



Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant -

Parent Council

Yearly updates for AGM

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1) Aithris na Cathraichean - Update from the Chairs

The chairs work to support the Parent Forum both within the school and in representation externally.

Internal

· School Events

We have attended and met with parents at various school events, both those organised by the school (like the C1 welcome events, Cafaith Gaidhlig and Christmas concerts) and those we have organised (like the C1 welcome picnic, Feill Samhraidh and ASN coffee mornings). It is lovely to help out and to hear views from parents at different stages.

· Meetings with Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Informed by speaking to parents both in person and by email/Classlist, we meet regularly with the school SLT to feedback issues and concerns and to offer parental perspective on their planning.

· Small Sums

The redesign of the small sums scheme to a continuous open stream of funding has been successful so far and we are pleased to have seen applications for the Young Carers groups



and for matching team t-shirts so far. We would encourage any parent or member of staff with an idea that needs some funding to get in touch.

- **Classlist**

Classlist offers a space to replicate chatting with other parents in the playground and would encourage parents to use this to share information as much as possible. Classlist is not used by staff so it is not the correct forum to raise individual complaints; these should be directed to the school.

External

- **Consultative Committee with Parents**

This is a meeting for Parent Council Representatives from across the city to discuss issues affecting schools with Council Officers. Topics this year have included mobile phones in schools, the iPads used in class, ParentPay, Residential Trips and support for ASN. As other schools have been experiencing issues caused by falling rolls, we have been able to raise the issues caused by our increasing roll.

- **Gaelic Learning Board**

This board is attended by stakeholders in Gaelic learning across the city. This includes primary and high schools, Parent Councils and Croileagan. This Committee works to ensure the Council is meeting its obligations as set out in the Gaelic Language Plan.

- **Gaelic Collaborative Forum**

This forum is attended by Councillors, Council Officers, national cultural bodies, community organisations and educators across the city. A particular issue for us was the increasing roll at TnP and the impact on pupils. We were able to raise this as a concern, alongside similar concerns from the school itself and the high school parent council. As a result of this, a separate short life working group has been formed to discuss the future of GME in Edinburgh.

- **Gaelic Strategic Development Short Life Working Group**

The short life working group is discussing the future of GME in Edinburgh. There is to be a further meeting before our AGM. We are pleased the Council are actively looking at how best to support the continued growth of GME in the city. There is a need to do this without compromising on the quality of education offered against a backdrop of too few sgoil-araich places, rising rolls at TnP and JGHS and difficulty in recruitment of Gaelic speaking staff.

Thanks



- Many parents work behind the scenes to support our children and the school community. We are sure we will miss some here, but thanks go to all of the Gaelic Ambassadors, the parents who facilitate football, shinty, chess, SU and gardening as well as those who volunteer on school trips or help with the library.
- Thanks to Liz, Becka, Slavka, Sofia, Inna, Sarah and Bonnie for their work in organising the Fèills and Halloween party. Thank you to all those who volunteer at events on the day!
- Thanks to Catriona for taking on lost property, Rachael Tullo for her remarkable fundraising efforts, Heather for sorting out the criminal background checks, Amanda for keeping everything right with the accounts and Victoria for keeping everything organised.
- Thanks as ever to the fantastic teachers who work so hard to make school engaging for all of our children.

Finally,

- **Get involved** in the Parent Council. Could you run an event (Santa run, games night, film night, party, something epic)? Could you become chair? Would you like to be a class rep or just tell us what you think? Please speak to us any time in the playground, drop us an email or a message on classlist.

Mòran taing,

Caroline and Nerissa

2)Safeguarding

The PC has added the role of Safeguarding coordinator for 2025/26 as recent legislation means that all parent council volunteers undertaking work with the children need to be PVG checked through the parent council. Parantan Taobh na Pàirce is now a registered body and we have begun completing PVG checks on our committee members and volunteers.

So far we have PVG checked 11 volunteers, including committee members, school fair and disco volunteers, as well as a parent who is helping to manage lost property.

The Safeguarding Coordinator (Heather McGibbon) has undertaken training with Volunteer Scotland and will continue to receive guidance and support from them as needed.



In the coming months we hope to PVG check more volunteers who can serve regularly at parent council events, as well as provide a pool of PVG checked parents who can help ad hoc via the parent council when the school needs volunteers for events or tasks.

3) Togail Airgid agus Tachartasan - Fundraising and Events

Since the AGM last year, a number of events and fundraising activities took place.

A uniform, toy, book and cake sale in Pilrig Park on a Friday afternoon in March raised a substantial amount of money for a small event and was well attended.

After that, focus shifted to the planning of the Fèill Samhradh, which was a big success, especially as the rain (mostly) held off. Volunteer numbers were low for this event, especially the planning stages, so a push for further volunteers is required. A rethink of how events are planned would be welcome, allowing for greater inclusion of the wider parent body.

At the beginning of the new school year, the P1 welcome picnic was held in Pilrig Park. With almost 100 families welcomed, it was attended by 30-40, a mix of new and old families.

Just before the Partaidh Oidhche Shamhna, a Halloween sale was held in the school playground, selling witches hats and cakes. Almost all hats were sold, and provided another small boost of funds for the school.

The Partaidh Oidhche Shamhna itself was well attended, with the addition of a number of games. The number of volunteers on the night was very low, prompting calls for further assistance to ensure the event can run safely in future years.

The last event of the year was the Fèill Nollaig. Due to illness within the school population, it was decided to cancel the event, a day before it was due to happen. Despite the disappointment, parents have expressed understanding in the cancellation, as the risk of spreading illness was too high. To mitigate the lack of the event itself, a number of small alternative events were held throughout December, mostly at school Christmas concerts.

The main raffle was drawn a week after the event, with results published on classlist and prizes available to pick up from the school playground.

Mini-raffles took place at C1 and C2 concerts, where there were three prizes available, all a selection of a game, some colouring materials and some sweet treats. Parents reacted positively to this addition, and it encouraged parents to stick around and have a coffee after the concert!

Many of the sweets collected for the Fèill were donated to the school for them to use at their own class halloween parties. Other donated items have been kept for use at a future event.

4) Gardening Collective

While the outgoing group were increasingly unable to donate as much of their time as previous years we still managed to achieve plenty before the summer holidays:



- Propagator project

A member of the gardening group met with each separate class in the school (except p7s due to the usual Ben Mor clash) and helped each child make a paper pot from waste paper, fill it with soil and plant a flower or vegetable seed in it.

These were then kept in a propagator in their classrooms and the children were told how to nurture their seedlings and the teacher was given an information sheet. When the seedlings were big enough classes arranged to come out and plant them in the raised beds with a member of the gardening group.

This is the second year this has been run after an investment in equipment funded by the PC.

The importance of the project is not only to give kids the positive experience of nurturing a seedling but for the gardening group to engage with each child multiple times to remind them not to tread on the beds or destroy the plants and give them some personal ownership of the space.

- Willow cuttings

All c1-3 classes were also given a talk about the willow and given willow cuttings in a glass of water for their classroom to watch the roots grow and later plant out.

- Playground engagement

In addition to this group members engaged children in activities like weeding, digging, litter picking, sweeping up leaves, drawing on the planters with chalks, making gaelic and english signs to encourage nurturing of the flower beds, sweeping and spreading new soil.

- Birdfeeding

The gardening group put up some donated birdfeeders and a bird box and refill them occasionally.



- Eco group liaison

Some liaising was done with the eco group about how to develop the old sand pit area however the eco group have not actioned this yet.

Since the summer holidays all but one of the old group have moved onto other things. There is some delay while new enthusiasts get their PVG sorted and currently only two people commit to coming fairly often.

They have :

- Picked any apples with children at playtime
- Given all the p1-3 classes a gardening tour in the autumn before things went dormant.
- Engaged with the children on a few playtimes to pick apples, scrape back wood chips from the bulbs and get them to help with tying in willow.
- Pruned the willow with the help of some p7s.

Pruning and replanting the willow to strengthen and thicken the existing fence has to be done in February every year and usually takes a team of 5 adults at least 3 mornings to complete.

Since there are only two of us we only replanted the bare minimum (as this is time consuming and hard work) and decided to tie in unrooted horizontal branches instead to reduce the destruction by children ripping out new plantings and pushing new holes through the fence.

Unused large pieces were donated to sgoil-araich to plant more themselves.

Hopefully next year there will be more helpers to replant the fence properly.

Looking ahead

We have discussed re-running the propagator project again but we are not sure it is viable with so few parent volunteers. Any engagement requires a minimum of 2 adult volunteers for safety and coherence.

We will discuss alternative options for making the garden look nice but there is lots of enthusiasm with the children to grow their own seeds so we will see what we can do.



We may get younger children growing their own spider plant cuttings or get them to sow seeds directly into the beds.

If you can spare an hour a month or even half an hour at playtime and can get your PVG sorted with the school asap we would love to hear from you. No gardening experience required, just enthusiasm! You will always be teamed up with someone else. We are currently flexible on what day and time we meet and some after school sessions with the Oganan kids would also be a great thing to do.

Tnpgardening@gmail.com

Buidheann Gàirnealairachd nam Pàrantan

(The Parents' Gardening Group)

5) Ball-coise

CnP offered funding from the small sums scheme to help Ball-Coise with kit storage, however as you may be aware there were difficulties with the school regards changes to Council insurance policy meaning we could not go ahead with this. Other kit purchases this year have come from the subs collected for regular players (£20 p.a. or £35 for 2 or more kids).

Ball-Coise has a pool of 27 parent volunteers (all PVG checked through the Oifis na Sgoil!) who undertake all the organisation and activities. Our main activities are weekly coaching on a Saturday morning, open to all from C1-C7, usually at Pilrig Park next to the school. We took counts after the start of the new school year to monitor who was coming along, we were averaging ~90 players of all ages, a split about 1/3 girls to 2/3 boys. A big focus of the coaching group has been trying to balance the demographic and encourage more girls to take part, to build on the success that the current C6 & 7 girls had last year in the schools tournament. A few years ago we had the opposite problem and it was boys we had to encourage.

We have been lucky this year to secure access to the hitherto unused all weather pitches at Victoria PS in Newhaven (through the pressure of a couple of TnP parents who are in the Ball-Coise organising group) for a couple of months in the worst of the winter weather which



allowed us to keep going when the surface at Pilrig was unplayable. This has kept attendance up when normally it tails off at this time of year.

For much of the term the boys and girls represent the school in weekly matches against other Edinburgh schools, the Teine team for C6-7 girls has a group of ~20 regular players and C5, C6 and C7 boys each have a team (total group of ~35).

For the rest of the year our plans are to continue trying to keep attendance up, improve our match performance and also to take part in a number of tournaments, in May we have the CnaG "Cuach na Cloinne" 5-a-side tournament against other GME schools in Glasgow and we will send a number of teams to represent the school and the city! There are also a couple of other Edinburgh schools football tournaments in May and June this year in which we will represent. We will end the year as we always do, with the grand Stramash in Pilrig Park where all players, coaches and parents are encouraged to take part in a series of friendly games, there are prizes for all and special awards given out to players from all the older age groups for Coaches' Choice, Players' Choice and Most Improved.

6) Iomain/Shinty

Regular sessions

Over the course of 2025, the club held 35 sessions on a Friday afternoon after school on Pilrig Park. We have seen numbers increase to a regular 15-18 participants every week (up approximately 25-35%) out of a pool of around 40, allowing us to separate groups by age and deliver coaching that is more focused to their appropriate level.

In March 2025, the club was awarded £350, which helped us meet the additional £650 cost incurred by the club in paying for an additional Gaelic-language coach. His involvement allowed us to run the sessions consistently while we sought to establish the longer term viability of the Friday sessions, and with a focus on using the language outside of the classroom.

Additional activity

The club has been able to support the school's Seachdain na Gàidhlig activities by providing shinty sessions to approximately 180 pupils in February 2026. We also facilitated the participation of a representative team from the school at the South of Scotland Gaelic Shinty Sixes, where prizes are given not just for sporting merit but also for good use of Gaelic.

Future activity

With the Friday sessions now involving enough regular participants to be viable going forward, we will continue to build numbers. To do this we will need more parent volunteers to provide cover and supervision. In addition, while we have greatly increased the number of players, it has been harder getting players to join the club which gives the club the financial capacity to provide equipment and coaching.



We will continue to promote the work the club does in this regard, and its efforts to provide opportunities to use the language and raise awareness of the culture associated with shinty. Any support the Parent Council can provide in ensuring parents are aware of this will be greatly appreciated.

7)Oganan

Òganan Review – Parent Council AGM Report

The Òganan Review Group continues to meet **2-3 times** throughout the year. The group provides a valuable opportunity for parents to discuss provision directly with Òganan, share ideas, and offer constructive feedback. We are pleased that the group is represented by parents from across the whole school community, from Early Years nursery through to Primary 7, including families who make use of the very popular holiday club provision.

The Review Group is pleased to report that Òganan performed well at its most recent inspection (December 2024), achieving *Good* ratings across all areas inspected. Children, parents and staff were all invited to contribute to the inspection process, and the feedback gathered from every group was overwhelmingly positive.

Inspectors made particular note of the strength and development of the staff team, commenting that they “*were compassionate, friendly and had built meaningful relationships with children. This enabled them to foster positive attachments with the children which supported them to feel loved, valued, safe and respected.*” Parents also shared that staff care for and support their children exceptionally well. This recognition reflects the warm, nurturing environment that Òganan works hard to provide every day.

Òganan continues to strengthen its links with James Gillespie’s High School, offering valuable volunteer placement opportunities which may lead to future careers in childcare. High school pupils are supported with childcare training, interview feedback, and opportunities to plan and lead activity sessions with the children. In addition, a number of sixth year pupils undertake work experience placements with Òganan. It is particularly encouraging to see these young people return to support and work alongside the core team, contributing positively to our school community.

The Review Group is currently looking for new members. Meetings cover these themes:

- **Spaces/Waiting Lists**
- **Clubs**
- **Staffing, including staff training**
- **Facilities (eg. outdoor play, play spaces)**
- **Parent experience (e.g. access, seo mise files)**
- **Inspection Updates**

It is a welcoming and constructive forum, and we would encourage any interested parents to get involved. Anyone wishing to join can contact Frances at fgrebenc@gmail.com.