

ST SWITHUN'S SCHOOL

PTA NEWSLETTER

EACH AND EVERY FAMILY MEMBER IS A MEMBER OF THE PTA, HOW THEY CHOOSE TO USE THAT MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO

Committee Update

Joann Robertson:

Our PTA is now well underway to becoming a Charity, this is a very exciting time and opens all sorts of doors for funding which we aim to use to benefit the school. These new funding opportunities can help to develop Arts, Music, Drama, Sports & Leisure, Off-Site Activities, Technology & Equipment, Enrichment & Workshops. Our links and use of PTA-UK is growing and I would encourage all of you to use our membership at www.pta.org.uk to its full advantage.

We have a number of new faces at the committee meetings and I must say hi to Barbara Godsen and Zoe Farrow who have joined us with a fresh approach and enthusiasm. Our monthly meetings are open to all and are more fun than work and we always welcome new faces.

Planning for the Christmas Fair is well underway and as ever we need all hands to pumps no matter how much or how little time or effort you can give it is all gratefully received. Just speak to any of the committee to volunteer, our list keeps growing which is wonderful.

Books For School

The Hayling Island Bookshop is one of the last remaining independent bookshops in the area and has gained a reputation for the quality of personal service and their innovative Author signing events. Authors they have run or supported events for include Terry Pratchett, Jacqueline Wilson, Anne Widdecombe, Ian Whybrow, Kate Mosse, Derek Landy, Chris Ryan, Darren Shan, Louis de Bernieres, Sandi Toksvig, Julian Fellowes and Sir Andrew Motion.

The PTA are very excited that Colin & Marie Telford the proprietors have agreed to work in collaboration with us by attending our fairs and paying us a commission on sales, which will go to the school library.

Their first event with us will be the Christmas Fair where they will bring a selection of books including some signed copies. Each sale will earn books for the school so try and do your book shopping with us and see the school library grow.

Magical Storytelling Event.

This social event on November 4th with Taprishia was indeed a magical evening. We had wonderful tales of adventure and excitement which had the children captivated. The Treasure Hunt provided by Sue Stokes had the children (and adults) busy for ages and everyone enjoyed exploring the school grounds by torchlight. Our soup cook off was a great success with Su Bland winning first place with her delicious mushroom soup and Heather Fiona coming a close second with her warming minestrone, well done ladies and watch out Covent garden soups.



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Upcoming Events

25th November Christmas Disco

Hopefully you have all had your flyers and booking forms by now. I know we have had a good response so far which is really encouraging and we have also had two song requests in the PTA pigeon hole which have gone on the play list. If you want to nominate a song for yourself, a friend or just pick a favourite then send us your requests. We have recently engaged with the school council via Ron Parker an initiative aimed at letting the juniors help us to shape their disco. Look out for a questionnaire coming out w/c 21/11/11 and get your responses in.

3rd December Christmas Shopping Morning

On Saturday 3rd December the school is open from 0900-12.00 for children to come and play with their friends. This gives parents, carers three whole hours to do those important things such

as.....

The cost is £10 per child, concessions for families with more than three children. The school can only accept 50 children so book quickly. We will have movies, crafts, stories and snacks.

To Book Your Place Please Email The

PTA via

Joannalsdorf@hotmail.com

10th December Christmas Fair

What can I say, this event goes from strength to strength and we are very excited about this year's line up. We have an amazing range of local crafts, gifts, toys, cakes and raffle prizes. Please all make a note of the three mufti days leading up to the fair:

November 25 - Tombolla & raffle Items

December 2 - Jarbolla & toiletries Items

December 9 - Cakes & Biscuits

In support of the school's fair trade accreditation please try and make donations fair trade where possible.

Some of the stalls include, Neals Yard Organics, Eva martin Shoes, Hayling Island Bookshop, Magpie Glass, Handmade Chocolates, Home Made Cakes, Gorgeous Monkeys, Phoenix Cards, Blanche & Lola, Dribz & Bibz, Southsea Greenhouse & much much more.

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Last year we had over 32 volunteers without whom none of these events can take place. This year we need people to help across a range of activities in advance, on the day and after the event:

Planning

Coordination

Shopping

Setting Up

Manning Stalls

Running Games

Serving Refreshments

Packing Away

Please try and help where you can even one hour of your time is valuable. Contact joannalsdorf@hotmail.com or ring me on 07949864050 to volunteer. We rely on your support both in time, effort and contribution to make the PTA work.



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Save The Date

The Auction of Promises 23 March 2012

Portsmouth Irish Club, 77 Elm Grove, Southsea, PO5 1JF. 7pm - 10pm

This will be our first big fundraiser of 2012 and we have had lots of great ideas and support already. The Portsmouth Irish Club are not charging us for the venue and Debbie Dodsworth has convinced her brother Tom Keane to auction the lots for us and host the event. Tom Keane is probably best known for his sharp auctioneering on a wide range of antique programmes including Cash in the Attic, Bargain Hunt and Dickinson's Real Deal which in the last seven years has made him a household name amongst day time television antique enthusiasts.

The committee are working very hard to ensure that this fundraiser is a success by contacting local companies for donations but we also need your help very very much.

In January you will be receiving pledge slips which we would like you to use to donate items for auction. Some ideas for donations could include:

Sport coaching	Lift to airport	Tour of place you know	Meal for two	Hair cut	Painting or decorating
Holiday accommodation	Club membership	Food hampers	Car valeting or washing	Hobby lesson	Dog walking or pet care
Man with van removals	Dinner party meal	Gardening	Cake bake	Computing help	Introduction to a foreign language
Bike or car service	Swimming lesson	Fresh flowers or vegetables	Golf lesson	Ironing or housework	Slave for a day
babysitting	Party planning	Signed paraphernalia	Photography	Vouchers	Drawing of pets or children
Football tickets	Attraction tickets	Concert tickets	Roadie for a day	Theatre tickets	An experience day
Handmade jewellery	Clothing alternations	Eye sight test	Carpet cleaning	Train tickets	Drive a fancy car
Will writing	Legal advice	Appear as an extra	Vintage clothing	Designer shoes or handbags	Guitar lessons
Work experience	Picture Framing	Personalized art	Champagne	Reflexology	Handmade quilt
Thai Cookery Lesson	Chocolate party	Wedding photography	Website design	Life Coaching	Makeover

As a school community our contacts and links are a huge web and if each and everyone one of us draws on this to donate a pledge, the auction will be a huge success. Get your thinking caps on, your cookery books out and your knitting needles poised ready for those pledge vouchers.

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The Round Up

This academic year we have had the new parents wine and cheese evening, the magical storytelling evening and three PTA meetings, all that in less than three months. As chair I am delighted to see involvement growing, ideas flowing and hands on support strong. We have an exceptionally committed pool of people and I cannot hope to name them all but I feel the need to mention individually the following.

Sue Stokes from Southsea Greenhouse, your support of the PTA and school is outstanding, with donations in time, produce and ideas. I mention you in particular because even during the rigorous months of developing your Southsea Greenhouse Concept you have always been there for us no matter how shattered you were. You are an inspiration.

Sarah Stafford, for always offering to do anything that needs to be done, for always doing the little things which make a big difference on the day (tidying the PTA cupboard) and of course your fabulous toffee apples.

Laura Gunner for your creativity in gaining support for the school.

Walter Dall'Omo, for always ensuring the grotto is a huge success.

Anne Jones, for giving so much all the time.

Liz Bradbury, for always being a rock.

