

## **Minutes of Beaconhurst PTA meeting, held 24/02/09 in School Dining Hall**

### **Present**

Karen Fletcher	Chair		
Iain Kilpatrick	Vice-chair	Mike Bray	Junior School rep.
Graham Scott	Treasurer	Dawn Haughton	Senior School rep.
Rachel Vevers	Secretary	Lorna Jackson	Junior Start rep.

Vanessa Tierney	Susan Warrender
Uli Schlafli	Penelope Maclachlan
Gillian Ross	

### **Apologies**

Pamela Knight  
Grace Johnston  
Suzanne Teed  
Sunnie Gibb

### **1 Chair's Welcome**

### **2 Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **3 Bag2School**

£213 was paid for the last uplift, which seemed disappointing, but expected, given our concerns about the division of bags. Future dates have been booked for 13<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> September. We will receive 40p per kilo from these collections.

### **4 Headmaster's report**

Open House – this event was extremely successful. Thanks to Vanessa and Suzanne for their help on the day. There was a good attendance of prospective parents, and those within the school looking to the next stage. A repeat is planned for the Autumn Term.

Exam Results – Disappointment with media representation is common to many schools. The media assume that all children sit 5 Highers, which is misleading. Exam results for the last 4 years were distributed.

Countdown to End of Term – There will be an Outdoor Ed, Information meeting 16/03/09, and the Cross Country races will be run in the afternoon, following normal morning school.

Expressive Arts Showcase – *Les Miserables*, 22-23/06/09 involving S4-S6 and Art and Music candidates. One performance (Mon) will be a community event with discounts for groups.

## **5 Teachers' reports**

**Junior Start** – nothing specific

**Junior School** – nothing specific

**Senior School** – Parental involvement would be welcomed for Outdoor Ed, accompanying the hill walks. The Ochil walk, for Transition and S1 will take place 12/06/09.

Help would also be welcomed with props for *Les Miserables*. Any offers of help should be directed to Marlene Banks.

## **6 Treasurer's Report**

£1881 in the account, although payment has not yet been made for the PE storage lockers. A payment of £27 was received from buy.@

## **7 Coffee Morning**

Friday 24/04/09, the Coffee Morning will be held in the Library. Grace Johnston and Pamela Knight will organize this. RV to provide Intro to Library.

## **8 Hair and Beauty Night**

This will be held 24/04/09, at 7pm and tickets will cost £12.

Frances Hunter will help to host the evening. S4-S6 girls will be invited to attend, with a reduced ticket price. A taxi company will be requested to do pickups to reduce the number of cars. DH to email Heads of House requesting pupil help. A flyer will be displayed on the website.

## **9 Future Events**

Running Club – Nursery-J6 supervised runs will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from school, beginning in April. A flyer is available on the website.

## **10 Summer Open Morning**

This event will combine the Spring Fair and the Home Open Morning. Houses will be involved. IK will email a date when this is available. To be discussed at next meeting.

## **11 AOB**

Library Passport – RV explained the J4-J6 Library Challenge which will be launched this week.

A query was raised about the times when the lower gate by the sports Hall is open. IK clarified that it is opened for PE classes, and at the end of the day.

MB announced that he is seeking a replacement for his role in the PTA, as he intends stepping down due to imminent fatherhood.

KF suggested a review of boys and girls racing against each other at Sports Day. IK mentioned that it has been proposed to separate Junior and Senior Sports Days.

KF requested a PTA notice board to hold clarification of the roles of Class Link Parents, flyers etc. It was noted that outside the Junior School would be a good site.

KF raised the fact the BBC Scotland is reporting a government recommended maximum class size of 18, which our classes exceed. Beaconhurst has a stated maximum of 25 per class with only one class per year below J6, and all Junior School classes are below that limit. In addition, we have 2 class assistants providing in-class support.

IK also clarified that classes need to be large enough to provide stimulation and variety for optimal educational benefit.

US to produce newsletter before Easter holiday

Date of next meeting: 15.45 on Tuesday 21/04/09

Date of subsequent meeting Tuesday 02/06/09

Meeting closed 17.35