

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF JUNIOR SCHOOL PTA 2015-2016**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

In October 2015, I (Marisa van Reeuwijk) took the position of PTA Chair and Sophie Obadiah the position of Co Chair (till December 2015). Together we were an excellent team, enjoying setting up the following event to raise money for the school.

**Seasonal Cards: November to December**

Our first PTA project was for the children to design seasonal pictures which were printed as a seasonal card sold in a pack of 12, thank you cards sold in packs of 12, gift tags sold in packs of 9 and mugs sold individual. A part from the gift tags each item was very popular. The children enjoyed doing as much as the parents did receiving them. We have continued to use My School Printing, they were very helpful and unlike the previous year we had no issues with them. Therefore we will continue to use them for 2016.

**Seasonal Fair: December**

The Seasonal Fair organised by Shiv and Emma was a huge success. Gifts were both given by parents were given and were purchased centrally. The general feeling was that parents wanted the choice of having the option to buy or give money.

As in previous years, the children that have special needs were able to go into the hall first to experience the wonderful atmosphere at a quieter time.

The hall looked great and overall the experience was smooth and successful. All the children purchased great gifts and were happy.

At the Seasonal Fair, raffle tickets were sold for 20p each which was sponsored by Ellis and Co estate agent. Their donation of £250 allowed us to buy some great gifts, one being a mini iPad.

**Social Coffee and Cake events: December**

A new event was created as a social and a fundraiser, enjoying coffee and cakes before the children's class Christmas shows. This was held in the dining hall while the children were getting ready in the main hall. The dining hall was decorated with festive decorations and looked inviting and cosy. We weren't able to do so for all the classes in all the 4 years as the room was being used, this was mostly the afternoon shows.

Although it didn't raise much funds from the coffee and cake donations it was a huge social success which the parents appreciated.

**Cooking Event: 25<sup>th</sup> of February**

We had a parent event with Chief Lisa Roukin who specialises in nutritious meals for the whole family. Lisa demonstrated different healthy meals which we were able to taste at the end. In addition to this, she answered any nutritional questions.

Not only was this an educational event based on healthy food it was a great opportunity for parents to relax with each other, have a glass of one of Lisa's unique green goddess smoothies and the option of a glass of wine.

Around 35 parents attended and overall the event was a huge success. Our school dining hall was transformed into a live professional cooking film set.

### **Phil the Bag: January and May**

*'Phil' the Bag is a FREE clothing recycling initiative... Helping raise funds from textile recycling donations.*

*At least 75% of textiles thrown away are recyclable, however, we only recycle around 25% and textiles still make up 12% of landfill sites.*

*The main aim of Phil the bag is to increase textile and clothing recycling, to reduce landfill and offer a financial reward to those participating in our project.*

Our parents are always happy to declutter and come to school with big bags of second hand items, such as clothes, belts, bags, shoes and blankets.

It's a great fundraiser that requires minimal effort but with excellent results.

### **Science Show: 26th April**

The 'Science Boffins' show came to the school to perform a one-hour science show. This was an educational event to demonstrate to the children what happened to different materials for example and at the same time entertaining.

The room was filled with much laughter and excitement. The children had a snack before the show and were picked up at 5pm.

### **Family Fun Run: 15th of May**

Another new event proposed by a school mum was to organize a family fun run around a section of the Hampstead Heath. We were lucky enough to be allowed to use the Heath as a parent on the committee works for Corporation of London. We were very grateful as this isn't usually permitted. However, we needed to keep this event very understated.

Many families turned up. The younger children did a 3k run while the older ones did a 5k run. Certificates and key rings were given out on completion.

A small charge was asked for joining the run, a sponsor form was given to the kids and cakes were sold on the morning for a donation.

This event although a success, had a few teething problems which we are hoping to correct if we are given another chance to use the Heath again, which we are hopeful for.

### **Family Classical Concert: Saturday 2nd July**

This was also a new event, held at the local Free Church, the YMC (a local music school of high calibre) played classic music pieces for an hour.

First a few children from the junior school played individual pieces, showing off their talents. Everyone was impressed with them all.

From start to finish cakes were being sold by donation.

The concert was splendid and although we did not fill the entire church, we had about 70 people from the school -- successful enough to hope to do this again next year. Now we know what a success it can be, we will advertise it a differently, in order to attract more local families.

The children were engaged and had the option to go outside and play.

**School Disco: Lower years - 18th of July, Upper years - 19th of July**

Both disco's were in the school hall. The children first had a snack, then they had the opportunity to have a glitter or glow in dark tattoo before dancing the night away. The teachers were amazing and not only did they look after the children but they also enjoyed the music. Bridget and Kim booked the same DJ as for the infants, who turned out to be a huge success. The children had the best time.

**Second Hand Uniform Sales**

A huge thanks to both Natalie and Irene who without fail, loyally organize this second hand uniform sale twice a term, which parents really appreciate. Another event that is a constant source of fundraising.

**Ellis and Co Estate Agent - School Banner**

Ellis and Co continue to support the school by us having an Ellis and Co banner up on the front gate saying, 'Ellis and Co are proud to support Garden Suburb Junior School PTA'. This raised £500 pounds.