

Layston School PTA Newsletter

Forthcoming Events

2012

25th Year 2 Cake Bake

January

4th Buntingford

February AmDram Panto
'Pantostein'

2nd March Mad March Hair
Day

28th March Easter Egg
Tombola

29th March Easter Hat &
Mask competition

25th Phil-the-bag

April Textile Recycling

31st May School Disco
(Thursday)

Welcome to the PTA Newsletter for the Autumn Winter Terms. It's our chance to keep you up-to-date on events and fundraising activities, to let you know what events are planned for the near future and let you know how funds have been spent.

Recent events.....

The PTA worked very hard in the last couple of months of the Summer Term and also straight into the Autumn Term. The Summer Ball in July raised an amazing £1250 for the school and was a fantastic evening. The weather was kind and those attending enjoyed a performance by Fiddlestix string quartet during the Bucks Fizz reception. Mike Nicholas took the role of auctioneer for the sale of our auction lots which included a flight in a private plane. Dancing continued into the night with the Highly Strung band entertaining us all. We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the event.



The Family BBQ evening that followed was an outstanding success and raised £520. Many people attended enjoyed the attractions. Thank you to those who supported the event, and a special thank you to Angie Blanchard for her endurance in the stocks that evening! The Reception cake bake raised £110 and the Sports Day refreshments made a fantastic £190. Once again, thank you to all parents and staff who supported both events.

Events commenced in the Autumn term with the Year 4 & Year 3 cake bakes which raised £97 and £155 respectively. The school disco with Big Steve and his dancers raised an additional £139 in October and the children had a great time dancing the night away. The Quiz Night in October raised a staggering £1007 and we thank Deb & Matt Taylor for their organisation, along with Damian Kennedy who, once again, was our superb Quizmaster, along with all those who attended. Another quiz night is planned before the summer, Our next event was Phil-the-Bag textile recycling which saw the PTA receive a cheque for £224.50 which is an incredible amount for 'unwanted clothing, textiles and shoes'.



The Christmas Fair in November saw a great mix of stalls and sideshows, a little something for everyone. It was very well attended and a couple of stalls sold out early on they were so popular. We tried a couple of new ideas which worked really well too. As always Santa was very popular too, he was so busy we had to give his reindeer extra hay to nibble whilst he made sure all his visitors had been seen and their requests noted!! In all £1859 was raised.



Our final fundraising efforts before Christmas were the refreshments before and collections after the Christmas concerts. Funds raised from these paid for the travelling theatre performance of Jack and the Beanstalk in December.

The fundraising events for the Autumn/Winter term were focused on achieving our 'Totaliser' target of £8000 for the purchase of new ICT equipment for the school. The 'Totaliser' was on display in the hall and the children coloured in the steps as additional funds were raised. We are delighted to announce that following the success of our fundraising events the 'Totaliser' target has been smashed. We continue to raise funds for our next project which we hope will be a willow tunnel for the field.

Volunteers are often needed to help man stalls at our events. If you are able to help, even if only occasionally, we would love to know and are grateful for any offers.

Pantostein

As in previous years the PTA has purchased an entire performance of this years pantomime from Buntingford Dramatic Society. The performance is on **Saturday, 4th February at 2.30pm at Benson Hall**. Tickets are on sale now; **£7 per adult, £5 per child or a family ticket (up to 4 people) for £20**. Why not come along with your family and enjoy the unique talents of the Dramatic society. Panto performances have always been a sellout for us, an excellent fundraising event and great fun for everyone. Tickets are on a first come, first served basis, so buy early to avoid disappointment!!! (See Steph for tickets and details).

Other ways to raise

Apart from holding events, the PTA use other ways to raise funds. These include the annual production of Christmas cards which raised £181 this year.



We also produced a whole school tea towel which proved very popular and raised £390 for PTA funds. Thank you to Tanya Brears for her idea and co-



ordination of this project. There are still a few tea towels left if you would like to purchase one (£3.50 each). The PTA is also registered as a beneficiary on thegivingmachine.com. If you use online shopping, why not take a look at the Giving machine website to see how you can donate as you shop.

Look out for details of the PTA fundraising events for the forthcoming months. Details of some can be found on the front of this newsletter.. We hope other events will include a quiz night, cake bakes for year 1 and reception along with a stall at the Buntingford carnival in June and an Olympic themed fun night. Other details will be available on our website and will appear shortly on our new noticeboard.

The PTA would like to say a big thank you to all parents, carers, children and staff who have supported our events over the last year. Your help and support is very much appreciated.

An appeal for new members

The PTA always needs new members and we would really like to increase our numbers again. Joining the PTA can be fun, rewarding and a really good way to meet and get to know other parents. If you like helping, or would like to become more involved in making decisions on how the funds we raise can be spent, then why not join us. We meet once a month, usually on a Wednesday evening, in the staff room and would really welcome new input and fresh ideas and also welcome any feedback you are able to offer. Why not come along to our next meeting. We'd love to see you there.

Look out for details of our 'Phil' the Bag Textiles recycling days and help raise money for the school.



The PTA section of the school website has been updated. Our newsletters are now included on the website for your future reference.

Contact details for the PTA are included and also photographs of some of the purchases we have made. Why not take a look?

If you have an idea for a fundraising event or activity why not share it with us?

We would love to hear about any new events or initiatives you have seen.

Do you have any thoughts or ideas on what future funds could be spent on? What do you think would enhance the children's school experience?

Why not let us know?