

## **Chairperson's Report**

**AGM 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

We kicked off our fundraising year on the 18<sup>th</sup> October with our Autumn Disco. We know what we are doing with these by now so they are easy events for us to run. It was well attended and, thanks to Kerry Alexander for donating the tuck shop, the profits were more than expected at £1,032. Next up was Cash for Clobber on the 8<sup>th</sup> November, adding a further £380.

A number of us were SEAG parents that year, so we put the brakes on the events until after that was out of the way. Then Christmas was upon us and the events ramped up. First were the Christmas Cards via Class Fundraising, kindly coordinated by John Stewart, which brought in £769. We had learned from any hiccups the previous year and the process ran very smoothly – one to repeat!

Ana and Tim Monroe very kindly ran a Wreath Workshop in Helen's Bay Golf Club over two nights on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December. These were a huge success and, thanks to Ana's expertise, everyone came away with a beautiful wreath to hang on their door. The Monroes donated their time and also a significant amount of resources, which was an incredible boost to our fundraising. The total raised over the two nights was a fantastic £1600.

Our KS1 Christmas production got us all in the Christmas spirit. As usual, we raffled a beautiful food hamper at each performance and this year, as an extra treat, there was also a 'wellness' hamper up for grabs. The raffle brought in a total of £840. A special mention should go to Judith Walls and Tim Monroe for putting these together. To complete a successful first term's fundraising, candy canes were sent around classes for children to guess how many there were in the jar. This raised £73, bring us to a total of £4,694 for Term 1.

Term 2 was a quiet one as we started planning for our Gala Ball to celebrate 20 years of Integrated Education. The sole event was our Valentine's Cake Sale on the 9<sup>th</sup> February. There were a huge number of fabulous baked goods sent in by our families so a huge thank you to everyone who made the effort to contribute. Parents were invited into the hall for tea and traybakes and it was lovely to see so many there and, after a busy hour, we had raised a total of £477.

We began Term 3 with another Cash for Clobber collection on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, raising £244. Our Summer Disco brought in £853. The most highly anticipated event of the year, our famous Parent Quiz, was held at Helen's Bay Golf Club on the 10<sup>th</sup> May. It was a sold out event and, although slightly less was raised than in previous years, it was a great fundraiser for us at £1358.

Two of our pupils, Acacia and Sienna McCann, had the lovely idea of making bracelets and selling them in school to raise money for PTA. They generously donated their beads and spent a huge amount of making the bracelets. The girls sold these during the first week of June and raised a fantastic £176 – a huge well done and thank you to both girls. Sports Day was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June and PTA had tea and coffee in the hall for parents to help themselves to. An honest box raised a total of £99. We also auctioned off a further 2 hampers and other goodies at our KS2 productions of The Wizard of Oz and this added a further £673 to our total. Thank you to Averyl Ritchie for putting these together.

The final event of the year was our Summer Fair on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. Once again, Rockport very generously let us their grounds for the event. The weather in the run up was horrendous and we were keeping a close eye on the forecast for that day. Miraculously, the sun came out at the very last second and it really did feel like summer for a couple of hours! The food vans were a hit and the various sports and

activities kept the children busy. It is worth mentioning that the three inflatables were generously funded by Judith Walls and another parent, Noel Morrow, kindly did the music for the event. Thanks also to the parents who gave up some time to supervise the inflatables. I think they would all agree that it was worth having St. John's ambulance available although, thankfully, their assistance was not needed on the night. The evening raised a total of £2,226 bringing out total for our final term to £6,106 excluding the Gala Ball income.

Non-events based fundraising included £48 from Easyfundraising, the blue Clobber bin netted £56, Benevity donations contributed £505 and also a bank interest of £208. As noted by Julie last year, Signature Works and Over The Hedge now deliver commission and rent directly to the school shaving over £3000 off our overall figures. The commission from Signature Works was paid into the PTA bank account this year and transferred back to the school in full. We also missed funds this year from non-uniform days - which were either FOC or hosted by the school. Our total for non-events based fundraising was £817.

**As a committee we raised a fantastic £11, 615 for our school charity, continuing to build on previous years.**

It is worth noting that we began selling tickets for our Gala Ball at the beginning of Term 3. By the end of the term, ticket sales had brought in a further £7840. Given that the Gala Ball was not held until the 18<sup>th</sup> October, the remaining ticket sales, raffle and auction monies will be carried over to our fundraising total for the year 24-25, along with the additional costs incurred.

The PTA would like to thank all of the parents, teachers and staff for their continued support of our fundraising efforts. We really do appreciate their help behind the scenes and their attendance and contributions to our events. We couldn't deliver without this valuable support. I would also like to extend a personal thanks to everyone for their support this year – it really has been a huge team effort. I will be formally stepping down as Chairperson but looking forward to continuing to help as a member of the PTA.