



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT UNIT

Newsletter 12 – April 2011

Please share this information with all your Parent Council members. A copy should also be inserted in the appropriate section of The Parent Council Information Pack. The Pack should be accessible to all Parent Council members.

Engagement Roadshow

Following on from a review of the Consultative Committee with Parents, a group of parents, head teachers, Community Learning and Development (CLD) staff and others has been meeting to discuss the wider development of parental engagement. The group is led by Moyra Wilson, Head of Inclusion and Pupil Support.

The working group, known as PEDG - the Parental Engagement Development Group – is tasked with reviewing the existing parental involvement strategy and discussing how to make parental engagement across the city more effective.

The group has identified five key areas:

- improving communications – including how schools communicate with parents and how Parent Councils link with the wider parent body
- partnership working – including how schools play an effective part in community life and links with CLD, early years, voluntary sector, business and community groups
- increasing training and development for parents –including training for committee roles on Parent Councils and, more generally, in areas such as parenting
- increasing pupil involvement – including links between Parent Councils and Pupil/Student Councils and wider links between pupil voice and parental involvement
- engagement of 'hard to reach' parents – how to engage with those who don't currently participate in engagement activities, who may have had a negative experience of school themselves and who may lack the confidence to get involved.

Rather than meet centrally, PEDG has worked as a travelling roadshow around different schools and communities, meeting at Craigroyston Community High School,

St. Francis Primary School and Braidburn School. The roadshow approach has made it much easier for local parents to participate. It also gives the group a much more inclusive focus.

If you have thoughts on parental engagement, particularly in relation to the five key areas above, or if you'd like to find out more about PEDG, please contact David Maguire on 529 2132, david.maguire@edinburgh.gov.uk

Curriculum for Excellence

As parents/carers you will want to know how your children are progressing in the new curriculum. Our development officer and parent, Tina Woolnough, have written a little guide called 'reporting and assessment explained' that sets out in jargon free language what you can expect from reports and how pupil progress will be described. This year parents of pre Primary 1, Primary 4, Primary 7 and Secondary 1 will be receiving reports from schools that reflect the new curriculum and they will be receiving a copy of this booklet. For those of you not in this category this year a copy can be downloaded from our web site

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/857/schools-curriculum/541/curriculum_for_excellence

Date for diary

Once again we are organising a Learning Festival for parents. This will be on Saturday **14 May and this year is at Craigroyston Community High School**. There will be an Education village with stands displaying the innovative and exciting practice from the pupils in all our schools across the city; musical and dramatic performances; Graeme Logan HMI will be giving our key note address and 3 of our Head teachers from early years, primary and secondary will describe the 3-18 learner journey. There will also be drop in sessions where you can get your questions answered about what is happening in our schools in the 21 Century. Interactive displays of new technology will let you try it out for yourself. More publicity about this will be appearing on our web site and from your local school – **check these schoolbags at the beginning of May for more information about how to book a place.**

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/857/schools-curriculum/541/curriculum_for_excellence/6

Parent Council Financial arrangements.

We recently sent a letter addressed to all the Parent Council Chairs c/o the School's address. This outlines the funding available to your Parent Council for Financial Year

2011/12. Please ensure that you collect this from your school. Chairs please pass the information contained within the letter to the Treasurer. If for some reason your letter is not available please get in touch with Wendy Gray who will provide you with a further copy.

We also issued by e-mail the Parent Council Financial Guide (Version 6). Please ensure that you use the forms from this latest edition for any financial transactions during financial year 2011/12.

Clerks please note that there are now four cut off dates for this department to receive your clerk claims (Appendix D). If you have not received a copy of the updated financial guide please contact Wendy Gray.

School Session dates 2012/13

School Session dates for 2012/13 were approved by the Education, Children and Families Committee on 15 March

Please follow the link below to view these.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/860/term_holiday_and_closure_dates/365/school_term_dates/3

Any enquiries on this newsletter or Parental Involvement generally should be made to the following contacts:

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For information and latest news on Parent Councils, please see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parentinvolvement

For the latest news about services for children, please see www.face-edinburgh.org.uk