

St Mary's Mullymesker PTFA – End of Year Report for 2017/2019

St Mary's Mullymesker PTFA was set up to support our local primary school. The PTFA brings together parents, teachers and friends from the school community who are interested in supporting the school, providing an opportunity for everyone to work together. The common purpose being to fundraise, organise social events and apply for grants. Events organised over the past year and a half include, Variety Show, Christmas cards, School Calendar, Santa Sunday, Bake Sale, Bag packs, Easter baskets and Movie Nights

The funds raised are used to pay for activities and equipment for the school, all of which benefits the children and teachers.

At the end of my 2nd year as Chair, I look back with nostalgia & pride on the success of the association. I feel very grateful to have been part of a group that was successful, inclusive and efficient. Friendships were formed, ideas were brainstormed, workloads were shared and tasks were agreed and completed. The group has a few core members who attended monthly meetings, in addition there is a larger group of parents including class reps who could not attend our monthly meetings but would help out when needed at events. On our larger fundraising events such as the Variety show and Santa Sunday we formed very successful sub-committees which brought in new parents, new ideas and shared the workload. Many of our 2019 outgoing P7 families were key volunteers and committee members of the PTFA, we would like to acknowledge the huge contributions they made and thank them for helping throughout the years.

As you are aware it is time for Fiona Leonard as Treasurer and myself as Chair to pass on the PTFA baton. The PTFA would like to welcome new members who may have new and refreshing fundraising ideas.

The treasurer's report will detail, we have raised £15,269.13 since Sept 2017, this was a hugely successful period. Well done to all those who worked tirelessly to organise the events and also to all the parents and children of the school who came to these functions and made them a success.

Another successful achievement has been the registering for the Giving Machine. Una Greene was the driving force behind this and since we started we have raised over £1100 of free donations. It was a nice little trickle of money in the account each month for very little effort. The Giving machine generates free donations every time you shop online. Visit www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk join now, Quick sign up code is 62280.

Highlights of the past PTFA 18 months:

- Following AGM in Oct 2017, Denise Quinn was appointed as secretary. Chairperson Edel Dolan, Treasurer Fiona Leonard agreed to remain on the committee for another year.
- Past pupil Orla Greene secured a youth bank grant through Fermangh House for £940.00. PTFA worked together with Art Mc Murroughs to provide mental health awareness and suicide prevention for 11-18 year olds. It ran successfully for 7 weeks with over 45 kids in attendance and was a huge success. Thank you to Orla for applying and providing such a great opportunity for pupils, past and present of St Mary's.
- PTFA members along with Helen Ingram attended meetings with the Cleenish Community Association and provided letters of support for the Shared Space Grant & also the Arney River Heritage Corridor project.
- PTFA secured funding from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to the amount of £2,217.00 from Community Services which is used primarily for monthly hall hire costs for after school activities and a £500 Irish in the Community grant which was rolled out over a 6 week period, feedback from this was that all participants really enjoyed the class. 2 further applications have been submitted to FODC again for the period April to June. No letter of offer has been received yet.
- In Nov 2017, PTFA were successful in securing Grant Aid from DAERA through the Rural Micro Grant Programme from Fermanagh Rural Community Network to the amount of £666.21. This was used in the purchase of a Dell Laptop, a wireless Meru access point and a Meru PSU. The PTFA funded the balance of £135.31 for this. These items are used for Breakfast Club and ICT projects. Many thanks to Barry Boyle of FRCN for his assistance with this.
- In Oct 2017, A Fundraising Bag Pack was organized for Tesco, we raised £555.00 & €17.32. Huge thank you to Tesco customers and all who volunteered on the day. Asda bag pack scheduled for Nov was cancelled due to lack of volunteers.
- PTFA received the opportunity to attend a community camp by the Eden Project. This project covered advice & workshops on funding, grant applications and engaging a wider audience for voluntary committees. Edel Dolan and Fiona Leonard attended. While there each received £40.00 each from the Eden Project. Money went towards a wheel barrow & bulb planters for the Gardening club.
- Fiona Leonard and Edel Dolan worked together with Art Mc Murroughs and Cleenish Community Association to submit a joint application for the Peace IV Grant. This grant is worth over £70,000 and will be used to develop the ground behind the Community Hall. We are very happy to confirm the application was successful and full details are available from the school office.
- PTFA were successful in joining with Belanaleck GAC and securing a partnership application for grant aid for £1668. The funders offered 75% of the funding requested and PTFA agreed to fund the remaining 25%. These funds were used for a portable sound system, a projector and screen and two basketball hoops, which are now

regularly used in the community hall. It was a great opportunity to work in partnership with other community groups and to share access to equipment and resources.

- The school ran a number of successful afterschool activities, dance, netball, running, baking, and gardening. As well as offering the Relax kids program to many of the classes. Relax kids program which encourages positive mental health and offers relaxation for children was a massive success and the kids really embraced it. We are very grateful and fortunate to have Frances Rooney as a parent in St Mary's
- PTFA rolled out Classlist as a new method of communication which is GDPR compliant. We successfully appointed class reps to engage with each class group. It was via Class reps that we engaged new people and had more help and support at events. We are very grateful to the class reps for the input and time given to the PTFA and St Mary's throughout the year.
- Throughout the year Parent questionnaires were sent home and feedback was given on events. Classes were rewarded with a Pizza party for completing the questionnaire. This information will be valuable when planning our next steps forward.
- PTFA organized the Christmas cards, where children drew their own Christmas scenes for their own personal Christmas cards. We made a small profit on this of £179.90
- PTFA member Timmy Rooney generously offered to have 3 collection boxes in Rooney's Eurospar, the boxes are a great source of income and so far have generated £915.46. Thank you to Clare Cartin who managed & overseen the charity boxes.
- PTFA received for the school a free laptop charging trolley from St Ronan's Primary School, Lisnaskea. The door was replaced and the trolley is in daily use.
- As our main event of the year PTFA agreed to fund drama classes and offer them free to all children at the school. Drama ran from Jan to the end of June with a very successful Variety show. A total of £836 was made after all expenses were paid out. A subcommittee was set up for the organisation of the Variety show, we were delighted with the support, enthusiasm and fresh faces helping out. Thank you to all the families who attended and all the families that provided raffle prizes, it was a great success.
- The PTFA supports the school by contributing towards the annual cost of £2000 per year for the use of the Community hall.
- PTFA members helped at the Christmas show, the Christmas Carol Service and at First Holy Communion. Members also volunteered at the final assembly. PTFA funded a photo book of school memories for the outgoing P7 class. Thank you to Michelle Buchanan who generously gave her time to put the photo books together.
- Grandparents day took place in Feb 2018 and 2019 the PTFA organised tea, coffee and tray bakes. Volunteers also helped to set up, serve and clean up on the day. Many thanks for the support
- PTFA donated £200 to the P5 class room for a math's resource.
- PTFA funded a digital camera for the P1 classroom.
- PTFA funded new net ball equipment costing £350.00

- In March 2018 PTFA organised and ran a very successful bake sale in the Diamond. We raised £701 thank you to all who baked and all who supported this fundraiser.
 - The Easter Baskets raised £221, in Connolly's Pub, and £85 in Steph's, thank you to all who purchased tickets. Special thanks to Julie Corrigan for putting the hampers together each year.
 - A Movie night, held in March which was suggested and organized by Denise Quinn. It was a huge success, with a total of £524 raised.
 - PTFA funded much needed gardening supplies and funded a gardener to support Gardening Club for 6 weeks.
 - Unfortunately our year ended on a sad note with the passing of Martina Kelly. Martina was a very generous, helpful and valued member of our PTFA. She is a huge loss to our school community and is sadly missed. PTFA gave a donation of £50 to the stroke unit in memory of Martina.
-
- Our **2018/2019** year started by funding a friendship bench & portable storage for the school council. In addition we funded resources for Mrs Millers P7 Class this included books, calculators, rulers, glue and other basic items.
 - As requested by Ms Treacy the PTFA funded two litter bins for the school. The bins are in place and in active use!
 - A subcommittee was set up for the organization of our first ever Santa Sunday, this was a huge success and very well supported. PTFA were delighted with all the new ideas and all the volunteers who gave so much time and energy to the event. We made a profit of £1,594.44
 - PTFA produced a school calendar, the calendar was sponsored by 16 local businesses and to date we have raised over £509.40
 - PTFA ran another hugely successful Movie night, with over £605.00 raised. Huge thanks to Rooney's Euro SPAR who filled and sponsored the treat boxes, they were a huge hit.
 - PTFA funded STEM workshops for the older classes and did some coding and robotic activities, thank you to Mrs Maguire and Michelle Buchanan for organising this.
 - PTFA funded Relax kid's sessions for the P7 class before the transfer test. As always this is hugely popular with the kids and very beneficial at a stressful time.

Special thanks to those that have supported the PTFA

I want to again most sincerely thank everyone who has supported the PTFA over the past year through attendance at meetings, helping at events, donating prizes for the raffles, local businesses for sponsorship, making grant applications and donating money. Thank you to all who bought Christmas cards, calendars, raffle tickets, attended the variety show & Santa Sunday for the help in organizing these events, donating prizes for Easter baskets and various

activities through the year and also to those who help with tea's and coffee, bag packing, gardening etc. Thank you to Fiona & all other staff in the Post Office for their patience. Thank you to Ciaran Tracey for assisting with our accounts. Thank you to Rooney's Spar for sponsoring the Sport's day and for all the generous donations during the year. It is impossible to thank each person individually so please accept our collective words of gratitude.

How PTFA funds are allocated

Over this period we have spent £14,196.53 on a variety of equipment, resources, tutors, hall hire, classes etc

The PTFA decides on allocation of funds through discussions at our meetings. The needs of the school are outlined by the school staff and the PTFA are open to good ideas and suggestions from members.

We always try to consider the following:

- areas of need within the school, for example the ongoing cost of the use of the hall.
- fun idea's and activities for the children, for example the stem project and the gardening club
- School activities needing parental support, for example the Variety show and Santa Sunday

As a registered charity we are obliged to report annually to the Charity Commission NI. We provide them with a copy of our annual accounts (these are openly available to view on the CCNI website), trustees report and a report from an independent auditor (thank you to Ciaran for this).

Copies of all expenses, invoices, receipts and bank statements are held by the treasurer. Our income & expenditure statement and annual accounts are also available to view at our AGM.

How the PTFA has involved members, the school and pupils in its decision making.

The PTFA is made up of local parents and staff members of St Mary's primary school, Mullymesker.

The group is always keen to have new members join. If you are interested in helping the school community please come along to our next meeting. We would love to see a few new faces. The PTFA will put notice of future meetings on the school website and on Classlist. At meetings our members have opportunities to bring their ideas on future fundraising events. In the past 5 years, the committee has grown from strength to strength, we originated as a steering group, we are now a constituted group and a registered charity, however, the majority of the committee are current P7 parents and for the survival of the PTFA we encourage you to participate and become involved in the committee.

In school, Mrs Ingram meets with the school council and talks to the pupils to hear their ideas on what equipment or games they would like to have at school.

Future PTFA plans:

- The PTFA already have some fundraising ideas for the year ahead.
- Develop Classlist as a safe method of communication, engage class rep's for each class year and delegate tasks throughout the year.
- PTFA are hoping to fund and secure some more workshops and classes with Relax kids.
- PTFA also hope to fund and develop the Gardening club & achieve the next Eco flag.
- PTFA agreed at meetings that funds raised would be put towards a new Math's programme which Mrs Ingram would like to introduce to the school. Funds are available when a decision is made on the best programme to use.
- PTFA hope to secure funding through grant applications to provide much needed resources for the classrooms, the ongoing cost of the hall, the breakfast club and afterschool activities.
- PTFA held many discussions regarding the development of the playground and storage facilities and it was agreed to hold off on this until the new mobile is in situ.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, access to match funding or feel you can help at any event please come along to our meetings. Huge credit and acknowledgement is due to the current members of the PTFA team. Finally, I want to give my thanks to Fiona Leonard for her huge contributions and tremendous help and support as treasurer. Fiona pulled the purse strings and was instrumental in completing and securing grants applications which are a huge asset. To Denise & Una who worked tirelessly at keeping us all in line. I want to give my genuine and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported me as chair, the committee, sub committees, the class reps, teachers and especially Helen for her guidance and giving us the freedom to try need ideas, for always supporting our efforts and the vision for making St Mary's a great school and for giving our children lots of wonderful opportunities. I am forever grateful for the friendships formed, the lessons learned and the many laughs we had along the way.

Onward & upward to a new committee and I wish you all every success.

Edel Dolan

Chairperson