

LORD DERAMORE'S SCHOOL PTA - TREASURER'S REPORT SEPT '10 - AUG '11

I have worn a variety of hats this year, Treasurer being probably the easier of them! We have had a fantastic year and we really ended the year on a high (or was that on our knees!!)

We have had some really innovative fundraising events this year and it has been great to see new parents become involved, namely Jo Wright with the Art Exhibition and Yuko, Akiko and Hide with the Japanese Evening. As always, we are extremely grateful to all those whom we rely upon year after year to help organise and run all our events.

Our biggest achievement this year was to be able to give the school £4K of the £5K we pledged towards the building of our new Forest School walkway. We managed to raise just over £4400 this year. We had our annual commitments such as the Riding Lights Theatre at Christmas, paying for the Leavers' Disco and Christmas parties for everyone, so we took the decision to use some of the existing funds rather than keep them in the bank. So, we spent just over £1600 of these with the belief that they had been raised to benefit the children and the school and we would like that to be realised. We look forward to hearing all about the Forest School activities from our children.

Our main fundraising events this year included the Bake Off, raising just over £200. The biggest success here was the fantastic feel it brought to the school, with both children and staff fully involved. It would be great to repeat this.

The Christmas Fair went ahead despite temperatures of -15C and water cascading from burst pipes into the school hall. An enormous thank you to all who braved the elements to set it up and to those who attended. Again, the cohesive spirit of Lord Deramore's School was much in evidence. Against all the odds we managed to raise just over £750. I have looked individually at the financial success of each stall and would recommend a review of the format before next year's fair.

The Art Exhibition was a new idea for the school and Jo Wright worked hard to organise and promote it. It was fantastic to see the children discover their own works of art within such a professional exhibition. We raised a whopping £792. The general feeling amongst parents and staff was that an event of this type should be repeated every 5 years or so.

The Japanese theme to the International Evening was requested by the Japanese families within the school following the terrible tsunami and earthquake in Japan. We were only too pleased to oblige and worked extremely hard with them to maximise donations for the evening and therefore our profits. It was an amazing evening of delicious food and exciting entertainment, we look forward to the return to the school of the Taiko drummers. Thanks to the hard work of the Japanese parents and others, we were able not only to raise over £360 for the school, but we donated nearly £490 to the Japanese Red Cross, which Hide organised through the University to minimise administration costs.

HesFest was another new venture this year and was enormous fun. Thank you to all who participated. Years 5 and 6 revealed themselves to be budding rock stars, whilst hidden talents (musical that is) were revealed by some fantastic parents. The headlining Whyte Fyre excelled and ensured a brilliant time was had by all, raising £476 in the process. We will be looking to contact their agents again soon...

Our second year of providing refreshments at Sports Day was again a great success and I would recommend this becomes an annual fundraising event.

Having sold nearly 200 tea towels we made a profit of around £65. We do have some remaining stock and ideas of what to do with them are welcomed.

APFS Christmas cards are always a great success and raised £210. Carrie Tipples is already organising them again for this coming year, thank you.

Thank you to Karen Freshwater for organising the Skyecycle collections. They are definitely worth doing and the instant cheque is a bonus. We raised £74 this year and Karen has another collection coming up.

The second hand Uniform Sale still provides a small income, £85 this year. It was considered that this should continue in some form, maybe just the logo'ed items, as it provides a great service within the school and supports our 'recycling' ethos.

We raised about £75 via Yellow Moon this year. It is thought that the amount of time and effort involved with this is probably not worth the return and so we will not repeat it this coming year.

Thank you again to committee, staff, parents and carers for all the time, effort and support they have given us this year. We look forward to welcoming new members and new ideas into the PTA and watching the children benefit from everyone's hard work - thank you.

Ruth Stevens