

ST ATHANASIUS PTA NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

Dear Parents

The PTA held its AGM on 1st September and it was with much regret that we came to the end of the three year term that Lisa Greer has served as our Chair.



I am sure you will all join us in thanking Lisa for her tireless commitment and the huge amount of time she has given to the post. All of you who know her well admire her for the cheeriness she has shown as she guided us through each challenge, and her enthusiasm that couldn't help but rub off on us all.

So the first piece of good news is that we have a new Chair! We are pleased to announce that Janis McBride has stepped up to take over the post from Lisa. I am sure Janis will be an excellent Chair and we will all give her all the support we can. She has already set to work trying to secure a date in our new Hall for the Family Disco planned for February or March so watch this space!

It is a daunting task for anyone to take on this role so one of our new (and old!) members Lindsay Stewart has very kindly offered to take on the new post as Vice Chair to help Janis in her first year. The bad news is that the Secretary has taken on the task of putting these Newsletters together, so I am afraid you are all stuck with my ramblings for the time being! Jacqui Lebida and Claire Miller have thankfully retained their positions as Treasurer and 50/50 Club Organiser respectively for the next year, and of course you will have to put up with me, Maureen Doherty, as Secretary. We welcome our other new members Claire Leghorn & Rosa Shearer who also work tirelessly on the Gala Committee. How do they do it? Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 6th October and as ever you are all most welcome to join us. Any help you can give to the following events is also much appreciated but even if you just want to come along to the odd meeting to hear first hand what's going on then please do. In the meantime we hope to have our Chair's & Treasurer's Reports for the past year, Minutes from our last meeting, and this Newsletter available on the school website - <http://www.st-athanasius-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk> soon.

Upcoming Events:

Fancy Dress Halloween Disco

Last year's Halloween Disco was such a success that we have already booked the Hall & DJ for this year. The disco will be held on **Thursday October 29th**. There will be two separate discos: one for P1-P3 children from 6pm-7.15pm and one for P4-P7 children from 7.30-9pm. There will be goodies, games and prizes for the best girl's and boy's costumes in each disco. Cost per child is **£1.50** which is payable on the door.

50/50 Club

For all of you who are new to St Athanasius, we run a "50/50 Club" raffle which is drawn at the Oscars Ceremony at the end of each month, with cash prizes for the adults and wee surprises for the children whose names are drawn. We also have 3 extra draws, at the end of each term, with the chance of winning extra prizes of cinema vouchers to get the holidays off to a great start! We found last year that giving parents the opportunity to pay for all draws at the beginning of the year was a great success, so we plan on doing this again. You should be receiving your 50/50 envelopes shortly where you can buy a ticket on a month by month basis or pay a full year's subscription of £9.00.

Please note if you do decide to pay for the full year, your children will probably still receive an envelope each month, as it is easier for the school to distribute these to all children than to cross check who has already paid. We are sorry for any confusion this caused last year. We assure you if decide to pay the full subscription at the beginning of the year, your child's name will be included in all draws automatically, and you should ignore any other envelopes received. Good Luck!

Balloon Day

We are currently looking at the possibility of having a Balloon Day, with a view to hosting this just before half term. This idea was raised at our last PTA meeting and we all agreed it would be a great event to celebrate moving in to our new school. We should have more details following our next PTA meeting and will keep you informed as our plans take shape.

Parents' Night - Book Fair & Bags 2 School

The Parents' Night for this term will be on Wednesday 4th November so as not to clash with any Guy Fawkes' celebrations the next day. Every year the PTA supports the school to run a book fair which, through sales commissions, enables the school to purchase new books for its library. Last year we ran these Book Fairs at both Parents' Nights for the first time. To offer a little variety the Book Fair company hosting at the Parents' Night this November will be Osbourne Books. Catalogues will be made available to the children leading up to this date. Please note that at this time that you will only be able to order books on Parents' Night, although we are currently looking at how this could be improved, with pre-ordered books possibly being collected on the night. More details to follow nearer the time.

Calendars

The calendars were a huge success last year - thank you to everyone who bought them – we sold over 300! We are currently looking into the practicalities of running the project again this year but we do not have the backing of the free printing service that we had last year, which is a significant part of the production cost. We would appeal to any printing firms out there, and also to any businesses who may wish to sponsor the calendar. Without this backing, it will not be possible for us to produce a calendar of the same high quality again, if at all. Help us if you can!

Where your money goes...

We thank you for your great support last year, we treasure every penny you contribute and we would like to take an opportunity to highlight a few projects you have helped fund:

- A smart board for our new school.
- Our wall hanging designed by all of the children in the school last year, which hangs proudly in the school reception area.
- Halloween Disco – it's a miracle if we make money from it at £1.50 a head!
- Presents and celebratory cakes for all children making Sacraments in the past year, now also including those children making their First Reconciliation.
- Graduation Cake, Leaving Gifts & Disco for our P7 school leavers.
- Funding school buses for all the class trips.

As always your money is spent on improving the school lives of all of our children, giving them all many happy memories of their time at St Athanasius. We look forward to seeing you over the coming months and thank you as always for your generous support.

Remember the next PTA meeting is in the school on Tuesday 6th October at 7pm – you are all most welcome to come along. Hope to see you there!

Maureen Doherty
Secretary
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