

Beaconhurst Parent/Teacher Association

Meeting held on 29th April 2008 at 7.15pm in the Dining Room, Beaconhurst School.

Present:	Annie Beckham	Chairperson
	Iain Kilpatrick	Headmaster
	Diane MacKenzie	Minute Secretary
	Uli Schlafli	Member
	Kim Clingan	Member
	Rachel Vevers	Member
	Dawn Haughton	Teaching Staff
	Mike Bray	Teaching Staff
	Lorna Jackson	Teaching Staff

Apologises:	Graham Scott	Treasurer
	Suzanne Teed	Member
	Karen Fletcher	Member

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 26th February 2008

Amendments: No amendments.

Matters Arising: **Work Experience Placements** on hold as not required for this year's pupils;
Car Parking/Road Safety – on-going – letter from Headmaster written to parents; letter written to Director of Planning re road calming; letter pending from Community Police Officer to parents re road safety; letter received from S5 parent urging parents to show some consideration for other road and pavement users; school exploring barrier for main entrance in view of excessive cost of cast iron gates; concern additional traffic from new Wallace High School delaying drivers to school – message is clear – parents need to be more responsible.

Approval of Minutes: Proposed by Annie Beckham;
Seconded by Lorna Jackson.

2. Correspondence

- Letter of thanks received from Breakthrough Breast Cancer for the cheque for £600 raised at the Mum's Christmas Night Out.
- Letter received from S5 parent appealing to other parents to show some consideration for other people's safety using Kenilworth Road and suggesting it wouldn't do any harm for them to park their cars in a safer place and walk a little way to school.

3. Treasurer's Report

Graham Scott emailed the balance in his absence and this is £4766.02 with receipts from Bag-to-school of approx £285 and Spring Fair. Cheques received at the meeting from 'Labels for Less' of £21.58 and 'Buy.at' for £21.89.

4. Headmaster's Report

- In addition to the money raised by the PTA at the Spring Fair, stalls run by school groups raised the following:-
Morton House (Chernobyl) £15.00

S4 SVS Group	£73.00
Cameron House (Autism)	£200.00
Burger Stall (SVS & Hockey Tour)	£208.00
Hockey Tour Stand	£111.00
Total	£607.00

Many thanks to all those involved in organising and running such a successful event.

- Main Building foyer redecorated during holidays and funds from the 30th Anniversary Ball were used to purchase Honour Boards for 'Former Heads of School', 'Head Boy & Girl' and 'Dux of the School'. Funds from the Swap Shop have purchased a display cabinet for trophies, memorabilia & art work.
- School Library is now enjoying a renaissance under the stewardship of the new Librarian, Rachel Vevers. The current stock has been assessed and a new computer system purchased to manage it. The aim is to have a far more stimulating and interactive library but approx 4000 books require to be purchased.
- Open Morning on 7th June 2008 for both current parents and prospective parents however very few places available throughout school. No specific PTA/ Swap Shop presence required. There will country dance demonstrations and the Jazz Band will be playing.
- 'Count down to end' of term information letter will be going out to parents and will clarify dress code etc for Open Morning, along with detailing calendar events. **Action Iain.**

5. **Teacher's Report**

- Brown did their main fundraising for the War memorial in Bridge of Allan and this project has now achieved its target. They will be running the summer disco and will raise money from that but, as yet, haven't decided on a charity to support.
- Cameron raised £450 for the Scottish Autism Society - from the sale of tea towels and other merchandise.
- Morton have raised £350 so far from the Christmas disco and other smaller fundraisers. A 'gadget fest' is still to take place in May and hoping to raise around £600. It costs £450 to bring one child across.
- Plant have an on-going sponsorship of a little boy through World Vision which is a standing order. The sum paid monthly varies, but is approximately £20.
- 'Walk to school week' is to take place 12th May and 200 pedometers will be for sale to record number of steps taken throughout the week. There will be prizes for the 'walker' of the Junior School and Senior School; all profits will go to the Hockey Trip to Canada.
- Mr Nash, Geography teacher, has identified to have an orienteering course mapped in the school grounds would cost £350 and would be of benefit to outdoor education, P.E., as well as geography.
- The next PTA Meeting will consider the allocation of PTA funds to two of the House Charities this year and two next year. Bids are to be received prior to the next meeting and this item will be given priority on the agenda in order for a decision to be made on the night.

6. **Spring Fair Review**

This year's event raised £1300 for PTA funds, not including the £607 raised by school groups. Great atmosphere on the day and thanks to all those who contributed. The formula has proven itself and only needs a few tweaks.

Tombola did well as usual and consider items for children in future e.g. small toy/ chocolate/ ticket in kinder egg.

Toy store & raffle – huge success and letter sent to David Ferguson for purchasing toys.

Name the dolly – doubled money from previous year.

M & M's – income increased from previous year.

Children's corner & paint the egg – next year should have adult category.

Books & DVD's – great success – (excess books to be moved from swap shop).

Pamper parlour – very busy as always.

Dining Hall – not as busy as last year but still did well.

Cake & Candy – not as much donated as previous years but sold out.

Games Hall – quieter than last year.

Stalls – next year need to confirm bookings in writing, confirming pitch size and position.

Agreed numbers were down on last year and felt as if not as many senior pupils as before but perhaps on stalls or still playing hockey.

Suggestion to move event to summer term and tie in with Open Morning, providing parents and pupils with more reasons to support the event(s).

7. Future/ On-going events

- Bag-to-school on 14th & 15th May 2008, collection from school at 11am.

Action Kim

- www.buy.at/beaconhustpta - cheque received for £21.89. Promotional cards went out in half term mailing. Letter detailing how to use web-site to be included in next newsletter. Diane has still to change Administrator rights to Rachel. **Action Diane**

- Newsletter – deadline 16th May 2008. Information to Uli. **Action Uli.**

- Sport's Day – Annie reminded members Sport's Day requires a great deal of effort to set up and clear up, organise all the equipment, as well as arrange for helpers. The main aim of the day was to provide hospitality, not to raise funds but the main contributors of assistance are no longer on the PTA. The date of sport's day can be variable due to the weather and with Clive Ramsay's open at the Uni, it was felt this year should be scaled down to offer 'tuck shop' style tent for the children only, involving one small gazebo, fewer number of helpers and reducing amount of work. This view was supported by the meeting. Iain advised in 2009 sport's day and expressive arts will be moving to early June. **Action Annie & Diane**

- Bonfire Night – use school dining room to watch fire works, donation to Round Table, ticket to gain entry to car park.

- Spring fair – move to summer term and hold on Open Morning.

- Coffee Mornings – new nursery parent's starting in January receive no 'welcome' from the PTA and CLP's asked to update class lists and circulate.

Action CLP's. Agreed 1st Tuesday of each term PTA will host coffee morning in school dining room and this is to be publicised in newsletter, half term mailing and on web-site. Arlene to be asked to write to nursery parents to advise. Coffee & Shortbread (from school?), milk to be purchased. **Action PTA.**

8. AOCB

- Annie has been approached by a number of parents concerned about a rumour being discussed in the junior school that when a child reaches 14/15 and is not academic, the parents receive a letter asking for the child to leave.

Iain advised the policy of the school has not changed in the time he has been Headmaster and no letter is sent out by him as suggested. If a child is going down a more vocational route, school liaises with the young person and their parents to ascertain whether continuing into S5 is in the young person's best

interests, both socially and academically. During S4 Future-wise Career's Advice is utilised involving isometric testing in order to assist future planning. Only after full discussions, and ideally with the parent's full co-operation, is a decision taken. Iain stressed the school does not have a barrier to children progressing through the senior school and is not an academically selective school. Any parent with a concern about this matter should contact the Headmaster directly or use the Complaint's Procedure if required.

- Christmas Wrapping Paper – Rachel has signed up again for this year and item to go on agenda for August meeting. **Action Agenda August.**
- AGM – Annie will be resigning at this year's AGM in November and volunteers will be required for the new committee and to fulfil role of Office Bearers. **Action PTA**
- CLP's – Annie will email current CLP's to find out who would like to continue with their role during 2008/9. Nursery 1 may need further thought. **Action Annie**

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 27th May 2008 at 7.15pm in the Dining Room.

Diane MacKenzie