

Friends of Fir Bank

2013-2014

Friends of Fir Bank continued to fundraise and have different social events. Whilst the main function is to raise money, many of the members want to hold events that would bring parents, children and families together in a more social/community way.

Throughout the year the meetings were attended by 8 to 10 regular members. Particular support was given by the teachers for the organization of the revived Fir Bank Fiesta. Parents always volunteer to help at events.

At the AGM changes to the committee were made as follows: Miranda Parker stepped down as treasurer. Ashleigh Wake was remained in office as secretary and Janett Morton has continued the responsibility as chair.

The discos, which are a favourite with the children, have proven to be very profitable relative to the organizational effort required.

The total amount of money raised at events has kept level with last year. Spending by the parents has remained equally high. Particular good fund raisers are bottle/sweets and toy tombolas. Costs for supplies, such as the tuck shop stock has increased which keeps a limit on the profit, therefore alternatives for sourcing the merchandise are being investigated.

While it is effective to run the same events every year, we have aimed to enrich the experience for the children and parents. The group has invested in decorations for the themed discos and in fundraising games which provide more entertainment.

For the second time this year Friends of Fir Bank organized a Christmas Market. It was held on the first Monday afternoon in December directly after school. Local traders had purchased tables at £10 each to sell their fair. Thanks to donations from all the families we were able to hold a bottle and toy tombola, which always boost the profit of an event. Everybody enjoyed the refreshments, including mince pies, Glühwein, hotdogs, teas and coffees. The teachers had organized arts and crafts activities which were well received by the children. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit in Santa's Grotto. Time slots were arranged and each child received a gift appropriate for its age.

Friends of Fir Bank was actively involved in the Christmas afternoon by organizing a raffle. The prize was a large seasonal hamper donated by the members of FoFB.

We had decorated the hall nicely for the valentine's disco. Tables were set out for parents to sit down and catch up with each other while the children have a ball. Games like decorate the biscuits and lollipop sticks were popular with the children.

As additional event we organized a fair this year. It was held at the beginning of June. The weather limited the scope of activities slightly. Nevertheless the event was very well attended. People enjoyed the tombola and the different stalls. Mrs McKay and Mr Kirkland had a hard time judging the winner of the baking competition. The games like huck a duck and role ten pence were popular.

As always the year culminated in the summer ball, held on Friday the 11th of July. It was Hollywood themed. The weather was glorious again which allowed us to use the outside area for games and food. Year 6 enjoyed their end of year party in their specially decorated VIP room where they could play games and have some treats. The children all enjoyed the "Fir Bank Oscars" which were received by pupils who got voted for by their classmates.

Friends of Fir Bank unfortunately did not attend the new starters parents evening. It is a pity to have missed out on the opportunity to reach out to new parents. This shall be done during the parents evening in November.

Items purchased this academic year:

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| Trips donation | 700.00 |
| Covering amongst others: Three Science Shows, Pantomime, Life Education Bus (Green, Blue, Yellow, Red & Orange) Crucial Crew (Purple) | |
| Gazebo for events | 65.00 |
| School Books | 205.82 |
| Defibrillator | 650.00 |
| Autograph books | 278.90 (3 years worth) |

Funding the trips and events for the children supports our aim of enriching the children's learning experience very well and we will continue to do so next year.

Friends of Fir Bank feel that the school is still going from strength to strength as confirmed by this year's Ofsted report. A lot of enthusiasm has been created and many school events take place throughout the year. Friends of Fir Bank try to complement this with a set range of events to bring the community together, which we hope to have achieved.

Friends of Fir Bank rely heavily on the help and commitment of its members. Without the aid and support of the parents we wouldn't be able continue to contribute to the enrichment of our children's education. So thank you to members old and new and here's to another successful year fund raising.

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Janett Morton
Chair
September 2014