

PTA Chairperson's Report 2010-2011

A robust and enthusiastic Committee has ensured another highly successful year for the PTA.

The new term began with our annual New Parents' Welcome Evening in August, which is now a firm fixture in the school calendar. This occasion is a great opportunity to meet other new parents and staff in a relaxed and informal setting and PTA Committee members were also present at the Open Mornings and Evening.

Also in the Autumn Term the PTA launched a Christmas Card project for Prep School children to design their own cards and gift tags which were then professionally printed and purchased by parents. This was a great success and it is planned to repeat the project for Christmas 2011.

Although the PTA is not primarily a fundraising organisation, we do need to raise the funds which allow us to support the school and our aim is to do this in ways which include as many children and families as possible. The PTA is grateful to all the parents who support our events, whether by attending them or by donating items or sponsorship which help defray our costs.

In October we held the Ladies' Charity Lunch at the beautifully refurbished Grand Central Hotel where 180 ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch, fine wines and great chat, at the same time raising over £4,500! The PTA was delighted to be able to donate over £3,000 to the Physically Disabled Rehabilitation Unit at the Southern General Hospital. Our donation has enabled the PDRU to purchase equipment and software which will help current and future patients in the Unit.

In December, we were delighted to support the Christmas parties for Kindergarten to Prep 3. Once again Santa made a special journey to Colebrooke Terrace to attend each party and all the children, staff and Santa's little helpers had a great time.

A new venture this year were the Prep School Discos which were held on Friday 18th March for Prep 4-5 and Prep 6-7 when the Prep School Hall was a seething mass of children and luminous glow bracelets. A good time was had by all!

The Street Party – another new venture for the PTA – took place on Saturday 18th June in Colebrooke Terrace. The inclement weather on the day meant that most of the activities were moved indoors but that didn't discourage anyone and the magnificent sum of £4,000 was raised. Huge thanks to everyone for their contribution.

The PTA also runs the uniform sales which provides a valuable service to parents and also brings in substantial funds, this year raising well over £2,000 for the PTA. I would encourage all parents to use the sales as a source of uniform and by donating pre-owned, good quality uniform - 60% of the sale price is given back to parents and the more uniform we have the more money can be raised. My sincere thanks to all the parents who work hard to organise the sales.

PTA Committee Meetings are held throughout the school year with dates advertised on the website and in the School calendar, and are open to all parents. A varied list of topics is discussed throughout the year and we were also pleased to welcome Gordon Jack, Chairman of the Board of Governors, who gave an update of the School Development Plan at the January meeting.

We aim to keep the PTA pages on the school website up to date and would urge all parents to visit the site. As well as information on PTA activities it includes links to other useful websites and minutes from the PTA Committee meetings are also available online.

The PTA aims to give donations to aspects of school life and this year we are delighted to have donated £1,600 for 4 benches for the playground, £2,199 for a rugby scrummage machine, £350 for football strips for the Senior Football Team, £884 for Food Technology equipment, £1,000 for the Kindergarten and Prep Christmas parties and £550 for the Chemistry Department. Two Wiis for the Kindergarten were also kindly donated by a PTA member. Information on these and all previous PTA donations is on the website.

The PTA needs the support of all parents, as committee members, occasional helpers and supporters of our events. The Committee always welcome views and

comments from parents, either in person at Committee meetings, or through the website.

I should like to thank the Rector and Mr Brooke for their support and guidance and the PTA Committee for their support over the past year. Thanks also to staff in the Administration Centre, Catering, External Relations and the Janitors, who provide support to the PTA throughout the year. There are a number of Committee members retiring this year, having given sterling service to the PTA, and I should like to thank them all for their commitment and hard work – we couldn't have done it without you!

Elsbeth Campbell
GAPTA Chair