

Fishermoss Parent Staff Association (PSA) Newsletter – June 2017

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff,

The end of the 2016/17 session is almost upon us and with it we reflect on the fantastic year we have had fundraising for the school. We got off to a great start with our AGM back in August with a bumper turn out of keen parents and staff. We were able to form a committee;

David Wilkins – Chairperson
 Valerie Mitchell – Vice Chairperson
 Nicola Cameron – Vice Chairperson
 Nicola Cameron – Treasurer
 Michelle Duffy - Secretary
 Lesley Robertson (staff) – Purchaser
 Claire Alexander - Purchaser
 Hazel Willox – School Uniform



Margaret Ferguson – staff
 Dawn Anderson – staff
 Shona Bloice – staff
 Heather Shepherd - staff
 Darren Robertson
 Emily Wilson
 Michelle Murphy
 Paula Stewart

As Mrs Ferguson has previously stated, the funds we all work hard to raise really are appreciated by pupils and staff. This couldn't be done without the continued support from the Fishermoss community.....so **THANKYOU** and onto this year's fundraising efforts....

We kicked off the year with **SPREE books**. These really are a great way to raise funds for the school, and for £20 you are able to get your money back by using just a couple of the vouchers. We sold 101 books with £6 from each sale coming to the school. A total of **£606** was raised this year.



We were lucky with the weather for the **Annual Sponsored Walk** back in October. The whole school made for the community woodland with Nursery – Primary 2 pupils walking the loop once and Primary 3 – Primary 7 pupils walking a longer distance by completing the loop twice. Hillside pupils did not partake in sponsorship but enjoyed the walk along with us. Well-earned icy treats awaited all pupils on return to school provided by the PSA. Given the current financial climate, we have been amazed by the sponsorship efforts again this year **£3,166!!!** So big thanks to all the staff, volunteer marshals, parents, carers and of course the pupils for doing the walking.

ShootBamboo photographers came to Portlethen Academy for us. This was the first time we have done this for the school and it proved successful. Several families booked a ten minute slot for their own photo shoot. The PSA got a percentage of photographs sold raising **£150**. If you missed out this year, don't fret as we have booked the photographer again for next year. More information on this and how to book a slot will be sent out after the holidays.



We kicked off Halloween with another new event by joining forces with Portlethen Primary PiP Group to present a **Night at the Movies**. The idea being to allow the children the chance of the cinema experience with their friends in a relaxed atmosphere without the expense of the cinema prices. Splitting the costs but keeping 100% of our own ticket sales, our first event raised **£150** for Fishermoss, with a viewing of 'Hotel Transylvania 2' and another chance to air those Halloween costumes.

Halloween Disco, always a highlight for the children and the 'Nightmare before Christmas' for us parents as the selection process for this year's costume begins!! This year we trialled a different split with three discos. Primaries 2 - 4 and Primaries 5 – 7. Primary 1 kick started the evening with their very own disco. This can be the first disco for many of our youngest members of the school and quite a daunting prospect: so we started earlier, kept a light on, turned down the volume and asked 'do dress up but no masks please'. Some of the Primary 1 teachers organised games and we invited the Hillside Primary 1 to join in too. A fun evening was had with all proceeds going towards Fishermoss raising **£350**.





The **Christmas Fayre** in November kick started our Fishermoss Festive Season. The fayre witnessed a bumper turn out with the queue out the door and round past the staff car park! Were the crowds coming to see Santa in his Amazing Grotto, try their luck on the bumper chocolate Tombola, or fancying their chances at winning the bumper Christmas hamper donated by the School staff? This year's Christmas Fayre raised **£3,010**.

Another **Night at the Movies**. This time with not only Portlethen Primary, but Hillside School joining in on the fun too. Cinema goers donned their festive attire for a family feel good showing of 'Arthur Christmas'. Another successful evening raising **£135** for Fishermoss.



Once again the **Christmas cards** produced by the pupils across all years were fantastic, and proved to be very popular going by the orders we received. The cards were turned around in record time ensuring plenty time for Christmas posting. Thanks to all your orders we raised **£750!!**

This year saw the birth of the community event **The Portlethen Santa Run**. Organised and run by Fishermoss PSA. We partnered with Portlethen Primary and Hillside School with volunteer bucket shakers from each school. Santa was kind enough to allow us to tour him round the streets of Portlethen and Hillside spreading Festive cheer and tunes. Rumour has it Santa even did the dab! The local community donated a whopping **£2,100**. This was split evenly four ways between each school and the Community Food Initiatives North East (CFine) Food Bank. Each cause benefitted from **£525**. CFine received their donation in the way of much needed items for their food bank to the same value.



The New Year saw Fishermoss PSA nominated for the **Green Community Token Scheme** at ASDA. Our slot ran from January through to the end of March. We were up against some fierce competition with Newtonhill Boys Club and Mearns Nursery, but the Fishermoss Community prevailed once again and with your support we won the top prize of **£500**. Thank you to everyone who posted those tokens for us every time you shopped. Mrs Ferguson and the Pupil Council accepted the cheque on behalf of the PSA.

March brought us the much acclaimed **Fishermoss Has Talent Show**. The just for fun event is a means of allowing pupils to showcase their talents. A total of 29 acts took to the stage to impress us with singing, dancing or wow us with musical, gymnastic and magical talents. It was a sell-out performance with the children astounding us with their sheer nerve and confidence to get on that stage and give it their all. Each act was amazing, with credit to an audience whom were warm and welcoming to each one. There were tears from some very proud parents and the children had a ball. With raffle and ticket sales we raised just over **£400**.





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Funbox danced their way to Portlethen Academy in April for two sell out performances of their brand new **Highland Fling Show**. Formerly of the Singing Kettle, Funbox invited the audience to wear something tartan and join in the fun with a sing-a-long show. Lots of excited tartan 'funboxers' diligently complied, a few of whom were even invited on to the stage to join in. The profits from the show were fed directly back to Fishermoss PSA raising just over **£3,200**.

Easter brought with it our final **Night at the Movies** of the school year. A screening of the Oscar winning Zootropolis. Unfortunately both Portlethen Primary and Hillside schools had to pull out due to poor tickets sales on their part. BUT the Fishermoss Community held fast and we had our most successful movie night yet. Raising just over **£169!**



Our most important event of the year was the **Spring Fayre**. The weather was against us from the start, but that did not stop the crowds and we had a record intake on the door. What was the draw? To see our giant gorilla again, the vintage steam engine, or the opportunity to soak your teachers?!

We were inundated with donations again this year. Thanks to those who bought raffle tickets, donated bottles and raffle prizes. To those that donated for our dress as you please day, we thank you, we were overwhelmed with chocolate and of course thank you to everyone who braved the rain. Overall we raised just over **£3,300** for the school.

1st Portlethen Scouts – ran the BBQ for us on the day. In recognition of their efforts we split the BBQ profits 50/50. The Scouts were delighted to receive a cheque for **£153**.

An unexpected, but very welcome, addition to the fundraising year came in the form of a **Quiz Night** held at The Paddock. Another first for Fishermoss and a roaring success with a fantastic raffle and seven rounds of challenging trivia, including a mixed bag music round and a tricky round on side-kicks....Can anyone else name Arthur Daley's right hand man? The raffle and quiz raised **£305**.



Our final event of the year was the **End of Term Disco**. It was very well attended...thanks to everyone who came along and to all of our helpers on the night. All the children had a ball and they certainly danced their socks off. We raised **£219** and picked up some new dance moves to boot!

Finally two of our ongoing fundraising activities.....

Did you know that it is the PSA that organise the **School Uniform**? We have been inundated with orders for Primary 7 black jumpers, new uniforms throughout the school and not forgetting the new intake of Primary 1 - tissues at the ready! Thank you to everyone who has purchased uniform this year. Uniform can be bought at anytime just ask for an order form at the school office.



Easy Fundraising was introduced last year. It has raised nearly **£500** this year alone, and over **£700** to date. So if you've got a spot of online shopping to do, why not collect **FREE** donations for Fishermoss School while you flex that credit card! No setup fees and you won't pay more than you normally would. Just bookmark the easy fundraising web page and use it to search for your favourite online shops. Easy peasy!

Join, shop and raise here: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/fishermossschoolpsa

Don't forget to bookmark the page, and download the app so you never miss the cashback!

So that's how we raised the funds, but what has it been spent on by the school this year.....

We kick started the year at our AGM by handing Mrs Ferguson a cheque for £4,490. This was put to good use to purchase an **iPad mini** for every class at a cost of £2,340. Heavy duty drop proof cases were bought at a later date for each Ipad. The PSA funded this at a cost of £156.



Art supplies to the tune of £1,500.

Science supplies for £400.



The **Christmas cinema trip** this year was to see the Disney film 'Moana'. We funded the buses to transport Primary 1 – Primary 7 to and from Cineworld at Queens Links at a cost of £720.



The Nursery children benefited with the PSA allocating £250 to fund a visit from Zoolab, giving the children the chance to get up close with a variety of animals.

The PSA also helped Santa and his elves deliver Christmas gifts to Nursery and Primary 1.

As well as the usual Christmas activities December also saw the Nursery receive a donation of £200 to fund ongoing curricular improvements to make key activity stations within the classroom.

Primary 7 had an invaluable Life Skills experience when they visited **ABSAFE**. The PSA funded the £356 for the course and buses. Valuable safety lessons for home safety, fire safety, road safety and water safety were delivered to enable the children with the knowledge to make informed decisions that could save lives.

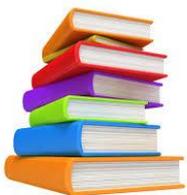


Throughout the year, a number of our pupils across the year groups, have benefitted from the work of Graeme McCall, our Active Schools coordinator. Badminton, basketball, swimming, hip hop are all activities which have been organised by Active Schools which Fishermoss pupils have been able to participate in. The PSA covers this cost of £336.

Primary 7 hosted the annual Burns Supper in January for some elderly residents of Portlethen. Every year this is partially funded through Primary 7 fund raising with the PSA providing the remainder. Credit to the children's fund raising, this year the remainder needed was only £37.55.



At the beginning of March we handed over another cheque to Mrs Ferguson, this time for £3,240.48. This will be used to purchase library books and educational subscriptions for use throughout the school.



The senior library had a visit from library services to help with clearing out worn out and outdated books. The PSA donated £1,500 to enable the replacement with new books. The school were able to then double this amount by way of an offer that was available at the time of ordering. The junior library is due for similar treatment in the coming months.

Teachers and Pupils benefit from an Education City Subscription. This online resource provides online activities for pupils and interactive content for teachers to support pupils in their learning. The PSA have always funded this annual subscription which this year is £340.





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Another subscription funded by the PSA is for Sumdog. A subscription that can be used both within school and at home to enable practice of reading and mathematical skills. The cost of this annual subscription is £295.

Number Crew DVD is another number skills resource funded by the PSA for just over £100. It allows children to further practice their mathematical skills.



Throughout the year, all classes have been off on school trips. Pupils have been to castles, beaches and museums. Some were lucky to have sunshine and others were absolutely soaked, but still managed to have fun! We can't control the weather but we can fund the **trip buses**. The PSA fund every pupil £10 per head for school trips to cover the buses. This year we donated £3,560.



Looking forward to the start of the new academic year doesn't just mean new uniforms... the pupils need new **homework diaries** and some may even need a new **green folder book bag**. The PSA covers these costs. If your child requires a new green folder, they can be purchased from the school office for £3.50 which goes directly to the school. The new Primary 1 have their green folders donated by the PSA.



Our final donation is for the Primary 7. Each year the leavers have a **Ceilidh** attended by pupils and staff. This year we donated £100 towards the dance and also donated each pupil an **autograph book** at a total cost of £289.



So the year in a nutshell...

We had a bumper attendance at our AGM in August. We have continued in that vain to have a succesful and eventful year of fundraising for the school and more importantly the children, **OUR** children.

We thank each and every one of you for the support you have given us;

- **Your time** in the form of fayre helpers, sponsored walk marshals and disco chaperones.
- **Donations** for the tombola chocolate, bottle stall and raffle prizes.
- **Participation** in the disco's, the fayres, the quiz night and sponsored walk.
- **Attendance** at committee meetings.



In a time of ongoing financial pressures we managed to fundraise in excess of £16,000 that we have donated to the school. This is an amazing effort by everyone involved.

So far the school have spent just over £12,000. Most of which has been detailed above.

OUR children, and the school, **NEED** the PSA. The amount the school recieves from the Council is just not enough. Without additional funding the children would simply not receive the benefits and experiences they do now. For this to continue, the PSA **NEEDS YOU!**

Our AGM is scheduled for Monday 4th September in the staff room. Please come along and see how **YOU** can help. We **NEED** vounteers, we **NEED** ideas, and we **NEED YOUR HELP**. This year we introduced several new events and hopefully improved on some of the old favourites. These ideas came from both new and existing parent committee members. It's new ideas like these we need. We look forward to seeing some new faces next year.



Once again thank you for your continued support and we hope you have a wonderful summer....see you next year!