

Wallace High Parent Teacher Network Meeting

Wednesday 22nd January 2014

Present:

Fara McAfee (Chair), Helen Hawthorn (Treasurer & Minute Taker), Scott Pennock (Head Teacher), Lynn Cooke, Alison McGregor, Maureen Firth, Kitty Gallan, Muhammad Afzal, Alison Notman, Jane Riley, Sandra Hayashibara

Apologies:

Gill King, Sarah Shaw, Kirsten Birkin, Jen Adams, Viv Hanson, Donna Harris

Matters Arising

Mr Pennock gave an update regarding email addresses. The school will be requesting email addresses from all parents and will ask for permission for these to be used by the PTN for communication purposes.

Burns Night

Only 9 tickets have been sold to date. Unless 50-60 tickets are sold by Friday the event will be cancelled.

The Burns Poetry competition will go ahead as usual on 29th January. Discussion took place regarding Burns Night 2015, ideas put forward included changing to a daytime event or putting the date back to February.

Action: PTN to issue Burns Night reminder email ASAP.

Fundraising/Allocation of Funds

Mr Pennock reported that funds of nearly £3,000 were raised at the School Winter Fayre.

The climbing wall will be delivered to the school shortly and work will begin on the running track in May, which will be ready for the start of the new school year in August. Funding from Sport Scotland will be used for the running track.

The school has purchased furniture for the English department and is planning to order new tables and chairs for the social area. A number of school uniforms have also been bought.

There was discussion around opportunities for fundraising for the Wallacea Trip planned for senior pupils in 2015.

PTN Insurance

It was agreed that the PTN would get insurance cover.

Action: Mr Pennock to speak to Mr Ramsay re insurance.
Fara to contact SPTC regarding the cover they offer.

PTN Banner

It was agreed that a PTN banner would be purchased for use at events.

Action: Mr Pennock to obtain details of school banner supplier.
Gill to email parents asking for contacts/sponsorship for banner.

Fashion Show 19th March & Spring Concert 2nd April

PTN to provide refreshments at both these events.

Action: Helen to organise alcohol licenses.

Treasurer's Report

PTN funds total £1,404

Options considered for using PTN funds included:

- Equipment for Duke of Edinburgh expeditions
- PTN Trophy/Award, possibly for S4 pupils

- Funding for taster events using external suppliers

It was agreed that the PTN would sponsor an award for the S4 year group.

Action: PTN Award to be an Agenda item for next meeting.

Parent/Carer Questions

Preparation for new Higher 2015: Mr Pennock was asked whether the school is intending to proceed with the new Higher courses for 2014/15.

The intention is to proceed with the new courses unless there is a compelling argument against this, for example if it would be disadvantageous to pupils. It is likely that the vast majority of new courses will be in place.

Practice papers for National 5 exams: It was highlighted that some books of practice papers were not yet available for students.

School of Sport: Mr Pennock was asked why the School of Sport was for S1-S3 pupils only.

This is to ensure that pupils are not extracted from exam classes. There are additional courses such as Sports Leader available for students in the senior phase.

Scot card: The age requirement for the scot card scheme was discussed.

Head Teacher's Report

- Wallace High School won the National School of Sport Award and was cited in Parliament in recognition of this achievement.
- In partnership with Prudential (Stirling) the school won the Prudential UK Team Volunteer of the Year Award at the Prudential National Awards.
- National Holocaust Day (27/01/14) will be hosted by Wallace High students at the MacRobert. The students will compere the event and act as ushers. There will be a number of notable speakers, some of whom will also visit the school.
- Big Noise Trip to Venezuela. 20 Wallace High pupils enjoyed an amazing trip to Caracas where they performed with Venezuelan musicians at the concert hall conducted by

Gustavo Dudamel. The trip is the subject of a BBC documentary which is to be aired in February.

- This is a busy term with course choices for S3 and S4 pupils and prelims for students in the senior phase.
- Uniform. The school is requesting the support of parents with regard to uniform, particularly in the colour of footwear.
- An Edinburgh University study into the impact of the School of Sport on participating students has reported very positive results to date, showing improved wellbeing and resilience. Full results will be reported in due course.

AOB

PC Liz Brown will be visiting the 5 feeder primary schools over the next few months to speak to P7 pupils about internet safety. This will form part of the transition process.

Next PTN Meeting Thursday 27th March @ 7.30pm