



# Aithisg Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail Comhairle nam Pàrant

## Parent Council AGM report

January 2021

### Introduction / Ro-ràdh

We are pleased to present to the Parent Council this AGM report summarising Parent Council activities in 2020. COVID restrictions for the majority of the year significantly limited the potential for activity and development in some of the groups and this is reflected in the reports. The report covers:

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



## Meetings / Coinneamhan

We had five meetings in 2020:

- 20th January (AGM)
- 11th March
- 24th June
- 16th September
- 18th November

Planned meetings for 2021 (others TBC):

- 3rd February (AGM)
- 17th March
- 12 May

Parent Council meetings up to and including March took place at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce at 19.15. The meetings attracted between 15 and 25 people. Meetings from June until the present took place on digital platforms due to COVID restrictions and attracted up to 60 people. Comments and questions from parents and carers could be added during the meeting using the chat function.

Minutes from our meetings can be accessed on the Parent Council website:

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

The traditional Friday morning follow up meetings, usually held in the Janitor's House at 11:30 for those unable to attend were put on hold due to COVID restrictions after the March 13th 2020 meeting.

### North East and South East Locality Meetings

The Parent Council has been active in cross-city engagement with other Parent Councils of Primary and Secondary schools, raising the school's profile, sharing information and engaging on a range of school issues. Through attendance on the North East and South East Locality meetings and with attendance at the CCWP (Consultative Committee with Parents), the PC has represented the interests of the school and parents.

## 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 2020 / Aithisg ionmhasail

We have £13,168.47 in the PnC bank account but £3,900.23 belongs to the acoustics fund.  
So £9,268.24 is available in the bank.

We have an additional £578.44 in the Paypal account. £489.21 came in thanks to the Feill Nollaig and will be transferred to the school. The remaining £89.23 relates to monthly donations set up by some of the parents.

So £9,357.47 is available at the start of 2021.

### Income in 2020

Summer Fair	£1,224.10
Christmas Fair	£578.44
Christmas cards	£936.02
Lottery	£1,486.40
Easy fundraising	£238.04
Edinburgh Council	£691
Donations	£258.23

### Expenditure

We gave £1,224.10 to the school after the Summer 'Fair'.

We bought the P1s jumpers (£544)

We paid out £936 to the SSS (quiet space; K-nex toys; tools for the garden; ball-coise).

### Expected expenditure

We have allocated a further £280 to the school for purchasing winter coats.

### Bonus SSS 2021

That will start on Friday and we will ask for submissions to be in by the end of the first week in



March. We will allocate double the usual amount (so £4,000) and hopefully applications can still be made looking forward to the end of Lockdown.

### **Previous years**

Although it is difficult to compare any year to last year, at the end of 2019 we had just over £10,000 in the bank but had committed almost £5,000 with money going to the school following the Feill and other SSS commitments.

## **Fundraising / Togail Airgid**

COVID restrictions and public health rules rather changed the face of fundraising at the school this year.

Caroline Daye did a fantastic job organising the production of Christmas Cards raising £936.02 for the school.

Easyfundraising is one of the easiest ways to make money for the school as you shop. We would encourage all parents to shop via their usual channels through the easyfundraising portal. In 2020, Easyfundraising generated £238.04 in funds. Log on at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bunsgoiltaobhnapairce/>

Families can choose to support the school by participating in the lottery. Tickets are £1 a week and the jackpot is £25,000. Winners can elect to keep their funds or to donate them back to the school. For every ticket played, 76% goes to the school. In 2020 the lottery raised £1,486.40 for school funds. Find out more and sign up at:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/bun-sgoil-taobh-na-p%C3%A0irce>

Some families have chosen to make direct donations to the school, usually via PayPal. These can be regular or one off. In 2020 donations raised £258.23 for school funds. Families wishing to donate in this way can do so via the PayPal link:

<http://paypal.me/CnPnTP>

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. School funding priorities are identified and agreed at meetings of the School Funding Group; a collaboration between teachers, staff and parents.



## Events / Tachartasan

The 5 main events that usually happen in the calendar year are:

- 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 social impact of COVID on our community has been challenging and it has not been possible to come together in person in the school since March 2020. As a result the PC is investigating how we might better connect our community and is investigating digital platforms, including Classlist, that may make this easier and more efficient.

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 and attract more families and raise more money year on year. COVID has had a significant impact and restricted the potential for conventional events fundraising. We boast a very creative and resilient parent body and lockdown saw the creation of an Events & Fundraising Team which undertook to deliver our 2 main events, the Fèill Samhraidh and Fèill Nollaig in digital form.

Thank you to everyone who made 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 participants in the digital makers market and those who gifted things for all the raffles this year and the parents who came together to organise them.

The money raised by the PC events in 2020 has been spent on a wide range of activities and materials that support and enhance our children's education. One major area of expenditure included the purchase of milk carton recycling bins for classrooms.

If you'd like to help out in anyway with events please get in touch with the chairs  
[chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)



## Acoustics / *Fuaimearrachd*

Prior to lockdown in March 2020, the Parent Council Chairs had progressed communication to improve school acoustics with Edinburgh Council after issuing a letter in January 2020 to the Executive Director for Communities and Families. A commitment was secured to improve the large Classroom during Easter 2020 - delayed work from summer 2019. Unfortunately this work was further delayed by Covid 19 and the lockdown in March 2020. On resuming school in Autumn 2020, the PC continued to press the Council for the acoustic treatment work of the large classroom. This was completed in November 2020, and reports from the school are that sound clouds have improved the environment and acoustic.

In the dialogue with the Council, the PC Chairs have also pressed for a commitment to the work on the four large areas previously identified – prioritising Sgoil Araich, halls lower and upper and the dining hall and a consideration the other large classrooms. The issue of acoustics has been raised by PC Chairs at the Gaelic Implementation Group (see section below for GIG) during the year. The Parent Council are very grateful to parents who have worked to support the case for improving school acoustics since 2015, particularly Rebecca Wober and Julie Gallagher.

The PC Chair had a meeting with CEC Officials in December 2020 and subsequently after consulting with the Headteacher submitted an Improvement Plan for Acoustics to the Council on 21 December 2020. The plan summarised the background/history, the main issues and proposed a timeline for work to be done on the four large spaces and consideration of other large classrooms. The Council are yet to formally respond, but on 1 February advised they are gathering the relevant information and will contact the school soon.

We will keep the parent forum updated with progress on this.

## GME Development / *Leasachadh FtG*

The work between Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant, 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 continues, Chaired by Cllr Alison Dickie (Gaelic Champion). COVID protocol means that GIG, established to ensure that the objectives of the City of Edinburgh Council's GLP are delivered with input from across the Council, did not meet in 2020. The last meeting was on 3 December 2019 and the group was recovered for a meeting held on 2 February 2021. Funding for the Gaelic Development Officer within the Council has been extended for 3 months from January 2021, and the Council is seeking further funding for the role.



One of the main priorities of the GLP remains the creation of a new Secondary School for GME in the city. The Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant have continued to work closely with parents on the Council's plans for a new secondary school.

After a quiet start to the Autumn, the council launched an informal consultation on the proposals of the new GME High School being built on a site shared with the new Liberton High School. During November anyone with an interest in GME was asked to read proposals and invited to feed back and send comments to the council. CnP in response arranged for a survey to be distributed to all parents and hosted a live Zoom group session for parents to work in focused groups to inform CnP response. There were 157 responses to the survey and 48 families signed up to the live event. On the basis of these activities CnP sent a response to the council. This was sent to all parents via parentmail in December 2020.

CnP are expecting an Outcome Report from the council during February. Once this is published CnP will hold further consultations to seek parents' response to the outcomes report and what next steps might be.

The PC continues to encourage as many parents as possible to engage with this process, input from GME families is critical. Families can sign up to the CnP list here:

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

## Parent groups / Buidhnean Parantan

### Outdoor learning space group / *Buidheann raon-cluiche*

The playground and gardening group has had a quieter year due to COVID. Money raised at the bake sale in 2019, unused in 2020 will be used for small projects going forward in 2021 – there's still a plan to get that orchard started!

We made holly and ivy wreaths for the playground before the Christmas break. The muddy mounds have been concreted over; it's a shame to lose potential growing space but, the drains were getting blocked so the move makes sense. Bulbs should be starting to come up so we'd like to remind everyone not to climb in the beds when you're next in the playground!

Once restrictions allow, 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](mailto: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](mailto:cptp.wraparound@gmail.com) or speak to Helena Gonzalez. Òganan are fully moved in to their additional accommodation Pilrig Park School and is now able to provide Gaelic after-school care to more families within the Taobh na Pàirce community.

Òganan works in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to provide for children aged 3-5. Further details and visits can be arranged by contacting Òganan direct [oifis@oganan.com](mailto:oifis@oganan.com)

As part of its service, Òganan operates a homework club, a cookery club, a FilmG club and first aid club. As restrictions lift, these clubs will begin again. The children enjoy them and they 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. When restrictions allow, sixth year pupils at JGHS will return to working with Òganan. Past Taobh na Pàirce pupils enjoy working with our children.

## Eco Group / *Bhuidheann Eag*

The water and milk carton recycling bins were ordered by the school, with the majority of the cost met by the PC and its fundraising efforts (many thanks all)! They were distributed to the classrooms during the first week of lockdown. These can be used by children currently receiving in-school provision and by all once we return. The plan is to begin to include milk carton recycling once school lunches are no longer in class, although older students should be able to start this immediately. This is due to the amount of additional work being done by teachers in the lower school to clean up and recycle school lunch containers.

## Sport / *Spòrs*

Covid restrictions in place since March 2020 have restricted the possibility of any school based extracurricular activity. This has been disappointing for pupils and volunteers and we are hopeful that the situation improves in 2021.





## 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.

Ball coise costs £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>

Or email: [tnp.ball.coise@gmail.com](mailto:tnp.ball.coise@gmail.com)

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

Out with COVID restrictions, 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, between 50 - 60 kids took part in 2019 / 2020.

### **C4-7 TnP Teine (Fire) girls teams**

New players are always welcome. Out with COVID restrictions, we train 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**

Out with COVID restrictions, 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.



## 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.

Prior to lockdown 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. Out with COVID Restrictions we 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 - Outside of COVID restrictions**

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. Please contact us for more info.

Details about sessions will be publicised once Covid restrictions are lifted.

#### **Competition**

Ordinarily 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.

#### **Social**

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

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



## Cycling / *Rothaireachd*

We now have 3 qualified Cycle Trainer Assistant (CTA's). The qualification enables delivery of L1 and L2 Bikeability. Further CTA training for parents and/or school staff could be arranged as restrictions allow, which is advantageous to the continued Bikeability delivery. Any interested parties please contact the parent council.

The school has delivered 100% availability to all C5 and C6 pupils over the last few years, as COVID allows, 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@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)

Mòran taing,

Comhairle nam Pàrant Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce