

Comely Park Parent Council News

Issue 2

Autumn 2009

Introduction

It has been a busy and productive year for the Parent Council.

In 2008, we were given a clear steer from parents and pupils that playground improvements were the highest priority. In response to this, we focused our efforts on moving this forwards: -

- **June 2008** – 112 excellent entries received for the Playground Design Competition;
- **September 2008** – Grounds For Learning Advisory Report;
- **October 2008** – "Vision Plan" Developed;
- **March 2009** – "Awards For All" application submitted.

We are pleased to report that we were notified in June that we were successful in our application and have been awarded a £10,000 grant for this project. Please see our Playground Improvements section in this Newsletter for an update on how we plan to spend this money.

With the playground project well underway, we wanted to review the Parent Council priorities for the coming academic year. We canvassed your opinions at the Spring Fayre in May and, from the questionnaire that you completed on the day, have now turned our attention to your Top Five topics and have provided an update on our plans in this Newsletter.

Curriculum
For Excellence

Timing Of
School Day

Playground
Shelter

Parking /
Road Safety

Playground
Security

We look forward to reporting back to you soon on further progress.

Melanie Brookes

Chair of Comely Park Parent Council



Playground Improvements

We are delighted to report that we have secured £10,000 National Lottery funding for improvements to the playground. The initial phase of the project is due to start in a few weeks.

This will put in place:

- Playground markings, including hopscotch, alphabet snake, maze and throwing target
- Pencil Weavers
- Basketball Court



Phase 2 of the project will target the development of a traversing wall and shelter in the playground. To do this, we need to supplement the National Lottery grant with additional funding. We will be working closely with the PTA to do this, once it has completed raising the remaining funds for the final "Smart Board" for P1.



In addition to PTA fund raising, we are also looking to bring a mobile climbing wall to Comely Park for a day to give pupils a chance to participate in a sponsored climbing challenge.

Look out for an announcement soon!

Next Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 28th October at 7:30pm** in the Staff Room. All are welcome!

Top 5 Issues

Top 5 issues that you wanted us to focus on are:

Topic	Votes
Curriculum For Excellence	44
Shelter In Playground	37
Timings Of School Day	34
Parking / Road Safety	31
Playground Security	28

Curriculum For Excellence

Members of the Parent Council have a stall at the "Curriculum For Excellence" Open Evening on 7th October to capture your views on this important matter.

We will report a summary of our findings at the next Parent Council meeting and take any appropriate actions to ensure that the views of parents are represented.

Timings Of School Day

We received strong feedback from you that the staggered end of school day creates issues for parents picking up their children across the different year groups.

The process to change the timings of the school day requires a formal consultation to be conducted by Falkirk Council, with all parents given an opportunity to communicate their preferences. Mr Watkinson has initiated this process and we expect Falkirk Council to issue a communication on this matter to parents early in 2010.

Shelter In Playground

We propose to take the shelter in the playground forward as part of the playground improvements project.

Parking / Road Safety

Parking and road safety are a serious concern, given the locality of the school and the limited parking available. Ultimately, the responsibility lies with parents/guardians to take the necessary precautions to protect their children on the way to or from school. This includes adherence to parking restrictions and speed limits.

Playground Security

In response to a playground security review submitted by the Parent Council in May 2008, Falkirk Council fitted new signage and modified gates to make them more secure. However, despite making a commitment to do so, they have not yet fitted a barrier outside the gate at the bus stop.

We will complete a follow up review and issue a new request to the council.

How To Get Involved

There are a range of ways that you can get involved in the Parent Council - here are some suggestions:

- **Submit A Request** - ask the Parent Council to investigate an issue that you feel is important for the school;
- **Attend Meetings** - attend and participate in Parent Council meetings. Join a working group and participate directly in resolving an issue that you feel strongly about.

How to Contact Us

Send an email to the Parent Council at the following address:

info@comelyparkparentcouncil.org

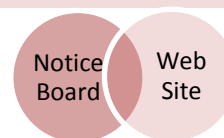
Or contact us through the school, either by phone (01324 508560) or in writing to:

Comely Park School, Cow Wynd, Falkirk, FK1 1PZ

We'd love to hear from you!

How to Stay Informed

As well as this Newsletter, there are a number of ways that you can stay up to date with Parent Council activities:



Website – our web site is constantly being updated with the latest news:

www.comelyparkparentcouncil.org

Notice Boards – keep an eye out for communications on the new weatherproof notice board that has been installed outside the Primary 2/3 entrance.

Who Are We?

Mel Brookes	Chair	P1, P2, P4
Sheila Ferguson	Vice Chair	P2, P4
David Henderson	Treasurer	P7
Dawn Anderson	Member	P2
Lyn Bennet	Member	P3
Stuart Duncan	Member	P5
Finn Goddard	Member	P2
Jill Kemp	Member	P4
Dougie Kennedy	Member	P6
Margaret Marshall	Member	P6
Steven Pearson	Member	P2
Barry Smart	Member	Nursery, P3
Carol Vause	Member	P4
Mrs Simpson (Teacher)	Co-opted Member	
Mr Watkinson (Acting Head Teacher)	Co-opted Member	