**Strathblane Parent Council Newsletter**

**S p r i n g T e r m 2 0 1 6**

**Hello and welcome…**

..to our first newsletter of the year – a great opportunity to let you know what we have been up to and what – with your help we hope to achieve in the coming months.

We’ve had some feedback that not everyone is aware of what the Parent Council does so with that in mind….

**So who are we?**

We work in partnership with our school… our active Parent Council is made up of representatives from parents and carers and teaching staff. We meet formally six to eight times a year with an AGM in September. Anyone can come along to meetings and will always be made very welcome.

**Diary Dates**

* Own Clothes Day, Fri April 1st
* Welly Day , Sat 14th May
* Disco, Fri May 27th
* Crazy Hair Day, Fri June 10th
* Summer Fair Sat June 11th

 **What do we do?**

We work out ways to support the school in planned fundraising events. Last year, with your help, we raised thousands of pounds for the school and nursery – helping to fund the Grounds Project and buy classroom equipment. Money raised also bought other extras like food for Christmas parties and subsiding travel costs for school trips. We receive fantastic support from all of you – from making and donating stuff for our summer and Christmas fairs to turning up to make fundraisers fun community events.

**Playground markings**

Thanks to parent Steven McCooey and Balfron High school students for staging the sponsored sports event at school this term. The children, and their sponsors, raised a phenomenal £1,165 for playground markings – school badges and lines for a netball court.

Work was meant to be carried out over the Easter weekend but bad weather stopped play before it even began. Watch this space for an update.

 **Monthly fundraisers**

The fundraising committee is planning to stage some money spinning events every month to raise cash to buy playground equipment – something the children themselves asked for. It all kicks off with an **Own Clothes Day** this Friday April 1st – it’s no joke. For a donation children can pitch up to school in their own clothes.

In May the team is planning a **Disco** on the 27th and on June 10th, again for a donation, children can go mad with their hair on **Crazy Hair Day.** These will be great ways to raise money for the school and we hope you can help support us – remember it all kicks off this Friday with a non-uniform day.

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![C:\Users\kenny.mcguinness\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\H1K507IP\spring-wellington-rain-boots-set-24206126[1].jpg]()**Spring Welly Day –**

**Saturday May 14th 12-4pm**

This is one of several welly events organised by the Grounds Group. We are so lucky to have such great outdoor space for the children and are grateful to the Grounds Group for all their hard work maintaining and improving the space. Everyone is welcome to come along and help – you don’t need to have any particular skills – just enjoy this family fun event. Come along to the school grounds for just an hour or stay all afternoon. We gratefully welcome donations of soup or cakes too for the workers!

**Summer Fair to help upgrade the IT Suite**

This year’s summer fair is on June 11th and money raised will go towards upgrading our IT suite. There will be something for everyone including a giant bouncy castle, jazz band and petting zoo. And wooden spoons and icing sugar at the ready - our Bake Off completion is back by popular demand. We don’t want any soggy bottoms so fingers crossed for good weather.

**The Fundraising Committee Needs You**



The fundraising committee is run by a small, dedicated team of parents who will need help in staging money spinning events. The summer fair, which always raises a substantial amount of cash for the school, is a huge undertaking and is only ever made possible by parents and carers supporting the fundraising committee. We will need you! If you can help in the run up or on the day please get in touch with Laura Jones or Vic Gillan.

**Granting wishes for a Bike shed**

Some thank yous now. Thanks to Jill MacGregor and Rachel Allen for filling out Co-Op grant applications. Despite Jill doing lots of work sadly her application for IT equipment wasn’t successful this time round. So the gold star goes to Rachel’s winning entry towards the lovely shiny new bike sheds.  Thanks too to Jennifer Alexander for her work on the Sustrans grant and the Parent Council for donating cash towards the project.   We know the money has been well spent on the red shelters which are already getting lots of use.

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Strathblane Story

Our school celebrates its 50th birthday in October. Mrs Cassidy and Miss Spencer have met with Mr Smith from The Smith Gallery to discuss some exciting events to celebrate this milestone. They have asked the Parent Council to support the event with a £1,500 donation towards the cost of the venture.

More detail will come from Mrs Cassidy about the plans which will involve members of the local community, parents, staff and children who have any past or present connection to the school. We are happy to support this event and very much look forward to birthday celebrations later in the year.

Some other ideas

In the next few weeks we want to trial the idea of classroom reps –parents or carers who will be happy to support the Parent Council passing on information to others in their year group.

And of course if you have any fundraising ideas please do get in touch.

Check out the Parent Council page on the school website [www.strathblaneps.com](http://www.strathblaneps.com)

Next Parent Council meeting is on May 12th at 7.15pn