

Verulam School PTA

AGM – Saturday 20th June 2009

Chairman's report for the year August 2007 to July 2008

Welcome to the AGM where we will review and celebrate the PTA's achievements during the year August 2007 to July 2008. In a short while, we will be holding elections for officers (chairman, secretary and treasurer) as well as for committee members, so please consider how you wish to be involved.

Our constitution states that all parents, guardians, and staff (teaching and non-teaching) are members of the PTA. Ex-parents and Friends of the School are also welcome to participate in the PTA.

The PTA committee

The main committee met 7 times during the year to plan and co-ordinate their activities and to discuss the funding requests from the school. The meetings were held at the Learning Centre at the front of the school. In addition to this the Summer Ball and Christmas & Craft Fayre sub-committees also met regularly to plan their individual events.

Events held during the year

Our first event was the welcome evening for the year 7 parents. This is traditionally held during the third week in September and was again held jointly with the year 7 tutors. The evening was a great success, with a large number of year 7 parents attending and a few new parents volunteering to help organise PTA events. In addition quite a number of parents offered to help at the events themselves.

In November we held our annual Christmas & Craft Fayre. This was, as usual, extremely well attended. Overall, the event raised just over £4,000, with the raffle raising over £2,600. This was less than in previous years, however this event still raises the most money of all the events run during the year. Our thanks go to Pauline Gilson who had overall responsibility for organising the event and all the other people who helped to make this event such a success.

In December, a number of parents and boys manned the Round Table Christmas Float raising money for Good causes, of which the school received just over £620. Our thanks go to Peter Poulain for organising this successful event and to the boys and parents who turned out on that cold December evening.

In May, Nigel Harvey organised another very successful beer tasting, raising just under £900, which is almost twice as much as last year's events. We are very grateful to Nigel for organising the event and to Roger Protz for hosting it.

Also in May we tried out our first pamper evening. We had around 8 stalls and the 20 people who attended had a fantastic time relaxing and being pampered. Thanks to Sarah Frost and her ladies for organising this successful event, which raised c£200 for the school.

June saw another new event, 'A taste of Africa', organised by Felicia KariKari. Although not very well attended, those who came along were able to taste some delicious African food and listen to a very professional African drummer.

11 people attended the golf day in June which raised £83. Our thanks go to Peter Poulain for organising this event.

The Summer Ball was held on 5th July, the theme for 2008 was 'A Night at the Round Tables'. The 242 guests enjoyed a 3 course meal and dancing to Juan More until 1am. I am delighted to say that we raised more than last year, just under £3,000. Our thanks go to the whole committee.

Other fundraising activities

The 200 club continues to grow and we are grateful to Simon Corscaden for managing the club.

The uniform exchange has taken place twice each term and this year raised £442. Our thanks go to Roseli Cook for organising these Saturday mornings.

The PTA also supported the schools evening to celebrate the Specialist School status, providing refreshments for parents and students who joined in the celebrations.

Donations to the school

The net funds raised this year were £10,944.77, which is less than the last few years. We are still in the process of agreeing with the school how this money should be spent. The pledges so far this year include £1,500 to support the KS3 celebration evenings; £5,000 for the sports department; £304 for the after school Knights Club; £400 for English Dept for DVDs; £300 to Food Tech; £200 to Technology.

The future

The Committee are greatly encouraged by the new members who have joined this year however more members are needed if we are to increase significantly the amount of money we raise for the school.

On a positive note, we now have our own email system, which is in the process of being populated and I hope will be ready to be used in earnest next year.

We also have a webshop, which is starting to raise money for the school. So if you shop on the Internet, please make sure you shop via our site www.buy.at/verulamschool. You can access over 100 leading retailers - such as BT, Thorntons, Marks & Spencer and John Lewis using our webshop and each time you do, you raise money for the school.

I would like to take this opportunity thank all of the committee without whom none of this would have happened, in particular: Colin Johnson for taking on the Treasurers role, Colin has done a very thorough job, bringing us up to date with our submissions to the charities commission; Doug Stokoe for auditing our accounts; Chris and Sarah Traynier who are stepping down this year as their son has now left the school for organising many successful Quiz nights over the last few years; Nigel Harvey and Peter Poulain for producing the minutes during the year; Marie-Claire Scherman for her masterful management of the website over the past few years and Simon Corscaden for agreeing to take on the management of the website.

Finally, please keep an eye on our website www.verulampta.org.uk for the latest details of all of our events and make sure you come along to support Verulam School.

Mrs Lesley Reardon