**Parent Partnership Meeting**

**Wednesday 9th October 6pm**

In attendance: Leigh Henderson, Ian Armstrong, Hayley Birchmore, Jenny Donaldson, Nicola McEwan, Susan Henderson, Jess Day, Su Duthie, Marna Mesbahi

**Treasurer update**

Dress down day was a success; many took part and enjoyed it. The suggested donation is £1 but if not possible all agreed it’s still great to see kids getting involved and supporting the idea. The total raised is to be split between school funds and a charity to be chosen by the Pupil Council.

**School update**

As per the recent newsletter, Ian Armstrong and Nicola Sloan are to become Acting Deputy Headteachers.

Chris Howie we presume will be off for the remainder of the academic year. There will be an advert for a temporary class teacher. Leigh Henderson and Amanda McConnachie will cover P4a until the position is filled.

Lots of parents and pupils have been asking after Mr Howie, requests have been made for a card and gift to be sent from the PPG. All present felt this would be a lovely thing to do. Marna will organise this.

The Student Council have said they are happy to have the PPG along to one of their meetings to discuss fundraising/fundraising causes. Their first meeting will be on Friday 1s t November.

Mr Armstrong has taken the opportunity to speak with the kids about the role of charities and help them come up with nominations for us to support.

It was suggested that it would be good to support a local charity the added benefit of this being that there may be opportunities for ongoing links between that charity and the school.

There are 2 exciting events planned at Strathesk next term: a Bullying Workshop whereby students and parents will be invited to come along and discuss what bullying is, how we work together to address this and promote the positivity that the students have regarding the lack of bullying at Strathesk. This will take place on Thursday 24th October 4-5pm.

There will also be a careers event. Parents, carers, local business people etc, will be invited along to give presentations/run workshops for students about their work. It is hoped this will inspire our young people and link in with the school values of Success and Ambition

On this theme, following our last PPG, word reached one of Strathesk’s former pupils who is now Head Boy at Penicuik High School. He has very kindly agreed to come along to school assembly to speak with our young people. We know that there will be many former pupils from Strathesk who have gone on to do great things and we’d like to invite others to come back, share their experiences and inspire our students. An idea for a “Where are they now?” social media campaign was suggested in the hope that other former pupils might come forward.

Halloween

The Halloween Disco for P4-7 will be held on Wednesday 30th October from 5 30pm to 7 30pm. Entertainment will be, kindly, provided by Chaplin’s Disco. Tickets will be £1 on the door and this will include a drink and a snack. We would appreciate some parents/carers to help out on the night. If you can help, please speak with a member of the PPG or make contact via Classlist or the Strathesk Facebook page.

We are planning a Halloween themed Dress Down Day on Friday the 1st of November for the whole school. The PPG will provide a drink and a snack for P1-3, in class, that morning which will be included in their £1 Dress Down Day donation.

The nursery will be having their Halloween Party on Thursday the 31st of October.

**Christmas Fair**

Planning is in full swing. The format will be similar, following the great success of previous years.

Letters will go out to parents soon after Halloween detailing the date, raffle prizes and inviting donations for the class hampers and offering the few remaining stall places to parents/those with links to the school.

We are hoping to have hot food at the Fair this year. We are unable to use the school kitchen because it is owned by a private company therefore we are currently investigating outside catering options.

We would love more donations to the Home Baking Stall this year. It is always hugely popular and supplies run out quickly. To encourage this, we are suggesting a Strathesk Christmas Bake Off Competition. All budding John Whaites and Nadiya Hussains should hand their entries into the school office the Thursday before the Fair, for judging. The winner will be announced at the Fair and all the entries will be available to buy at the Home Baking Stall. We anticipate a (friendly) stampede so, by way of a traffic calming measure we will move the Home Baking Stall through to one of the community rooms at the front of the school, beside the teas and coffees.

**Christmas Cards**

Members of the PPG have all received and treasured printed Christmas Cards designed by young family members at school. We thought it would be nice to offer this, again, to Strathesk students and their families with the added benefit of raising some funds for the school. We are interested in working with the company Xmas4schools to provide this opportunity. Children will design their cards in school, with the help of our art specialist, before the 18th of November. Parents and carers will have the chance to preview their child/children’s work and order cards before they are sent for printing. Cards will be returned 10-14 days later.

**AOB**

We were introduced to Wild Planet Explorers, created by Jo McFarlane. She is a biologist and conservationist who has written and presents a series of workshops to inspire young people to enjoy and protect nature and the environment. She would very much like to come and do some sessions at Strathesk and she would love our living roof! We hope that, after liaising with the Eco Committee, Jo will be able to visit at some time to complement future, related, areas of study.

Students respond well to visiting educators. They have really enjoyed visits from Bookman in the past (he’s due to return next month) and in January the P4s are being treated to a performance of a WWII themed play by a theatre company called Catherine Wheels. The PPG acknowledge the importance of these memorable experiences to enhance learning and we are fully committed to financially supporting these events, as far as we can, through fundraising.

**For the future**

Similar to the personally designed Christmas Cards we are offering this year we discussed having class tea towels printed for the end of term. These would be lovely keepsakes to collect as the children move through the school and would, again, provide an opportunity for raising some funds.

The Christmas Fair is so successful each year it would be nice to think that we could host another school event during the Spring Term; perhaps a Spring Fair, a school barbecue or some other kind of event? To be discussed further.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday the 20th November, 6pm, at Strathesk. All welcome.

S Henderson 13/10/19