

Breadalbane Academy Parent Council meeting – Tuesday 21st of December 2010 (Note this meeting replaced that scheduled for 30th of November which was cancelled due to the snow.)

Present: Al Irvine (Chair), Helen Taylor (Vice Chair), Fiona Broad, Morven Cairncross, Councillor Ken Lyall, Councillor Ian Campbell, Andrew Pointer, Helen McDade, Nanette Menzies, Ross Menzies, Linda Swan (Headteacher and Campus Leader), Mrs Libreri (Depute Headteacher), Henry Murdoch, Marian Murdoch, Christina Bryson, Tommy Pringle

Apologies: Nic Ferguson, Julie Riddell, Colin Murray (Depute Headteacher)

1. TOUR OF THE SCHOOL

The meeting began with a tour of the new building. We visited the assembly hall – with its raked seating for 350 – which can all be folded away – where we enjoyed a video of the day the school moved in – complete with the Breadalbane Academy Pipe Band on their first public engagement. The feedback from this event was very positive – everyone enjoyed the sense of occasion that the pipe band brought to it.

We continued the tour – visiting the drama space, which included another smaller theatre facility with folding away raked seating and lighting rigs; the music rooms which include a fully equipped recording studio – which is bookable by local groups – and hire also includes a trained technician to operate the equipment; The new music rooms also include full sets of new keyboards – complete with headphones; The two new gym halls also include all new equipment – including 4 new trampolines. Again these are available for local groups to book; the fitness suite includes all new exercise machines; The very spacious dance studio has mirrored walls with ballet barres down each side; and the Home Economics, Technical and science labs again include all new equipment. Mrs Swan reported that the pupils are astounded by the quality and space available in the new building – and the Parent Council echoed this response with an overwhelming WOW. The open days over the previous weekend had been very busy with members of the community coming in for a guided tour around the facilities. Mrs Swan emphasised that so many of the spaces are flexible that anything can be accommodated. The advice is if you think you would like to book a space in the campus – either within school hours or outwith, then just contact the Campus Reception to discuss your requirements.

PIPE BAND UPDATE

The new Breadalbane Academy Pipe Band looked resplendent when they turned out to lead the school into the new building. Thanks to the Parent Council for providing funds to allow the making of the new Breadalbane Academy Tartan, and to Awards for All for their grant of just under £10,000 to cover the cost of the uniforms, including the making of the kilts. Sadly Al Irvine had to report that the grant application to the Scottish Community Foundation for funds to buy drums for the band has been unsuccessful. However it is hoped that the 'Friends of Breadalbane Academy' will be able to apply the Griffin Wind Farm Fund in the near future for these items.

GRAND SCHOOL CEILIDH – 14th January 2011

Tickets are on sale now for the Ceilidh of the year – to be held in the new school assembly hall on Friday 14th of January – Bar and Stovie Supper – come and enjoy the talents of the school ceilidh bands together with the skirl

of the pipe band – and possibly more..... The event starts at 7.30pm. Tickets available for the school office – or from Mains of Taymouth Courtyard at Kenmore. Family ticket - £10 for two adults and three school age children. Single tickets £5. This event is a fundraiser for the Parent Council and for the Ceilidh Band International Tour to Poland in the spring. Christina Bryson hoped that there would be a caller at the ceilidh – and Al Irvine thought that Mr Butter would have that under control!

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE CHRAGGS – 16th January 2011

When you have recovered from whirling round the dance floor on Friday night – take a chance for a less physical challenge – a family quiz night at the Ailean Chraggan at Weem on Sunday 16th of January 2011. Start time 7pm – Teams of 4-6 - £10 per team – raffle as well so you still have a chance to win a prize even if the quiz defeats you! This event is in aid of the ceilidh band international tour to Poland.

AOB

Wifi in Schools

Andrew Pointer and Helen McDade gave the meeting an update on their efforts to get PKC to address their concerns regarding the potential health impacts on children from the wifi system which is installed in the new building. Having written requesting a meeting with the Head of Education – John Fyfe – they had only had an unsatisfactory letter in reply. However Andrew Pointer had spoken to John Fyfe last Friday and been given an assurance that Mr Fyfe is concerned, that he will look again at the issue and will give it more consideration. A three point action plan was agreed – Andrew will pursue John Fyfe for a response again; Linda Swan will undertake a survey of staff to find out the level of usage of the wifi system; and Andrew will again pursue with the PKC IT staff the possibility of having plug in wifi units in the classes which the teacher can switch on and off as required. Councillor Campbell will be meeting with John Fyfe on the 14th Jan to discuss this issue in greater depth.

The Copper Beech tree and other matters relating to differences between the initial plans for the new building and the end result. The meeting agreed that they were disappointed by the negativity expressed in some quarters locally. However there was sadness at the loss of the copper beech tree – and a recognition that there had been a regrettable failure of communication on the behalf of PKC in keeping the local community informed of amendments to the project as time went on. There was, however, unanimous delight at the new school and the Parent Council wished to record a big vote of thanks to the staff of the school in helping deliver such a stunning facility.

CLOCK TOWER

Concern was expressed in relation to the new mini clock tower. There were fears for the safety of the clock – as it is rather close to the ground and within easy reach of even the smaller children. However the Parent Council were reassured that the responsibility for the clock was in the hands of Mitie – who would be liable for any repairs necessary. Linda Swan suggested that the installation of a circle of large planters around the base of the clock could be used to act as a barrier to wandering fingers.

The date of the next meeting was arranged for the 25th of January 2011
All welcome to this meeting – suggestions for agenda items in advance to parentcouncil@aberfeldy.info

The meeting ended at 8.30pm