

Papdale Parent Council Chair Report for AGM 21 September 2015

After the previous year being very hectic for Parent Council, we had a quiet year. Our school year started with a week at the end of August 2014 in the Blue Door Fundraising for the playground. A huge thank you must go to Carmen for organising it and to all the parents, grandparents, guardians and children who helped in any way. Also a big thank you to the staff from the Blue Door - we raised the amazing amount of £3272.39.

On Saturday 6th September I attended the Nancy Owen Awards for Play in Duthie Park in Aberdeen along with my children Morven and Luke. Unfortunately Papdale did not win anything but it was very interesting to see and hear about all the projects that are going on around Scotland.

Early October saw the Parent Council attend Parents Evening, and with our usual baking and raffle tables saw the Parent Forum support us again by buying up the baking and giving generously to the raffle.

November was our Christmas Party Night, which after having to be postponed (I would guess Mrs Bruce will have had one of her hardest weeks ever!) it went ahead and a huge thank you to Leah for organising it, and a reminder that it is going ahead again this year and will hopefully continue being an annual event for the Parent Council.

November also saw discussions held regarding the parking issues we have at Papdale. Gwenda Shearer, our local councillor, along with representatives from OIC and the Police visited Papdale at the end of a school day followed by a meeting to see how to go forward with trying to ensure our children's safety is the priority of everyone. A letter went out to the parent forum reminding them of their responsibility to park safely when dropping off children, particularly during bad weather. Parent Council will be reminding parents every year about this.

Catherine Johnson from Active Schools gave us a presentation about Positive Coaching Scotland and how it is hoped to bring the methodology of this to the schools in Orkney. It is something that the Parent Council support and it is hoped that Papdale will be seen to be using this in the future for all aspects of sport within the school.

In January myself, Margaret and Mrs Bruce attended an Internet Safety Session at KGS. This was very informative and we would recommend that as parents we all take an interest in how to protect our children online.

In March I attended the Head Teacher and Parent Chair annual meeting in the Ayre Hotel. This is a good opportunity to speak to and meet the other Chair persons from all the schools in Orkney. This year we had a presentation regarding bullying which was very informative, and how OIC are updating their policies to bring them in line with current legislation.

We also ran a movie themed disco for the children. This was well attended and a huge thank you to all who were involved, especially Lesley for keeping the children entertained.

We had our second session of parent's nights and the baking and raffles were again generously donated and bought up, thank you to all who manage to bake, long may it continue.

Parent Council have continued to support the football and netball within the school during the year. Our volunteer helpers are key to making this happen so please support them when you can. Our support of the maintenance and developments to the playground will continue as will our support to Mrs Bruce and the school. Just recently Parent Council have purchased 32 ipads for the school and this will allow the staff and children to have up to date IT equipment for use within the classroom.

Lastly can I thank Mrs Bruce, Mr Balfour, all the staff in the within the school (particularly the ladies in the office) and the committee members for all the help and support over the last year, and finally as a parent of the school for the last 15 years, I would like to add it is an fantastic school and I will miss it. Keep up the hard work - Lynette