

## **Balerno High School Parent Council Annual Report September 2013**

Welcome to our sixth annual report. Please note the use of the word parent throughout this report refers to all parents, carers and guardians.

The Parent Council (PC) has had another busy year discussing at its meetings many topics including the following:

### **New Initiatives at BHS**

The PC was delighted to be included in advance notice of new initiatives which transpired during session 2012-13. These included:

- S3 Project Dream: a whole-year, cross-curricular undertaking in partnership with The Royal Lyceum Theatre. Staff were rewarded for the excellence of quality of input on behalf of our children with 8 award from the General Teaching Council.
- Challenge Week: whole school initiative for last week of term which has seen dip in attendance in previous years. Focus was on Health and Wellbeing, Outdoor Learning and was constructed around the Outcome and Experiences framework of Curriculum for Excellence, so that the educational value of learning through fun activities was clearly identified from the outset. The PC contributed crockery and cutlery for the Big Breakfasts which formed an integral part of this week-long project.

### **Engaging with more parents in our Parent Forum**

- PC meetings took to the road this year visiting the villages of Ratho and Kirknewton, thus offering those living further afield the opportunity to hear about High School matters without having to travel to Balerno. 14 additional parents chose to join us on those occasions.
- Several topics were offered by staff for consultation during our meetings including Communications, Maths Website, Extended Learning Programme, CEC Vision for Schools, Reporting Systems, Mobile Phone Policy – this attracted 7 additional people
- Regular PC emails were sent out alerting parents to opportunities for engagement both within the school and at citywide level. Several parents contacted us via our group email or contact sheet on the PC website to share their comments, queries and suggestions.
- In October last year we encouraged a Focus Evening for S1 parents to share their experience of transition to High School. 6 new parents took advantage of this opportunity.

### **Fabric Repairs**

- The PC requested regular updates on progress to fabric improvements and contacted local councillors and CEC with particular concerns regarding the wind and waterproofing of windows in some areas of the school. We were delighted to see the school repainted with some new carpets, the aforementioned window repairs take place and ...

### **Consultative Committee with Parents (CCWP)**

A new structure was introduced in Edinburgh this year for the city's Parent Councils to be better represented at City Edinburgh Council level. Each Neighbourhood invited all its primary and secondary school PCs to send a representative to meet together locally and to respond to CEC consultations and share topics of local interest/concern. Three reps from this group, one from primary, one from secondary and one from special schools then attended meetings at the City Chambers with elected members and council officers. I would like to thank Aileen Macleod for attended on our behalf making sure that items such as the lack of adequate sporting facilities at BHS be taken to the central meeting for consideration. The benefit to families of streamlining school holidays across Local Authorities was also raised by BHSPC.

### **Parental Engagement Strategy**

Liz Carrie volunteered to take part in the working group looking at ways to encourage more participation by parents in the working life of schools in Edinburgh.

### **PC Website**

We continued to populate the pages of our website with information about developments within the school, at citywide and national level. I would like to thank Parent Forum member Sue Macleod for

her continued support in the background with maintenance of our website and group email facility. Also thanks go to John Thomas for helping to post items on our pages.

### Parents' Evenings

Parent Council reps were in attendance whenever possible. A powerpoint about the Senior Phase of the Curriculum for Excellence was on display twice and later posted on our website.

### Accounts

I would like to thank Liz Carrie for her ongoing support to the school and for her role as PC Treasurer keeping track of our funds.

Income 2012-2013	
Balance carried forward from 2011-2012	£1,446.33
Payment in lieu of Clerk fees	£ 240.00
Payment from CEC	£ 881.80
Interest	£ 0.68
Total	£2,568.81

Outgoings 2012-2013	
Website	£ 15.58
Donation to Big Breakfast	£ 150.00
Total	£ 165.58

Balance at 1st July 2013 £2,403.23

### Meetings

There are up to six PC meetings per school year. Meetings are attended by PC members and invited relevant persons. Meetings are open to all parents. When at Balerno High School, meetings are held at 6.00pm on Mondays in Room F10.

Parent members of the Parent Council Sept 2012-Sept 2013 have been:

1. Helen Purves	S5-6	Chair (retiring)
2. Liz Carrie	S3-4	Treasurer
3. Aileen Macleod	S5-6	Vice chair/Neighbourhood PC rep (retiring)
4. Kirsty MacKeown	S1-2 & S3-4	
5. Mike Humphries	S2-3	
6. Sally Gartside	S1, S3-4	
7. John Thomas	S1	Web management (retired May 2013)

Our co-opted member is Marion Milne from Balerno Community Council

Those invited to attend are:

- Graeme Sives, Head Teacher and Adviser to the PC
- Head Girl and Head Boy
- Two staff reps
- PTA Chair or rep
- Dean Park, Ratho and Kirknewton Primary PC Chairs or rep
- All three Pentland Hills Ward councillors

Minutes of the PC meetings are available on our website, the Parents' 03/09/2013Groups pages of the school website and on the notice board at the reception area at the entrance of the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents, school staff, pupils, invited stakeholders and Councillors who actively participate in Balerno High School Parent Council without whom the PC could not function.

Helen Purves  
Chair

An electronic version of this report is available on our website where you can follow the online links.

Websites and online resources:

Balerno High School Parent Council	<a href="http://www.balernohighschoolparentcouncil.org">www.balernohighschoolparentcouncil.org</a>
Balerno High School	<a href="http://www.balernochs.edin.sch.uk">www.balernochs.edin.sch.uk</a>
City of Edinburgh Council	<a href="http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk">www.edinburgh.gov.uk</a>
Education Scotland	<a href="http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk">www.educationscotland.gov.uk</a>
Scottish Qualifications Agency (SQA)	<a href="http://www.sqa.gov.uk">www.sqa.gov.uk</a>

Curriculum for Excellence

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/index.asp>

City Edinburgh Council – Consultative Committee With Parents

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2981/consultative\\_committee\\_with\\_parents](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2981/consultative_committee_with_parents)