wober and Elspeth Thomson swam a mile across Loch Lomond raising £860. Caroline Pretty, Rebecca Wober and Julie Gallagher were also successful in raising £500 from the Aviva Community Fund.

Deborah Arnott was successful in her bid to Leith Chooses for £500 for film-making equipment and workshops.

There have been a number of bake sales organised by children and families for funds to improve the playground, and the playground group also ran a fantastic treasure hunt to raise funds.

Once again, Marianne O'Loughlin did a brilliant job organising the production of the Christmas Cards raising £908 for the school.

Easyfundraising is one of the easiest ways to make money for the school as you shop. It raised £284 this year. We would encourage all parents to shop via their usual channels through the easyfundraising portal. Log on at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bunsgoiltaobhnapirce/>

Events / *Tachartasan*

There were 8 main events organised in 2018:

- Fundraising Concert for musical instruments for the school (March)
- Fèill Samhraidh (May)
- Clas 1 Welcome Picnic (August)
- Bike Gala (September)
- Film Night (September)
- Halloween Party (October)
- Gaelic Learning Event (November)
- Fèill Nollaig (December)

The school events are a great way for families to get involved in the life of the school, to meet other parents and teachers, and build a sense of community. The events are also the main source of the Parent Council's fundraising. Funds from the Fèill Samhraidh and Fèill Nollaig go directly to the school to pay for the extra-curricular activities.

We were delighted with the turnout for all the events this year. It was brilliant to see the choir perform at the Fèill Samhraidh and Fèill Nollaig, and watch the children showcase their skills during the active school displays at the Fèill Samhraidh. These two events are attracting more families and raising more money year on year.

Thank you to everyone who made all the events happen this year. There is a fantastic team of people who offer their help, ideas and resources to make our events really special. Please do consider joining them in whatever capacity you can.

We would especially like to thank all the generous people who have gifted things for all the raffles this year. The raffles make a significant amount of money, and we really appreciate all the people who have donated prizes as well as all the people who venture in to local shops and businesses and ask if they would like to get involved in supporting the school too.

The school have provided a breakdown of what they spent the money we raised for them at the Fèill Samhraidh and Fèill Nollaig on, in 2018. Major area of expenditure were:

- Playground, including new benches
- Christmas, including parties and travel costs to church service
- Class trips
- Improvements in music room
- Nurture resources, including games and construction kits
- Support for families on lowest incomes for active schools and class trips
- Hibe Tots football for sgoil-àraich
- Sports day (medals and ice cream)
- C7 book tokens and Pizza Express in June
- PE resources

The money raised by the PC events has been spent on a wide range of activities and materials that support and enhance our children's education.

This year, we continued to build on the success of the existing events as well as adding two new events, the Bike Gala and the Gaelic Learning Event. The Bike Gala came about through the ideas and initiative of a cycling parent - and once announced we found there were a large number of parents enthusiastic about supporting this event. It was fantastic to be able to use Pilrig Park as a local resource for this new event.

The Gaelic Learning Event brought together a wide range of organisations who offer Gaelic language learning or opportunities to develop language skills and engage in Gaelic culture. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who came along to support our parent community in accessing Gaelic language and cultural opportunities. As a result of this event, new evening classes for Beginners and Post-Beginners will be running at the school this term. More information will be sent around via ParentMail. We are also pleased to have produced a booklet detailing all the different organisations and how you can get in touch with them. This is available from the office and also on the Parent Council website.

If you'd like to help out in anyway with events please get in touch with the chairs chairs@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk

Working groups / *Buidhnean obrach*

Outdoor learning space group / *Buidheann raon-cluiche*



The playground and gardening group has had a very busy year. We worked with a small group of children from across the school and managed to grow some lovely vegetables and flowers in the raised beds. The beans, potatoes, sweet peas and sunflowers were the stars of the show. We also had an excellent apple harvest and picked lots of fruit from the trees in the playground, which the children gobbled up after school. Other developments have included new lines on the playground for the daily mile and a map of Scotland by the gate. Loose parts play has been a big success and we hope to continue this in 2019.

We've held some successful fundraising events including a Easter treasure hunt and bake and produce sale, where we used apples from the garden to make cakes and chutney. Hopefully, we will be able to use the funds raised to buy plants for the year ahead. We are also hoping to develop the area near the P1 classrooms as a quiet space.

We are looking forward to starting work with a new group of children and, as always, would welcome new helpers to the group/ and donations of plants etc. We generally meet on Monday afternoons at 2pm. If you would like further information please contact Lizzy Burgess at lizzyburgess79@gmail.com

At the end of 2018 the Playground Development Group at the Council published a guidance document called 'School Playground Development Guidance', which can be found here: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/58780/item_73 - schools and early years playgrounds development](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/58780/item_73_-_schools_and_early_years_playgrounds_development)

It provides a vision to work from and very comprehensive practical guidance for schools undertaking playground development from the smallest to the biggest project.

All city school playgrounds, including TnaP, were inspected for safety compliance recently. We are awaiting our report and hope to be able to move forward with planning our development once we receive it.

Wraparound group / *Buidheann co-thaice*

The Review Group met in May and November 2018. Meetings are an informal and friendly opportunity to discuss provision with Òganan, share ideas, and offer feedback. Currently the Review Group is actively looking for new members and anyone interested should email cptp.wraparound@gmail.com or speak to Cara Davidson (Chair) or Helena Gonzalez (Secretary). The next meeting will be held before the Easter holidays.

Demand for places at Òganan continues to be high with many sessions operating with a waiting list. Òganan have recently recruited new members to the team and continue to explore options aimed at making as many places available as possible. Additionally, from August 2018 spaces have been made available every morning for children aged 3-5 years in Partnership with Edinburgh Council. Parents should contact Òganan for more information.

Three new clubs have started this term. Performance club on a Friday, Chess club on a Monday and Òganan have started again a homework club. Moire will also be running Horrible Histories, which she is well placed to do using her degree in Ancient History.

First Aid Training for Òganan staff took place towards the end of the year which some parents/carers also attended. Demand for spaces was very high and further spaces will be made available at the next training session.

Òganan continues to build connections with JGHS, and recently presented to 4th-6th year pupils regarding volunteering placement opportunities and on careers in childcare. There has been lots of interest, with volunteers being offered training, a personal development plan, and the opportunity to try their hand at being interviewed.

The Review Group also discussed an issue with some parents repeatedly arriving late to collect children, which can be upsetting for the children concerned and means staff have to stay on after their contracted hours / after the school building has closed. Parents are now asked to sign a late slip and will be contacted the next day. If there is no improvement further options will need to be explored.

Acoustics group / *Buidheann fuaimearrachd*

Rebecca Wober and Julie Gallagher have had 4 meetings so far with Edinburgh Council's Head of Technical Services. They have had verbal commitment from the Council that some rooms will be addressed and their aspiration of a timeline to achieve this.

Rebecca Wober has updated drawing proposals for the layout and has fed information to the company who now have the contract for our school at their request.

The Council Education Psychology department has drafted a questionnaire for schools to assess their acoustics. This Questionnaire is currently being developed and may go out to our school

community to gather information before acoustic panels are installed and should be repeated after the changes are made.

Julie and Rebecca continue to make the case to improve as many of the different rooms as they have highlighted as possible, but we continue to fundraise as a Parent Council. Thank you to Rebecca Wober, Elspeth Thomson and Bec Phipps for their personal commitments to fundraising to fix the acoustics this year.

A date for start of installation in the first two spaces has yet to be finalised. The Council are currently managing their ongoing condition survey and some ceiling work. However, we are hopeful that work will commence this year.

GME Development / *Leasachadh FtG*

Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant continue to work with the City of Edinburgh Council to progress plans for the future of GME 0-18 in Edinburgh. We started the year with a draft Gaelic Language Plan and concluded the year with a commitment to delivering a new dedicated GME secondary high school for 2024 (subject to funding being secured) and proposals for further expansion of GME early years and primary facilities.

We presented deputations to the Council on three occasions at the Education, Children and Families Committee and also the Corporate Strategy and Policy Committee. We also attended the quarterly Gaelic Implementation Group Meetings (GIG) which look at Gaelic across the City as well as attended Short Life Working Groups throughout the year to focus on particular issues.

Our thanks to all the parents and carers who have offered up opinion, discussion and support at meetings and via email that has fed into the development of GME this year. A massive thanks to Brian Thunder, Convenor of Comann nam Pàrant, for his tireless pursuit of the best possible outcomes for our children and to the members of the Comann nam Pàrant committee for their support and insight, and to Gaelic Champion Alison Dickie for her focus and drive to deliver an actionable plan. The following is an overview of the current position. For more detail on the developments in GME please visit the Comann nam Pàrant website at:

<https://cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com/>

The recent Rising Rolls Report contains significant proposals for Gaelic Medium Education.

- Recognition of the EC&F commitment to confirm locations and funding for new GME early years and primary facilities and a new dedicated GME secondary school by February 2020 with a capacity of 600.
- Projections that show that Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce (TnP) may exceed its capacity from 2021 onwards following creation of additional early years places from 2019 onwards.
- Provision of temporary accommodation at James Gillespie's High School (JGHS) to meet rising rolls from August 2019.
- Further rising rolls to be accommodated by refurbishment of Darroch (un-occupied former primary school at Gilmore Place) to act as an annexe for JGHS which could have a "GME focus and help with the transition to the new dedicated GME High School by 2024

- Spare capacity at Darroch to be used for additional GME primary capacity and possibly act as a second GME primary school.

The Rising Rolls Report examines the capacity issues at JGHS and the implications for this if a dedicated GME secondary school is opened in 2024. These figures are based on the assumption that children who start S1 in 2021 could transition along with all other younger children to a new GME secondary in August 2024.

It is important to note that opening a new GME secondary school in 2024 requires the successful completion of a statutory consultation by November 2020. This consultation must demonstrate the educational benefits of transitioning children to a new GME secondary and no decision on which year groups will transition has yet been made.

Donald Macdonald (Head teacher at JGHS) has started to plan for these developments working with Seonaidh Charity (Curriculum Leader for Gàidhlig). Improved staffing and subject choice at JGHS increases what is available within GME at JGHS. Donald Macdonald is keen to give parents, carers and pupils a voice in how these resources are best used to provide an enhanced GME experience at JGHS. He has started this process with a meeting of parents and carers of children from TnP who will start S1 in August 2019. Further meetings will take place with families of children at all stages of GME 0-18 early in 2019. This meeting and subsequent meetings will allow parents a voice in shaping the enhancement of GME at JGHS during a transition period prior to a move to a dedicated GME secondary school. They will focus on the need to balance the creation of an autonomous Gaelic unit within JGHS capable of being moved to a new location while ensuring that this is fully integrated within the whole school.

Spare teaching capacity within GME staff at JGHS will be used to provide an 'enhanced transition experience' for senior pupils at TnP. This will involve GME teachers from JGHS regularly working with C5-C7 pupils at TnP. This will facilitate greater understanding of the needs of these pupils before the transition to secondary.

Sport / Spòrs

Football / *Ball-coise*

There are three main groups playing football with the school. All the coaches are parent volunteers and we welcome any parents who would like to help out. The necessary PVG certificate can be arranged through the school and we can also offer a one-day SFA coaching course.

Children are always welcome to give football a try - we have several players who have taken it up even in C7 and have excelled.

This year we gave the teams new Gaelic names!

C1-4 Rionnagan (Stars) Soccer School

The juniors are coached at Pilrig Park from 9am to 10am on Saturday mornings. The focus is on developing basic skills, plenty of ball time and small-sided games. There are up to 40 girls and boys playing in this group, which is a very healthy number for future senior teams!

C4-7 Teine (Fire) - Senior girls

There are about 12 girls playing in the senior girls team. They play regular 7-a-side matches against other schools and recently recorded several victories! This shows the great progress they have made, playing together and bonding as a team. A few of the girls will be graduating to high school this year so we are hoping that a few girls will be moving up from the Rionnagan group next year so we can still have a team.

C6-7 Sgeirean (Sea rocks) - Senior boys

Sgeirean the senior team, which is open to all but consists of a core of Clas 7 boys who have been playing as a team since Clas 4 and many of these have been attending since Clas 1. This year there are some additional Clas 7 recruits one who has returned after participating in the early years football training and there are four players from clas 6. This gives us a squad of up to fourteen boys, which is more than ample for a seven aside team but not enough to run two teams unfortunately. We would need to add at least six players to have any chance of running two teams.

The team plays in the Primary 7 Soccer Sevens match programme, organised by the Council. The emphasis is on participation with as far as possible everyone getting an equal length of time on the pitch rather than focusing on scores and results. They have developed a real team spirit, all turn up enthusiastic to play and put in a lot of effort. Over the years and even from game to game you can see real improvement and development from them all and these really helps with their confidence. They are generally very encouraging and supportive of each other even when things are not going so well. Above all they all seem to have a lot of fun and get a lot out of the regular exercise, getting together and being a team.

The squad consists of varied abilities from boys who play a lot of football and are involved with clubs to those where the school football is probably the limit to their involvement with the game. The season so far has been fairly challenging but an improving picture. The first few games were against pretty strong teams and the results reflected this. However as the newer players have gained a bit of experience and bedded into the team things have improved. Games in October and November were much closer, with only a couple of goals between the sides and the boys have also had a couple of wins including a fairly convincing one in their last game prior to breaking for Christmas. Something like 8 or 9 to 3. Hopefully this improvement and increased level of performance will continue into the second half of the season and games will continue to be close with a few wins to help keep morale high.

The Soccer Seven games start up after the February half term holiday. Currently the boys are participating in indoor training at Drummond High School on a Saturday morning.

Contact us on tnp.ball.coise@gmail.com if your child is interested in trying out football (We have novices who've started on P7 so it's never too late!) or if you'd like to help out with coaching.

Shinty / *Camanachd*

Camanachd Dhùn-Èideann youth shinty club

Report to Bunsgoil Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council

January 2019

Training Sessions

The club's two main open training sessions, Fridays after school in Pilrig Park, and Saturday mornings on the Meadows continue to go from strength to strength, with the club having around 65 player members, making it one of the largest shinty clubs in the world!

The very popular Friday session is currently at maximum capacity with 40 players, and we are now operating a waiting list. The session is coached by three CA qualified coaches, and we are grateful for the recent support of Taobh na Pàirce trainee teacher Ally Weir who brings youthful experience to the session.

We regularly have around 20 players at the Saturday session, where we encourage parents to pick up a caman and participate in training matches.

In addition, the club runs Active Schools sessions at James Gillespie's High School, and for its cluster Primaries.

Competition



Our teams compete in almost all Central Scotland leagues and festivals, fielding teams at P1-3, P5 and under, P7 and under, and S3 and under. The aim of these tournaments is to gain experience of competition and to have fun. Our teams perform on a par with any of the other Central Scotland Clubs.

In addition, we competed in the Taynuilt Sixes (South Primary School Championships) as we have for several years, and achieved good results throughout.

We also again sent two teams to the Cupa Iomain na h-Òige, the annual tournament for Gaelic-medium schools, this year in Inverness. In preparation for this, we produced some Gaelic-language shinty coaching terms and supporters' language learning sheets, and as a result the whole day was truly a full Gaelic immersion experience.

This year we hosted around 6 tournaments – on the Meadows, at Peffermill, indoors at Bathgate, and recently at Westwoods at Fettes. These were all hugely successful, attracting up to well over 100 players from across Central Scotland.

Social

We aim to be a community-focussed club through training, excursions to play and watch shinty, and through our social programme.

This year once again this included the following events:

- A packed weekend of shinty events at the Meadows Festival in June including a full senior match in both the men's and women's leagues, schools competitions, promotion and a community match
- A summer barbecue, shinty games and social
- The now traditional New Year shinty bash on 2nd January

The Future

The club, in co-operation with the Camanachd Association has prepared a development plan for 2018-2021. Among the aims for the current school year are the following:

- Working with JGHS to provide curricular shinty for all high-school ages with a view to extending the player pathway and linking in with the club sessions
- Further developing Primary shinty in JGHS cluster schools in order to develop local competitive fixtures
- A new weekday evening session aimed at high school and experienced upper primary players, with a view to competing at under 14 and under 17, and on to senior club shinty
- Providing more support to enable parents to get more involved with their childrens sport in various capacities

Camanachd Dhùn-Èideann invites anyone interested in finding out more about shinty to get in touch.

Ian MacDonald - Secretary
camanachd@duneideann.net
<https://edinburghshinty.org/> .

Cycling / *Rothaireachd*

Bikeability will be delivered to C5 (L1) and C6 (L2) starting in March. There will also be bike trips offered on the path network. The school have delivered 100% availability to all C5 and C6 pupils over the last few years and this will continue.

More parent volunteers (subject to PVG and school acceptance) are always valuable and welcome to join. Please contact me (Mike Sutherland: mikesutherlandedinburgh@yahoo.co.uk) or school. Parent Council funded bikes have been put to valuable use and have enabled this training to take place and continue, for the benefit of all pupils.

Feedback / *Fios-air-ais*

Any feedback on the content of this report is welcome at the AGM or via email to the Parent Council: parentcouncil@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk.

Mòran taing,

Comhairle nam Pàrant Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce