**St John’s Primary School Parent Council**

**Annual Report August 2018**

**First Parent Council meeting and AGM will be on**

**Monday 3 September at 7pm. Please come along!**

The Parent Council is comprised of parents from P1-P7, four members of staff, and two co-opted members. Office bearers are the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Web Secretary. All parents are welcome to join the Parent Council, there is no nomination or voting process to become a member.

The Parent Council held their Annual General Meeting on 4th September 2017 with general meetings during the 2017/2018 school year on 13th November, 12th March and 4th June. Minutes of the meetings are available on the school website.

**The role of our Parent Council from our constitution, is to:**

* support the school in it’s work with parents
* encourage links between the school, parents, pupils and the wider community
* represent the views of all parents

**Summary of Information on Parent Council meetings**:

At each Parent Council Meeting, we receive a Headteacher’s update from Mrs Hope and have the opportunity to discuss any matters of concern raised by parents. We have a role in monitoring the performance of the school and supporting improved attainment. The Parent Council also discuss the Fundraising Programme of Events, website content, new fundraising suggestions and plan how school funds should be spent.

All information relating to Parent Council activities is available at <http://st-johns-hamilton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/parent-council/>.

The Parent Council have a closed Facebook group which all parents are welcome to join, this can be a useful way of raising issues which you would like to have discussed at the meetings or making suggestions for events. Find us at ‘St John’s Primary School – Hamilton – Parent Council/Forum’

**Pupil Equity Fund**

St John’s has been allocated annual funding from the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) of £82,000. The fund is distributed by Scottish Government to tackle the poverty related attainment gap. Funds are spent directly by the Headteacher and having consulted with parents for ideas, St John’s have a number of new programmes and staff to achieve improvement.

**Fundraising at St John’s**

The Parent Council raised over £6,900 in 2017/2018 and contributed £5,600 to the School Fund. All money from the Parent Council is raised through our fundraising activities in the events programme. The Book Fayres helped raise £1,000 of vouchers for the school to buy books and £800 was raised through the school photos you purchased from Tempest. Areas where funds were spent by the school this year included :

* Managed service contract for the school iPads,
* ICT Refresh & equipment, including a printer & photocopying contribution
* Sports activities and festivals, including football, rugby, netball, athletics, Taekwon-Do, swimming, dance & drama sessions and additional uniforms
* End of term activities, Christmas parties & Panto and winning House prize
* P1 Book Bags, P7 Leavers ties and House badges
* Early Years outside activities and supplies for the Gardening Club
* Contribution to Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award Assessment cost

As you can see, our fundraising has a real impact on the educational experience for the children at St John’s and suggestions for expenditure are always welcome.

**Easy Fundraising**

St John’s is registered with easyfundraising.com. This is an easy way to raise funds for the school, as many major online retailers make a donation every time you make an online purchase. To date this has raised nearly £1000.

**School Website & Communications**

The technical members of the Parent Council continue to work on improving the school website. There has also been increased usage of Twitter by the school, which has a linked feed on the website. Unfortunately MySchoolApp is currently not available as a communication option. The Council are reviewing its compliance with data protection regulations and we await the results to determine if and when we can resume its use. In the meantime, the Parent Council and school will consult on how best to maximise existing communication tools - website, twitter, PC FB page and paper handouts.

**Finally...**

Thanks to all the Parent Council members who have moved on from Primary 7 this year.

Thank you to all parents for your help, donations and continued support. We look forward to welcoming new members of the Parent Council at our AGM in September.

**Wendy Christie**

**Chair of St John’s Primary School Parent Council**

The Parent Council Events Programme and Accounts for 2017/2018 can be found on our Website, along with details of money spent by the School Fund last year.

<http://st-johns-hamilton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/parent-council/>