

This newsletter is a mid-week special because so many good things happened last week and so much is occurring this week that I know come Friday I will have no energy to collect my thoughts and report back effectively.

To summarise – we had Bank Holiday Monday on 6<sup>th</sup> May which is always a bit of a treat, especially as the weather was great, but leaves those of us at the chalk face with the same to-do list and less time for completion. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May Knox Academy SLT had an extremely productive and dare I say enjoyable session on Friday discussing improvement planning and asking just how good is our school and are we getting it right for every child? There was some lively debate and professional dialogue prompted and encouraged by Lesley Brown, ELC Chief Operating Officer for Education. We were fortunate enough to be about of school which allowed us to have uninterrupted opportunities for reflection. In the afternoon SLT were joined by Curriculum Leaders and further discussion and reflection ensued. With the aid of a new online toolkit called IMPACT I have no doubt that approaches to school planning will be a different experience in session and I am looking forward to working with Meadowpark team as we develop out improvement plan.

Meanwhile...back at the ranch... Meadowpark staff and pupils participated in Superheroes Day, to raise funds for Forth One Cash for Kids which we can then claim back to boost Meadowpark funds. Because we know not all superheroes wear a cape, pupils considered who the superheroes were in their lives, baked delicious cakes and biscuits to sell and joined in a Bounce-athon on our new heavy duty trampoline which was installed last week and signed off by Roy Auld from Proludic.

Considering we had very little time to get planning, Billie stepped up to the task and indeed was my Superhero for arranging and organising events – so a huge thank you to Billie and to our generous families and friends of Meadowpark for their donations. Our total raised was £144.27, not too far off our target of £200.



This week we are preparing (somewhat frantically) to cross all T's and dot all I's in preparation for our inaugural visit to Dounans Outdoor Centre near Aberfoyle. I am really looking forward to spending 2.5 days with some of our young people and seeing #whatwecando and #wecandoit. However as we are off tomorrow morning and not returning until Friday afternoon, there will be no further opportunity to report on our adventures as I'm likely to be hiding in a darkened quiet room!

Pupils not attending Dounans are going to 5 Sister's Zoo on Wednesday, orienteering on Thursday and have a plethora of school and community based activities for the remainder of the week concluding with a barbeque on Friday.

We have all become a bit obsessed with the creation of Eco-Bricks and today Esk class were visited by members of the Waste Services team at Wallyford who were ecstatic to witness the work we have begun and have offered their own time to assist with preparing our site for an eco-brick greenhouse. We are the only school in ELC who have embarked on this project and again I am observing a quiet sense of devolved leadership spreading across the Meadowpark team who are all looking outwards to see what our community can give to us in order that we can pay it forward and give something back to each other and the environment.

I am excited that we will soon be welcoming our fourth teacher and S1 pupils but I also know that the next few weeks are going to fly by and still so much to squeeze in.

However the weather gods are very much on our side and having just met with a lovely gentle mindfulness teacher, Joyce Lukkes, I am going to practice a little of what I have learned over the years about being in the moment and hope that Joyce will be able to deliver some mindfulness session to staff and pupil in the session 2019 – 2020.

Another mid –week Newsletter special next time as we have In-Service on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May and I am attending a SEIC conference on Developing Collaborative Leadership next Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts.

Ms C. Prime 14.05.19