

## **Friends of Denamona Association: Chairperson's Report**

**2023/2024**

I'm sure you will all agree, we have had another enjoyable and successful year in our PTA. We have organised and participated in numerous events throughout the school calendar. At all these events the children, who we do this for, all really enjoyed themselves and there is always a welcoming atmosphere to all who attend the school events.

The first event we held was our annual Craft Fayre on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This was a very well supported event with crafters attending from all over the province. Many returning from previous years. The PTA served festive refreshments in the P3 & 4 classroom, which were kindly provided by the parents of the school. Donations went to our chosen charity for the year, 'Friends of the Cancer Centre' and Ann Johnston kindly hosting floral demonstrations and giving us all plenty of tips. We are on course to once again host the Craft Fayre this year with invitations to crafters sent out via our Facebook page.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Denamona hosted their annual Open Morning. Committee members provided refreshments. This was a great opportunity to meet prospective pupils and their parents. They all thoroughly enjoyed the morning's events, with the added bonus of getting to see Santa.

There was a lot of excitement about hosting the Christmas Play 'The Piper' on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the Presbyterian Hall. Many thanks to all committee members and families who provided refreshments and helped serve tea and coffee at both the morning and evening performances. Another great opportunity to catch up and chat with parents and family members of Denamona PS.

The PTA organised a Sponsored Stay Awake on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This event was extremely well supported, and the children enjoyed lots of different zones around the classroom. P1&2 room hosting a chillout area and a movie zone. P3&4 room being the construction room where the children created some amazing structures with Lego. P5 room was the dance zone and so some fantastic dance moves from the children while they burnt off some energy to Just Dance. P6&7 room was the quiz zone and we seen the children showing off their competitive side playing lots of fun board games. The children enjoyed pizzas and a bag of Mo's sweet treats along with drinks and some other treats. The PTA provided funding towards the sweet treats for all the children. Towards the end of the evening all the pupils gathered in the hall where Mrs Spence and Miss Smyth put the children through their paces with lots of dance rotas, some karaoke and Mrs Anderson leading some very fun games. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this event.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March saw Denamona PS host the DKMS Event. The PTA along with the help of past and present family members, the Fintona Community Forum and wider community members; provided refreshments for all who took the time to come and register with DKMS, and made sandwiches and soup for the volunteers helping to make the event happen. Due to

the massive response, this event was extended to the Sunday also. I'm sure all who helped at this event are still amazed at the unbelievable footfall through our school doors and the willingness of so many in our community to offer support. A reminder of how amazing our school community is.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June we had our Fundraising Breakfast Morning in support of Friends of the Cancer Centre. This event was also well supported and was an opportunity to introduce the 'Guess the sweets' competition which ran throughout the month of June. The winners were announced on 21<sup>st</sup> June and just in time for two of our pupils to take large jars full of sweets home to kick off their summer holidays.

Sports Day was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The remainder of the bacon and sausages was cooked for parents who came along to sports day and donations were made to support Friends of the Cancer Centre. Many thanks to the PTA members who helped with the cooking.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June, it was time to host the annual 'P7 Leavers Assembly'. The PTA provided refreshments for all who attended this event. It was a lovely, and emotional time, for those pupils who were coming to an end of their time at Denamona. We wish all these children well as they move on to the next stage of their education and look forward to seeing all the great things they achieve.

Friends of Denamona supported the school in providing funds covering the costs for the end of year school trips. All the children across the whole school really enjoyed their end of year trips with P1,2&3 heading to the cinema, P4&5 showing their bowling skills at Johnny Rockos, and P6&7 visiting the Ulster American Folk Park. Everyone then enjoying McDonalds after their trips.

Friends of Denamona presented Mrs Spence with a wedding gift at the last assembly of the school year on behalf of the pupils and parents and wished the couple every blessing and best wishes on their marriage, which was held during the summer. We are still adjusting to Mrs Spences name change and the odd time have a forgetful moment and revert back to calling her Miss Beatty.

During the 23/24 academic year, the Friends of Denamona Association were also successful in applying for two grants: Fermanagh Rural Grant and Hunters Hill Community Fund. The money awarded for these grants has been put to great use and continues to help Denamona PS support the needs of each child.

The funds raised this year are vital to support Denamona PS in the effort to raise standards and educational experiences for all the pupils. With budgets being cut substantially and bills increasing dramatically, funding by Friends of Denamona is more important and necessary than ever.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the PTA members and the Staff at Denamona PS for their help and support throughout the year. All our events are always supported by our members, and I feel that this is one of the contributing reasons why our events are so popular and successful.

I have really enjoyed my time as Chairperson 23/24 and thank you to everyone for working so efficiently together and making the year such a success.

Pamela Tait

(Chairperson)