



Comhairle nam Pàrant
Taobh na Pàirce

www.parantantaobhnairce.org.uk

Aithisg Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail *Comhairle nam Pàrant*

Parent Council AGM report

January 2020

Introduction / *Ro-ràdh*

We are pleased to present to the Parent Council this AGM report summarising parent council activities in 2019. 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 2019:

- Monday, 21st January (AGM)
- Wednesday, 13th March
- Monday, 13th May
- Monday, 9th September
- Wednesday, 13th November

Planned meetings for 2020 (others TBC):

- Monday, 20th January (AGM)
- Wednesday, 11th March
- Monday, 11th 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.parantantaobhnapairce.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 for 2019 / *Aithisg ionmhasail*

At the end of 2018 we had £14,389.24 in the TnP bank account. £3,900.23 relates to the acoustics fund. So the PC funds are £10,489.01.

For 2019, our income was just under £18,760.69 and our expenditure was £18,530.82. We made payments to the school of £8,890.03 and the small sums scheme payments of £2,688.35. Please see the table below for more detail.

Money already accounted for:

- There is an additional £800 which we promised to projects from the Winter 2018 SSS awards (fun scientists and waterproof coats).
- An additional ~£1,000 will be awarded for the 2019 Winter SSS.
- About £3,000 will go to the school – the profit from the Fèill Nollaig (still waiting on expenses)

So that leaves the PC with just under **£5,700** in the bank.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE		PROFIT
Summer Fair	£4,809.16	Costs associated with Summer Fair	£424.10	£4,784.16 profit went to the school.
Christmas Fair	£3,563.10	Costs associated with Christmas	£224.43 (so far)	I hope that ~£3,000 will be coming to the school once I have all the expenses claims.
Halloween Party	£1,139.29	Costs associated with Halloween party	£486.71	£652.58
Cinema night		Costs associated with cinema night		£310.51
Miscellaneous	£1,571.38	Miscellaneous	£681.97	£889.41
Christmas cards	£4,19.80	Costs associated with Christmas Cards	£2,836.35	£1,356.27
		Small Sums Scheme	£2,688.35	£2,688.35
Totals	£18,530.82		£18,760.69	-229.87

The miscellaneous income includes uniform sales, bake sales, easyfundraising (~£200), lottery income (~£600) and money from the City of Edinburgh Council (£~£650). The miscellaneous expenditure includes funding for: the raffle licence, jumpers 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 £1,000 and so we have agreed to fund them all.

They are as follows:

C7 have submitted an application for £450 to support a school production of Annie including c7 and s1 from JGHS

- Ball Coise have submitted an application for £157 to fund football strips for a girl's team (c3/4/5)
- Gardening Club have asked for £230 to buy gardening tools
- Sarah Hoy has asked for £191.51 to buy K'Nex Education set for c6/7

Proposal for the AGM

As there were only 4 applications, we would like to fund them all without going through the usual consultation, unless anyone has any objections.

Fundraising / *Togail Airgid*

There have been a number of bake sales organised by children and families for funds to improve the playground.

Once again, Marianne O'Loughlin did a brilliant job organising the production of Christmas Cards raising £1,356.27 for the school.

Easyfundraising is one of the easiest ways to make money for the school as you shop (total raised tbc). 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/>

The school has signed up for the School Lottery scheme; families can choose to support the school by participating in the lottery and a percentage of the funds raised goes directly to the school. This decision was taken after a 12 month period of detailed research, a survey of parents, feedback sessions and a vote. While noting the numbers who have signed up to date, promotion of the scheme has been minimal in response to concerns around the potential association of the lottery with gambling. By way of addressing this concern, the PC produced a Support for Parents booklet which signposts support for a range of issues parents may be facing. This is available on the Parent Council website and the school office.

A question was raised as to whether operating the School Lottery amounted to discrimination under the Equality Act on religious grounds. This was considered by the Parent Council and with advice from the legal team at City of Edinburgh Council - the duty holder - the PC concluded it did not amount to direct or indirect discrimination because neither the pupil or parent is required to take part in the lottery or promote it in anyway, and the activities funded by the money raised are open to all irrespective of whether they took part in the lottery. A review of the School Lottery will be undertaken at the end of this academic year.

The Parent Council collectively ensures funds are used to best meet the needs of the school and to enhance school life. Working in partnership with the school the best use of funds are determined, and suggestions are welcome from all parents as part of the parent forum. A School Funding Group involving teachers, staff and parents is taking forward oversight of this area of work, to include the identification of priorities for spend at the start of each academic year.

Events / *Tachartasan*

There were 6 main events organised in 2019:

- Fundraising Concert for musical instruments for the school (March)
- Fèill Samhraidh (May)
- Clas 1 Welcome Picnic (August)
- Film Night (August)
- Halloween Party (October)
- 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. These two events are attracting more families and raising more money year on year.

Thank you to everyone who made the 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 has provided a breakdown of what they spent the money we raised for them at the Fèill Samhraidh and Fèill Nollaig on, in 2019. Major area of expenditure were:

Nurture class extras

Forest School extras

Sports events

Ice Cream van (Sports Day)

Maths Challenge costs

Christmas expenses (venue hire, party food and prizes, coach hire)

Picnic bench

IT resources for sgoil-araich

Part cost of bus to Cuach na Cloinne qualifying round

4 iPads & cases for Support for Learning

50% of the cost of a bike shelter for sgoil àraich (sustrans paid the other half)

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.

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

Working groups / *Buidhnean obrach*

Outdoor learning space group / *Buidheann raon-cluiche*



The playground and gardening group has had another busy year. We worked with a small group of children from across the school fortnightly and have developed some new areas of the playground. Some new developments in 2019 included:

- New flower bed next to the wall in the small playground – we're hoping the plants will become established this year and hopefully should get some good colour in the spring.
- Lots of bulb planting along the hedge and in the brick planters.
- Developed the quiet area with new planters.
- Bird feeders.
- Raspberry bushes in the big playground.
- New big tyre – ready for our cherry tree we hope to get soon.
- Christmas wreaths around the playground.
- Compost area for fallen leaves.
- Cooking a stir-fry with the wonderful produce we grew.
- Lovely display of sweet peas in Summer.
- Poppies to mark Remembrance Day.

We were grateful for all the donations for the bake sale we held in December and will use this money for small projects going forward in 2020 – maybe we will get our orchard started!

We are looking forward to the Spring. We would welcome new helpers to the group/ and donations of plants etc. We generally meet on Monday afternoons at 2pm – but if you can help at other times please do get in touch. If you would like further information please contact Lizzy Burgess at lizzyburgess79@gmail.com or sign up to our Facebook sub-page.

Wraparound group / *Buidheann co-thaice*

The Review Group meets on a regular basis and is 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 Helena Gonzalez. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 28 February 2020.

Òganan recently announced they have secured additional accommodation within very close proximity of Taobh na Pàirce especially as demand for places continues to be high. This is a very welcome development providing Gaelic after-school care to more families within the Taobh na Pàirce community. An application has been submitted to The Care Inspectorate to provide an after-school club at Pilrig Park School. This school has excellent facilities and is a very short walk across the park. This service is scheduled to operate from 17 February. Parents will shortly be informed about arrangements for both settings.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new Òganan team members. Robbie Mackintosh and Euan Macdonald are both from Edinburgh and have recently commenced new roles. Òganan will provide more information on new staff in this terms newsletter.

A reminder that places are available for children aged 3-5 years at Òganan's early years provision. Òganan works in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to provide this service. Further details and visits can be arranged by contacting Òganan direct oifis@oganan.com

Òganan continues to operate a homework club and this term will also be adding a cookery club and a FilmG club to the activities on offer. The children's first aid club was a great success and the children really enjoyed learning lifesaving skills. It was encouraging to see the children engaging in developing practical skills such as the recovery position as well as understanding the

basics of a first aid kit. The Òganan team also spent time developing the children's Gaelic language skills for parts of the body and internal organs. Further sessions are being scheduled to ensure all the children can experience these sessions all of which encourage confidence and responsibility in the children.

Òganan continues to build connections with James Gillispie's High School (JGHS) and offers volunteer placement opportunities that may lead to a career in childcare. High school pupils are offered childcare training, feedback on interviews and opportunities to lead activity sessions with the children.

Two sixth year pupils at JGHS have recently commenced working with Òganan. Tawana Maramba and Amelia Monk were P7 pupils the year Taobh na Pàirce opened so it is encouraging to see these young people return to work with our children.

Acoustics group / *Buidheann fuaimearrachd*

The acoustics team have continued to make the case to improve the school's acoustics as the spaces do not meet WHO standards and this makes it challenging to hear properly. The group sent a letter to CEC in June 2019 requesting a timeline and scope for the Acoustics work at TNP but no response has been received. CEC failed to meet deadlines to install sound panels in the C7 classroom by the summer, then October and most recently the end of 2019.

The Parent Council Chairs wrote to the Executive Director for Communities and Families in September to underline our frustrations at the delay in C7 work. A subsequent commitment was given by CEC for the work to be completed by the end of 2019. While new furniture has been installed, and well received by pupils and staff, the acoustic treatment work has not been completed. As a result the Parent Council has sent a further letter to CEC - outlining the frustrations of parents, pupils and staff with the delay- copied to the 6 councillors who sit on the Gaelic Implementation Group (the forum which monitors the Council's delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan). The letter linked the delay to the C7 classroom, with the prior concerns raised around the four large spaces in the school requiring acoustic treatment and the potential to survey all classrooms for acoustic levels.

GME Development / *Leasachadh FtG*

Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant have been working with the City of Edinburgh Council and GME experts on the monitoring and delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) through the Gaelic Implementation Group forum - which is Chaired by Cllr Alison Dickie (Gaelic Champion). The creation of the GIG was a welcome development to ensure that the objectives of the City of Edinburgh Council's GLP are delivered with input from across the Council. Another welcome development has been the recruitment of a Gaelic Development Officer within the Council.

One of the main priorities of the GLP is the creation of a new Secondary School for GME in the city. The Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant worked closely with a large number of

volunteer parents organised into 4 themed working groups to establish key criteria to evaluate options proposed by the Council for the new school. Comann nam Pàrant secured funding for research into best practice in GME secondary provision, considering comparative examples of shared campuses in the UK.

A meeting is scheduled for the 22 January 2020 at Taobh na Pàirce, for parents to hear and respond to the Council's proposals. We would encourage as many parents as possible to attend the meeting as it comes at a critical junction in the journey towards realising a new dedicated secondary school for GME in Edinburgh City.

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.

This year we are no longer hiring a hall in the winter months as it was increasingly expensive, not large enough to accommodate everyone, and a difficult, noisy environment to coach in.

Subsequently, we are able to reduce the suggested annual contribution for ball coise - it is now £20 for one child and £30 for families of 2 siblings or more

Children are always welcome to give football a try – they are never too old to start when in primary school.

There is more information on the parent council website, including a sign-up form to our mailing list:

<http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/football--ball-coise.html>

We can also be emailed on tnp.ball.coise@gmail.com

C1-5 TnP Rionnagan (Stars) Soccer School for girls and boys

Each Saturday morning at 9am in Pilrig Park, girls and boys from C1 - 5 (and a few from C6) take part in a football coaching session. The aim is to provide a fun, safe and relaxed environment for the school kids to develop their football skills alongside their school mates with little pressure! Our numbers are strong, with between 50 - 60 kids taking part so far in 2019 / 2020.

Whilst we don't actively compete in any league, there is some competitive football available. Last May, a group of our C2 - 3 girls took part in the Sciennes tournament in the Meadows. They had a fantastic time despite the rain, performing really well to finish second in their group. We plan to take part again this year, whilst we are looking for further opportunities for one off tournaments and games in 2020.

All of the kids look forward to the end of year tournament, when they get to play teams from different age groups and parents from the school. A medal presentation in front of their peers provides them with encouragement and confidence. New players are always welcome to come along and try out! We are always looking for more kids to join so hopefully as the weather warms up, we will start to see more come along and try out.

C4-7 TnP Teine (Fire) girls teams

TnP Teine girls football teams are having a great year. Numbers are up and we have a C4/5 and a C6/7 team playing in Edinburgh Primary School girls football league.

The C4/5 girls have yet to win but are full of enthusiasm and getting better all the time. The C6/7 team is undefeated so far (a first!) and have had some cracking wins with lots of goals.

New players are always welcome so if interested we will be training at the meadows on Saturday mornings from 9:30, weather permitting. Please come along or email us on the address above for more info.

C6-7 TnP Sgeirean (Rocks/skerries) senior boys team

The senior boys train on The Meadows at 10:30am – 11:30am on the Meadows if there is no match on. Matches are in various locations in North Edinburgh, mostly at Wardie and Warriston.

Last year's P7 boys, most of whom had been playing together since P1, won the Glasgow heats of Cuach na Cloinne 5-a-side tournament, coming top from at least 16 teams and qualifying for the finals in Inverness. Unfortunately, they were not able to repeat the feat of the 2017 team by winning the finals!

Congratulations to the players of the current C6/7 boys' football team who have completed the first block of the Edinburgh Soccer 7s, meeting a range of teams from throughout north Edinburgh.

The boys have shown great dedication and determination in their matches and the C7s have shown themselves to be positive role-models in their dependability and focus, while the C6 players certainly demonstrate that the future of the team is in safe hands (and feet!). The players have even developed a Gaelic chant for their team huddle before matches! 2020 brings some training sessions and then Block 2 of the 7s. Well done and thanks to all players.



Photo - back (l - r) - Diego, Roddy, Huidai, Lachlan, Lachie-Alec, Archer
Front - Niall, Hector, John, Fraser
Missing from photo - Kirk, James and Malcolm

Shinty / *Camanachd*

Camanachd Dhùn-Èideann youth shinty club

Our youth shinty club continues to grow in stature, providing unequalled opportunities for our youngsters to engage in sport, our own culture, and to be part of a supportive community with inclusion at its heart.

This past year, we have achieved more than ever before. Our teams from P1 to P7 and into High School have risen to every challenge and shown themselves to be a match for any club. We have hosted premiere national events, and kept our community activity at the forefront of what we do.

We continue to strive to do more for our young athletes. A major ambition is to offer a full range of shinty opportunities for High School players, including at competitive level. We now offer a new regular Monday evening team training session for under-14s and under-17s, with S3 and under players participating in the successful Central Scotland youth programme, and our own under-14 Hope Park Cup in June open to teams from all over Scotland.

Training Sessions

Our Friday after-school training in Pilrig Park for Primary School players continues to be extremely popular. The session, coached by three CA qualified coaches, takes place from 12.45 to 1.45pm. We have capacity for 40 players, and much of the time we have to operate a waiting list for places. From school year 2020/21 we will only accept Clas 2/P2 players and above.

We continue to run Saturday morning open sessions on the Meadows, from 10.30 to 11.30am for younger, newer players (we welcome Clas 1/P1 players with a parent in attendance) and from 11.00 to 12.30 am for our older players (approximately P4 up to High School age). These sessions are a great social opportunity for parents to watch their players, meet others among the shinty community, and even to pick up a caman and have a go.

Our new under-14/under-17 team session started in August. This is open to all High School players including beginners, and invited experienced upper Primary School players, taking place on the Meadows from 6.00 – 7.30pm when daylight permits, and moving to the astro at James Gillespies High School from 5.00 – 6.00 pm from October to February.

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

Competition



Our teams compete in Central Scotland leagues, festivals and cup competitions, fielding teams at P1-3, P5 and under, P7 and under, and under-14. The aim of these tournaments is to gain experience of competition and to have fun.

Primary teams play indoors with indoor equipment during the winter season.

Our teams took part in a new competition sponsored by the MacAulay Association in June, the South World Cup, in Clydebank featuring strong teams from all over South Scotland. Our P7/unders reached the semi-finals, which was a great achievement.

We also again sent two teams to the Cupa Iomain na h-Òige, the annual tournament for Gaelic-medium schools, in Inverness. This was a fun day of full Gaelic immersion with players, parents, coaches and supporters using their Gaelic all day long.

This year we hosted tournaments on the Meadows, at Peffermill, and indoors at Bathgate. These were all hugely successful, attracting up to well over 100 players from across Central Scotland. We also had an enjoyable indoor season preparation session at Westwoods at Fettes.

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, the inaugural under-14 Hope Park Cup with teams travelling from all over Scotland to compete (won by Beaully), and plenty of community shinty
- A summer barbecue, shinty games and social
- The now traditional New Year shinty community shinty get-together on 2nd January

Camanachd Dhùn-Èideann invites anyone interested in finding out more about shinty to get in touch, and come and try!

Cycling / Rothaireachd

A Cycle Trainer Assistant (CTA) course was run by Mike Sutherland in September at school, qualifying a further PSA (Liam) and parent (Laura). The qualification enables delivery of L1 and L2 Bikeability. Mike Sutherland can deliver a further CTA course for parents and/or school staff between now and summer, this would be advantageous to the continued Bikeability delivery. Any interested parties please contact the parent council.

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 has delivered 100% availability to all C5 and C6 pupils over the last few years and this will continue.

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: chairs@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk

Mòran taing,

Comhairle nam Pàrant Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce