



## **Introduction**

This was my eighth year of involvement on the PTA, and first year as chair, and despite taking a back seat in the past three years, I forgot how hard it was to be involved in fundraising activities. Some things never change, as in most voluntary organisations, most of our events still seem to be organised by a small number of committed and helpful parents and teachers, and it's to them we must be eternally grateful for their efforts in fundraising at the school. I still found the monthly meetings a good opportunity to catch up on both official PTA business and a chance to meet friends for a mid-week break away from the pressures of work and the family. I hope that this report will serve as a reminder of the good work of the group and welcome any comments, feedback, advice or help as we venture into what is seen as unprecedented pressures on family budgets and finances in 2009.

## **The Role of the PTA**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents, guardians and friends of the school that you are already members of the PTA, and a small committee is established each year where hopefully people can offer their skills, support or advice to help run fundraising events. We welcome new members to this small group, and please don't think that you have to be nominated to attend, just turn up to our regular meetings and we'll make you more than welcome. Our efforts go towards raising vital funds to pay towards non-budgeted items, and this year we have been raising funds towards the interactive whiteboards that sit proudly in every classroom in the school. We have already presented a cheque to the headmaster (Mr. Evans) for £3500 (from 2007/8) and a further cheque of £1,500 just before Christmas. Our target for the year 2008/9 is £5000 and we hope to reach it before July 2009.

## **Messages of thanks**

I would like to start by offering my personal thanks to Denise Gamble, our tireless and hardworking secretary, who has organised, planned and helped deliver the majority of the functions, activities and events throughout the term January to December 2008, and without her guidance and direction events would not have occurred or run as smoothly as they did throughout the year. The rest of our fundraising committee also deserve a mention, Mr. Clive Evans (Headmaster), Mrs. D Williams and Mrs. I. Gregory (Teacher Representatives), Nick Ralph, Nicola Willis, Rhian Morwood, Karen Goodall, Debbie Whiteley, Marie Jones, Sian Jones, Emma Cram, Carrie Williams, Mark Thomas, Suzanne Watkins, Clare Stevens, Nicky Munro Dawkins, Kathy Williams, Juliet Gardener and any others that I've forgotten to mention.

We have new members of the group who attend when they can, offer advice, are available for chat; have professional positions such as finance, marketing and health and safety, and some who have excellent contacts that help us develop new activities and fundraising ideas. I would also like to thank the parents, teachers, relatives and

guardians who have contributed towards running, attending and supporting our activities in any way they can. A presentation of the use and features of the interactive whiteboards was made by Mrs. Gregory during the recent Christmas Fayre and this gave parents a chance to see how some of the funds are put to good use and see something tangible for the money that has been raised.

We would like to wish a fond farewell to Suzanne Watkins, after many years on the group, as she ventures into academia and we wish her all the best and hopefully look forward to her return in a few years time. Our PTA fundraisers, teachers and helpers have been instrumental in making the events so successful and special thanks have to be made for their efforts and support throughout 2008.

### **Summary of Events 2008**

**January.** The first event after Christmas was our first ever cocktails and casino night, which raised over £100 from the small number of attendees. Despite the low turn-out we hope to plan this great fun night again early in 2009 and build in a final farewell to our 'dragon racing' expert Mr. Barrington who sadly retires this year.

**March** saw one of our newer events, the pampering evening, and this seems to be getting more and more popular every year. A night of nail polishing, hand massage and soft music where mums, sisters and grans all had a great time being looked after in the way that they should always be. Pampering evening will be held again this year in March, just after Mother's day so look out for those tickets, they may be in short supply.

**April.** The Annual Dragon racing night was cancelled due to poor ticket sales and we're not sure if it's run its course, or the timing was wrong, but we have decided to try and incorporate it in this year's casino and cocktails night.

**Discos.** Our new venue for the children's discos has been very well received and staff at the OCLP have been thanked for their support. Rising room costs may mean that we have to look for a new venue as the school buildings are too small to accommodate the large numbers attending. Each disco raises approximately £100 towards our target and mums, dads and all the children are thanked for their support and attendance.

**May** brought a wonderful summer's evening and a quiz night for a bit of light hearted entertainment in the shape of 6 rounds from general knowledge to taste testing. Even though teams seemed fairly matched at the beginning of the night, by the end of the quiz the teachers went into an unassailable lead in the final rounds. A quiz night has already been planned and written (with easier questions) for summer 2009.

**June.** Duck Racing was held again this year down at Ogmores-by-Sea. Sadly, due to an on-shore wind, only 11 ducks finished the race. We have released some funds to purchase our own ducks this year and hope to get hold of green ones to match the schools colours. Each classroom will have its own dedicated race this year, with sweet stalls, and a coffee shop down on the shore (low tide of course).

**July.** Our last event of this term was our Grand Summer Fayre (disappointing weather again!). Another excellent turnout to support this annual event, feedback was very positive from stall holders and attendees and yet again we sold out of hot-dogs (thanks to Andrea Lee and Claire Goldsworthy), in total (including the raffle) we raised over £1,800

**October's** fashion show, held at the Pavilion in Porthcawl, was held in conjunction with Debenhams and Cancer Care Cymru to raise funds for an extremely worthwhile cause. At the end of the evening, taking all donations, ticket sales and raffles into account, the school made over £700 on this event alone and many thanks must go to

our Treasurer (and Chair of Cancer Care Cymru) Debbie Whiteley for nominating our school and arranging this new fundraising evening.

**October** also saw a sponsored half-marathon run by Nicky Davies (children in class 4 and reception) and this raised over £200. Special thanks go to Nicky for her commitment and hard work training for the event and offering to raise all the funds for the school. Well done and thanks again Nicky!

**November:** A note of thanks must go to all those who volunteered to paint and decorate the school corridors walls and ceilings, saving hundreds of pounds from the school budget. Thanks to Paul for supplying bacon rolls and to Clive for supplying the coffee to keep them all going.

**November's** annual Christmas Fayre saw friends old and new set up in the recently decorated school corridors with a new layout and food stalls in the hall for the first time. The school choir excelled with fabulous renditions of carols for Christmas and the stalls offered some wonderful gift ideas for the festive period. In total over£1200 was raised and this is after all costs have been accounted for.

**November.** A new event was suggested in the shape of 'An Auction of Promises'. Unfortunately due to workloads and time commitments this had to be postponed until later this year, but we still think it's a winner so watch this space.....

### **Improving communication and safety**

In an effort to improve communication a series of posters, notice boards, pamphlets and flyers have been developed which include important safety messages and helpful information for each event. Health and Safety is a legal requirement and now integral to our activities. These reports and summaries are filed for reference and are available on request.

A new fundraising pamphlet has been produced and can be stuck onto your fridge/notice board at home, and used as a timetable of events. You can also update the totals raised for each event and keep an eye on our target throughout the year.

### **Looking Ahead.**

Events have already been planned for 2009 and our small group of volunteers are already planning and developing new ideas for the year. We still need as much help as possible, even if it's just helping to photocopy a few pamphlets when you can, so please get involved if you are able.

A regular newsletter is also planned and we're looking for a catchy title and may run a competition throughout the school with a prize for the best name. We also want to develop our own website in 2009, so if you're a computer 'whizz' please contact us and we can get this up and running ASAP.

Regular coffee mornings have been suggested and an alternative to the ladies pampering evening 'for men only' has been given some thought, so if you have any suggestions please let us know. As you can see we have some very enthusiastic members of the group, we welcome any help or assistance, we need ideas and support and if you are able to help the school in whatever way you can please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for taking time to read this report,  
Paul Lee, Chairman Trelales PTA fundraising committee 2009