

Dalkeith High School Parent Council

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Present: Allyson Dobson (AD), Caroline Pearson (CP), Cath Stewart (CS), Gail Preston, Nicola Johnson, Pauline Dickson, Diane Hedlund, Anne Murray, Morag Ryan, Deborah Slater

Apologies: Stuart McDonald, Stephanie Heasman, Marianne Flockhart, Carolyne Ross, Phil Bowen

Welcome: Caroline Pearson (Chair) welcomed everyone

Approval of previous minutes: Approved

Presentation to Anne Murray: CP presented Anne Murray with flowers to thank her for her many years of service to DHS PTA and Parent Council, latterly as Treasurer. Her contribution has been much appreciated by all and she will be sorely missed.

PTA Update:

The PTA raffle was drawn at the meeting, the prize winners are listed below. The school office will contact winners and prizes can be collected from the office. Grateful thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets on behalf of the PTA. The sum of £750.00 was raised.

£100 cash prize from Just In I.T company - Norrie Kristoffersen
4 ball golf voucher from Newbattle Golf Club - G Brood
10" 8GB tablet donated by Tesco - Roxburgh family
Cut and Blow dry from Chapter One Hair Spa - Benito McCathie
Voucher for the The Paper Mill Lasswade - Sue Dunlop
4 Fort Douglas Dalkeith County Park Vouchers - Hayley Smith
Voucher from Peaches Eskbank - Graeme Whitley
Cake voucher from Kareen Sharp Flowerbox Cake - G Chapman
£80 voucher for Three Birds Restaurant/The Educated Flea Restaurant/The Apiary Restaurant - Louis Tricard
2 hour clean from Broom services - Sandra McMurchie
£20 voucher from Daisy Chain, Newtongrange - L Campbell
Bottle of Scottish Parliament Whisky - Rory Duncan
£30 voucher for the Justinlees Inn - Heather Docherty
Bottle of Anna Sui perfume - Sue Gracie
Morrisons (Dalkeith) chocolate hamper - David Law
Bottle of wine (1) - David Glodek
Bottle of wine (2) - Charlie Tricard
Box of chocolates - Lisa Begley

This year the PTA has raised over £2000 through a number of different events including two supermarket bag packs and the raffle. The PTA felt it was very

important in fundraising to have the motivation of a clear milestone as a target. This year the main target was benches so looking for guidance on the next target from the Pupil Voice (from next session to be known as the Pupil Leadership Team – PLT). It is hoped that the PLT will work with the PTA on fundraising initiatives next year. The PTA is also hoping to recruit more parents to help.

AD again expressed her appreciation of everything the PTA has been doing to raise funds. A great amount has already been raised in a short space of time and she really appreciates all the hard work and support given by the PTA members. These sentiments were echoed by all at the meeting.

Feedback from last Pupil Voice meeting:

Cath Stewart kindly attended the Parent Council to update parents on the Pupil Voice. The focus of their latest meeting was health and well-being so they discussed what makes good health, including diet and lifestyle, what makes good mental health and there was a discussion around who the pupils feel able speak to about their health both in term time and during holidays from school. CS was delighted that the discussion demonstrated how supportive, conscientious and considerate the pupils are. This is very important as a lack of mental and emotional well-being can be a major barrier to pupil's learning.

Head Teacher Update

- AD explained that the timetable for next year is about to be finalised by Julie Bones. To allow time for the health and well-being awards in first year there will be a redistribution of the first year timetable through rotation of some subjects.
- **Staffing Changes:** new appointments have been made in music (Holly Little) and CDT (Vic Leggat). Interviews for the geography post were scheduled for the day after the Parent Council meeting. There will be NQTs in biology, chemistry, history and PE
- **Feedback from VSE (validated self-evaluation) visit:** AD presented the feedback as a PowerPoint presentation sharing the key strengths and weaknesses identified. A summary of this information is available for all parents to see on the school website:
- <http://dalkeith.mgfl.net/category/news/>

AD is very pleased with the outcome of the VSE, as many strengths have been highlighted, and is always looking to learn from good practice in other schools to inform future improvements.

P7 welcome evening

This will take place on 1 June. CP and NJ will speak at the event to encourage the new S1 parents to get involved in both the Parent Council and PTA. In particular a new treasurer and secretary are needed. Refreshments will be provided by PTA.

AOCB:

- CS informed the meeting that maths teachers from some of the cluster primaries would be coming to visit DHS. The aim is to improve links and aid the transition for P7 pupils into S1. CS is also hoping to go and visit the primaries.
- There was a question about outside organisations coming into school to help with practical skills like interview technique. AD responded.

The meeting was closed.

Provisional Parent Council meeting dates 2017/18:

AGM 12 September 2017

26 September 2017

14 November 2017

16 January 2018

27 February 2018

24 April 2018

29 May 2018