Chair’s report PTA AGM 2020

Welcome everyone and thank you for coming to this evening’s AGM. The objective of the PTA is to enrich our children’s school experience. We do this by fundraising through organising fun event and activities in and after school for the children and grown up’s, as well as creating a social network of members. As Teachers, Parents and Carers of children at the school we are all members of the PTA, and it is fantastic you are here to support your children’s journey through Silsoe Lower School through the work of the PTA.

The PTA is run by a committee elected each year at the AGM. The AGM meeting is the only formal meeting of the year for the PTA and deals with the formalities of committee elections, financial audits, reviews and plans for the future.

This is our first year as Chairs to the committee and we would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the serving PTA committee:

**Melanie Jarra - Treasurer**

**Kevin Palmer - Secretary**

**Rachel Wenman – Communications Officer**

Through their hard work, dedication and commitment to the PTA, we have continued to accomplish our goals and improve upon already fantastic achievements – these ladies and gent really do “make it happen”.

Furthermore, we would like to thank all our volunteers throughout the year who help us to achieve our objective and fundraising events possible. I would like to make special mention to Sara Appleman for her on-going support; Jen and John Shields for once again taking on the challenge that is the quiz-night bar; Lynsey Jarra for her amazing baking skills; Kam Perry for sending out a record number of personalized letters from Santa to both school children and their siblings this year and Kelly Arnold for once again giving our children the opportunity to turn their artwork into beautiful Christmas cards.

And it goes without saying, a big thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, carers, neighbours, friends, teachers and TA’s who support, sponsor, donate and contribute to our events throughout the year.

And now to the formalities of the evening.

To begin, we will be voting on our new committee for 2020.

Tracy Palmer and Claire Hazel have agreed to continue in the role of chairs for the committee for 2020.

After 4 years in a committee role, and years as treasurer, Mel Jarra is stepping down from her role as Treasurer. This is the last year of her youngest’s time at the school, and we would like to thank the invaluable job that she has done for the committee. We have yet to receive any expressions of interest for this position.

Rachel Wenman has been Communications Officer for just over 2 years and she does a fantastic job of it. Not only does Rachel pen the newsletter updates and Facebook posts, she has introduced the Facebook event posts which give parents a friendly and welcome reminder when there are parent consults, activity days, class worships and book looks, to name just a few… outside of her communications duties, Rach has organised the ticket sales of our last few discos and does an amazing job – thank you Rachel! Unfortunately she is also stepping down from this position as it is her son’s last year at the school.

Thankfully we have had expressions of interest from 2 parents at the school to take this role forward; as it is a huge role we have decided to split it into social media and communications. Thank you to Aurora Harley and Michelle Stacey for your support and agreeing to take on these roles.

On behalf of the committee, Tracy and I would like to formally thank Mel and Rachel for all you have done, you will be sorely missed.

Kevin Palmer has agreed to continue the role of Secretary, and we are delighted to keep him on the PTA committee.

So that leaves the role of Treasurer. I must re-iterate, without this key role filled, the PTA will be unable to continue functioning. As always, driving engagement and interest among the parents and carers of the school remains a challenge, despite attempting different tactics to encourage new members.

However, we are confident that not one of our parents wants to see the PTA dissolve and we welcome any parent/carer with a keen interest in enriching our children’s education at Silsoe Lower to step forward and speak to any of the PTA about the Treasure role, or to become a co-opted member.

The 2018/2019 Academic year was very successful, with fundraising income exceeding £7,000 and with donations including a rather generous one from the Silsoe Stride committee, the PTA delivered an astonishing income of £11,116.50.

Mel has detailed the actual breakdown of the income by event in the Treasurers report, but I want to mention our top fundraising events for the year:

* The annual Quiz Night for the grown-ups in March.
* The ever-popular Discos for the children in October and May – which we think is a fantastic event enjoyed by not only the children, but also the parent and teacher volunteers who support across the evening.
* Secret Santa shop held in school in early-December is a firm PTA favourite to organise, mainly due to seeing the delighted looks on the children’s faces as they choose gifts for their family.
* The summer term mini-fete and community fun day stall – always a firm favourite with the children.

What do these funds support?

Again, the full list of spending is detailed in the PTA Accounts and the Treasurer’s report which Mel has prepared, however our key spending has been to meet the objectives and requirements requested by the school, with those being:

* School trips
* IT resources
* Age appropriate classroom resources through the provision of Amazon Gift cards to teachers
* Enrichment activities including the Christmas pantomime, Gardening materials, Christmas party boxes, Letters from Santa to name a few.

In closing, we would like to say it has been an honour to serve on the Silsoe Lower School PTA committee for the last year and we feel privileged to have had this opportunity. We would like to formally welcome Mrs Boyle and the new teachers to the PTA committee. We look forward driving the PTA forward in this next exciting chapter.

Finally, we would like to finish the Chair’s report by thanking everyone for attending tonight and wishing the new PTA leadership elected at this AGM tonight, even greater success in the future.

Claire Hazel & Tracy Palmer; Co-Chair – Silsoe Lower School PTA 15/01/20