

STRANDTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Annual Report 2015/16

(Northern Ireland Charity number - NIC104244)

The school year 2015/16 was another successful year for Strandtown PTA, in social, educational and financial terms. In addition, it was a year of change and moving forward as the PTA, with the support of PTA (NI), became a charity registered with the NI Charity Commission on 17th November 2015.

In preparation for this registration, the PTA (NI) model constitution was adopted at the 2015 AGM and 12 of the PTA members (teachers and parents) became named Trustees of the new Charity for the 2015/16 year.

The PTA are a team of parents and teachers who work together with the common goal of assisting the school management team with the running of the school. We are committed to raising as much money as possible through a range of events and activities for the pupils and their families and spending it for the benefit of as many children as possible, endeavouring to strike a good balance between educational needs and fun.

The continued success of the PTA has been due to the dedication and planning of the parents and teachers on the PTA committee and the wider group of parents, teachers and school staff assisting to ensure the success of all the events run over the course of the year. The PTA Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in any way for their efforts.

Full details of PTA finances – funds raised and how PTA spent its funds are found in the Treasurer's Report which shows we reached the end of the year with the total raised being £16483.98 and the total put back into the school by the PTA being £26406.81.

PTA were active early in the autumn term with the sale of pantomime tickets for Snow White at the Opera House. The fantastic group rate we purchase tickets at means that PTA can offer the tickets at a big reduction compared to individual purchase and still fundraise on each ticket sold – a win for both families and PTA funds!

Activities kicked off with a non-uniform day in October, closely followed by the ever popular junior disco for the Y4 and Y5's in November, with our DJ ALDO

keeping the music and dancing going in the central hall. This is a major social event for the juniors and the tuck shop, nail and tattoo bar are very popular on the day and allow a quieter space for the kids (and helpers!) to spend some time.

The lead up to Christmas is busy and exciting for the school and the PTA as there are a number of social and fundraising events.

The fun started in late November with the Christmas Craft Fair, which was a very enjoyable social evening allowing talented parents and friends to sell their handmade crafts and gifts. Everyone gets their Christmas shopping started and this year the children had great fun in the PTA craft room making Christmas decorations and cards. Parents and friends gather and chat in the mulled wine (non-alcoholic of course) and shortbread 'grotto'.

In December we had our usual Christmas Hampers where children bring items to fill hampers and one hamper is raffled per class.

As in previous years and mentioned earlier, many families supported PTA by purchasing discounted tickets for the Grand Opera House panto, Snow White. PTA again offered the children the opportunity to design Christmas Cards and have them professionally printed. The children love to see their artwork turned into a 'real' Christmas Card. As has become an annual event, the Christmas term ended with PTA funds being used for an outing for all of our pupils to the Strand Cinema.

2016 started with another non-uniform day, closely followed by the Senior Disco in March, entertainment again provided by ALDO and tuckshop and other stalls run by willing volunteers.

A new Easter activity was run this year – an Easter themed treasure grid was available in each class and pupils purchased squares on the grids. The winner in each class received a large Easter Egg. The popularity of this activity exceeded all expectations!

The Summer Fair in May was a great morning for family and friends, with the Y7s showing how well they had learnt their entrepreneurial skills as they competed for business selling a range of treats and handmade items. The Treasurer's Report shows the income from this event was greatly boosted by the annual *Grand Draw*. This is only possible by the parents and local

businesses who kindly donated prizes and the PTA volunteers who tirelessly chase up contacts and pound the pavements of Belmont and Ballyhackamore searching out even more prizes!

The final PTA event was the Summer BBQ, which saw a number of changes this year. PTA out-sourced the cooking this year due to school contacts with the company 'Foodie Folk' and everyone seemed to enjoy the food. Unfortunately a very wet start to the day meant the decision had to be taken to cancel the bouncy castles and inflatable slides. The event was moved to the senior playground and some simpler playground games went down well, including the hook-a-duck game. The weather improved as the day went on so at least the football games went ahead on the pitches, the ice-cream van did a roaring trade and the evening was further enhanced for the children by visits from a police squad car and a fire appliance and fire fighters from Knock Fire Station.

As usual the Y7 BBQ was funded by the PTA along with half the funding for the leavers' packs and photos, helping to make the Y7s last few weeks a very special memory.

The PTA continued to support the running of the school in other ways through discussions around policies and new ways of communicating with parents; the equipment needs of the school and offers of support to the school council to name a few.

Chair - Janice Thompson

Secretary - Aine Doyle