

Friends of Lawnswood Meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2009

Attended by; Joanna Williamson, Sarah Wilmer, Sue Orange, Alice Appleton, Lynn Russam, Lynn Taylor, Claire Swan, Sonia Gill, Jenny Lawrence, Clare Lane, Doug Kemp, J Kemp, Graeme Bayliss, Priscilla Truss, Suki Grigg, James Cornock, Sue Furniss, Diane Hallas and Pat Spedding.

1. Pat Spedding (extended schools coordinator) came to let us know about a couple of projects they are involved in.

- Theatre for Change - a community youth project involving Lawnswood and Abbey Grange. There is funding until Easter then the children are looking at fundraising thereafter. There are still places available- particularly looking at vulnerable children. Opportunity for sixth formers to volunteer help.
- Partnership with Royal Armouries in family event. Will be coming into years 7 & 8 assemblies to promote event. Will be free transport to event . Will require a commitment.
- A working group looking at healthy lifestyles hoping to organise healthy living fair at Lawnswood in early summer. Open to parents and children . Hoping to include local clubs/groups.
- Have been looking at anti social behaviour, lunchtimes being a particular problem. Extension of school diner may have some impact on this. Youth services involved as well as local P.C Eric Cryer. Hoping to start some activities at lunchtime to occupy children. Has been some discussion about bringing members of the community into school to meet children.

If you would be interested in any of the above e mail FOL and we will pass on relevant info.

2. Update on sub groups

Reading/Writing Group - Lynn Taylor

- Before Xmas children were asked to nominate their two favourite books and adults their's when they were young. The top children's books were; The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and Noughts and Crosses. The adults were Pride and Prejudice and Animal Farm. The idea now is that adults and children will come together to discuss the four books in turn. The first meeting is on Weds 4th Feb at 3pm in the school library. Meetings will be fortnightly thereafter.
- In the summer term the group will follow the National Book Awards.
- Creative Writing Group already exists in school but would like to look at ways of encouraging older children to take part. Perhaps by being able to post work online, although anything going on to website has to be vetted.

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Choir - Joanna Williamson/Claire Swan

- First choir was a great success, lots of very positive feedback. Jasmine and Alice were fantastic leading the choir. Around about 40 people turned up including 5 men.
- Mr Brady(head of music dept) has asked if we would be interested in singing in a school concert at Easter.
- Apparently the organisers of Kirkstall Festival may be interested in us performing there!

Arts/DT Group - Clare Lane

- Planning an end of year art and DT exhibition - for all year groups.
- Some walls in school have been identified for the children to paint. The idea is that sixth formers will come up with some designs for murals and other year groups will be involved in the painting.
- Big Draw activities throughout October, perhaps linking in with feeder schools, culminating in big event in October half term.
- Sewing Event for children and adults. Idea that people will bring in items of clothing to update and customise. Culminating in a fashion show.

Events Support group - Sue Orange

- Will provide refreshments at Valentine disco for years 7 and 8. This will be a fundraiser for Rock Challenge. Sue to liaise with Diane Hallas.

Gardening Group

No further news. Claire Swan will try to speak to Laura Mcguigan.

3. New Ideas

Alice Appleton (parent) put forward the idea of setting up a rolling programme of talks by parents about their job/career.

Diane Hallas to talk to Mr Bergen (career adviser)and feedback to Alice.

4. FOL as a channel of communication and consultation with parents.

- Discussion about how communication between school and parents could be improved e.g. emails, texting ,meetings.
- Potential for a group to look at this in greater detail.
- Idea for informal parent/teacher evenings.
- Concern over unutilised website which was seen as having the potential of a great means of communication.

5. Joanna and Claire to organise meeting with Mr Davidovic to feedback