



Dear Parents and Carers

We recently asked for your comments about what you would like to see more of from your Parent Council. One of the suggestions we had back was to have a Newsletter from the PC to keep you up to date with what is happening....so here we are!

Maybe not monthly.....maybe not even every term, but we will try to provide a newsletter whenever there is information to communicate.

To help make circulation of the newsletter and other important bits of information easier please ensure that the school have a current email address for you (if you have one)

In this issue:

- Parent Forum.....Parent Council
- PE – specialist primary provision withdrawn
- 2011 -2012: a big year for SnL
- Facebook Page
- Upcoming Events

Parent Forum....Parent Council?

As parents of children at Sgoil nan Loch we all want to be involved in how the school works with and for our children. Whether your child is just starting at Little Lochies, or going through S2, school is an important part of the children's lives.

Parent Forum: All parents of SnL children are part of the Parent Forum – this means all parents have a voice and the opportunity to become involved in issues and events affecting the school and its community. We do not meet as a parent forum very often, but when we do it is important that parents rally round the school and come along to hear what is happening and how this will affect the children. It is also a good opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ideas.

Parent Council: Some parents are able and willing to become just that bit more involved in the life of the school and give some of their time to serve on the Parent Council. We realize that not all parents feel able to do this, but if you would like to be more involved, please contact one of the members and discuss with them what is involved. If you do join the PC you don't have to attend every meeting and find yourself swamped with extra work.....you can give as much or as little time and energy as you are able. So please do think about it – we are very friendly and you may even get a cup of tea!

The aims of the Parent Council are:

- to work in partnership with the school to enable parents to become involved in
 - the education of their children at SnL
 - to promote activities to raise funds for SnL

PE – specialist primary provision withdrawn

You may or may not be aware that the school has been dealing with an issue since the start of term, which they have been working hard to resolve for us. However, this matter is currently still under review and we are not hopeful that the council will reach a swift resolution for our schools.

The issue is that a new council policy means the education department will not be replacing the itinerant specialist teachers on the Island when they leave their posts. Until this term, in Primary the children have benefitted from specialist input for PE, Art and Music, from itinerant teachers shared with Pairc, Balallan, Seilibost and Leverburgh Schools. Miss Rodman, the Primary PE teacher, left during the summer holidays, and the council has informed the school that she will not be replaced. However, instead of working out a way to share out the specialist PE provision left on the Islands between all schools, it seems the way forward is that some schools will continue to benefit from their itinerant PE teacher, while our schools will be left without the specialist input.

The parent council has sent a letter to Joan Mackinnon to express our concern about how the matter is being handled. We do feel it is important for all the community to voice concern about this inequality between schools. If you also find this situation worrying, please do write to Joan Mackinnon, Director of Education & Children's Services at the council.

If you would prefer, a template letter for you to use is attached to the end of the newsletter. If you want to use the template you can:

- photocopy from the one attached to this newsletter
- get a hard copy from the office at school
- contact Sarah McIver (860585) for copies

Please encourage any other members of the community who may be concerned about this inequality to also write, or send a signed copy of the template letter. Grandparents, neighbours, friends, all may be worried about this development too and the more support the campaign gets from the community the better chance we have of making some progress.

Thank You for your support with this matter

We will endeavour to keep you informed about progress with this issue as we hear about it.

2011- 1212: a big year for SnL

Every year is a big year, but at the end of this current academic year there will be a lot of changes at SnL, as the secondary provision at the school comes to an end. This will mean that three year groups, current P7, S1 and S2 will all leave SnL and go to The Nicolson Institute.

In addition, some primary children from Balallan School will be moving to join SnL, and the secondary teachers from SnL will be leaving the school.

As a school community we have a lot to do, and we need to focus on the following:

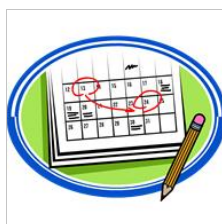
- making sure those children who leave SnL at the end of this year have had the best last year possible, and are ready to face the challenges of The Nicolson Institute.
- making sure the children and parents joining us from Balallan have had the best chance to feel integrated into SnL before the big 'first day' next August.

As a Parent Council we are committed to helping the School prepare and look forward to these changes. So you can see, with a lot of work to be done, there could not be a better time for volunteering to help out.

Facebook Page

By the time you receive this newsletter we hope to have the SnL Parent Council Facebook page up and running. So, please look us up and add us as a friend. We plan to ensure all the latest news and events are flagged via Facebook, and we hope you will see this as a great informal way of keeping in touch with the PC and all parents at the school.

It is important that content is controlled and moderated, so we have plans in place to ensure this is the case. One aspect of this is that you will need to send a friend request to join the page, and the page is for parents only.....no children will be allowed.



Upcoming Events/Dates for your diary

Beetle Drive – end Oct 2011



Family Quiz – early Dec 2011



Garden Party – May 2012





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