

SMSA MEETING – NOVEMBER 9TH, 2011.

Welcome and Introductions: Ruth, Lynne, Karel Mcnamee, Toria Palmer, Kate Waine, Laurence Penn, Peggy Kelly, Lynne Riley, Ruth McBurney, Jo Taylor, Sara Lloyd, Tina Reed, Rachel Maynard, Jeremy Wells, Trish Littler, Silvia Lautier, Lucinda, Grace, Caroline Bystrom, Sam Bailey, Lucinda Carr, Tessa Cowsls, Karen Waller, Jessica Worthington, Claudia Wordsworth.

Apologies: ASR, Julia W, Gaynor Coltman, Lisa Rose.

Matters arising from Oct minutes:

Update on question of purchasing new bark for climbing equipment in junior playground. Jeremy Wells (vice-chair of govts) had fed back to premises committee and as lifespan of equipment reckoned to be approx 4-6 years, would like smsa to continue to fund replacement bark. Troy had not spent previously allocated amount ie about £1k of £3k. Discussed bark v. rubber shavings. Longer-term solutions to be considered when equipment needs replacing. Troy would now like the other £2k to replenish ground area by climbing frame. Lynne proposes considering with the wish list. (Agreed).

Property lawyer: Someone came forward, thanks very much to smsa and those people responding.

Calendar decision: feedback on parents' response: Although some positive feedback, concern for scheduling scope at this stage. Discussion on whether best to have a year off, especially as many requests for cash at the moment. Ruth proposed that individual classes could consider doing ones for themselves.

Finance update (Tessa)

£28k in the bank account, but £3500 costs for bonfire, £15000 committed costs previously. Leaves £9600 approx. On that basis, go-ahead given to Troy's £2k purchase of bark to make climbing equipment in junior playground safe for the children.

Wish List: Lynne updated meeting on changes to wish list, giving more time for consideration and cost comparisons as well as more strategic approach to spending decisions.

BBQ that Bill Nathan had had made has broken and un-useable without welding. Trish has asked Bill and Troy for quotes. Jessica offered to speak to her builder. Time pressure on repair = xmas fair.

Governors' Update c/o Jeremy Wells:

Security: Planning permission is soon to be submitted to Haringey Council to increase security in top playground. Proposal has been seen by some. Parents will be written to in due course and an open meeting may well be held to discuss the plan. Further proposal for securing the lane involves negotiations with Highgate School as does the far end of the route through to Highgate from St Michael's field. Plans also involve a planting scheme, trees etc that will improve biodiversity and visuals. Consciousness of the aesthetics underpins the drive to increase security of the site.

Claudia asked about timescale of work and Jeremy explained that work needs to begin in February for time-dependent grants (LDBS). Hope that works would be finished by April.

Camden Town (YR) rep asked about parents wanting to access reception class via the pathway rather than the steps. Jeremy answered that proposals will reduce the viability of the pathway alongside the nursery playground for use to access reception entrance. Also question asked about using the side lane from Bishopswood road to St Michael's which Jeremy said was not allowed although some people unconnected

with the schools are currently using it without authorisation which is not desirable from a security point of view.

Sponsorship:

Lynne still stressed that **more help/volunteers still required. Or, if you have specific contacts/ a relationship with a local business who you feel you could approach,** please contact Kate Waine and offer your input. kate.waine@blueyonder.co.uk and cc. Lynne Riley (email at bottom of minutes).

Kate W felt that we would in the short term gather sponsorship for the specific events (programmes etc). Trish Littler had spoken to Taylor Gibbs who are very keen to sponsor something. Discussion on having boards as previously for the school fair (Xmas). Claudia suggested approaching e. scissorhands for programme/hamper sponsorship. Parent (Helen Brough) has offered a framed artwork – limited edition screenprint 80x30cm - (worth £250) to the school to help raise money, possibly at an auction/quiz night. (Discussion of possible quiz night date – see forward planning below).

Discussion about whether to have volunteers having boards outside their houses, for which estate agents pay per board.

Library Update received from Julia Weiner: “ The new shelves have arrived. With the valued assistance of Ruth Williams McBurney, Patricia Cabredo and Anne Koski-Wood, I moved the TV out of the library and rearranged the central shelves which provides a great deal more space. All fiction is now in the library. Most non-fiction is outside in the corridor. There is still a little bit of sorting of the non-fiction to do as much of it is very old but things are moving on. We will be giving away a box of old non-fiction books to Oxfam. Thanks to all those who help out with library rota. I believe it is a valuable resource for our children and the feedback I get when working with the Year 4s is very positive.”

Gardening: Tony Lanfranchi. Weather meant big dig cancelled last week, but re-scheduled for this coming Saturday. Compost structures are not working effectively and it may be necessary to design a better, more efficient system. But, kids are enjoying themselves in the garden! **More volunteers always welcome to help with kids gardening clubs during school hours.**

Website (Laurence Penn): **More photos of recent events required**, especially the classical music evening. Trish passed on info about a new parent (photo-journalist) who has taken many photos recently. Email Laurence please.

£500 (almost) raised last year with shopping via the website. Hoping that this target achievable in the month in run up to xmas.

Laurence confirming all the links are working.

Caroline Bystrom has ordered the smsa bags which will advertise.

SMSA board soon to be invigorated.

Karel asked about how to raise awareness of the benefits of shopping via the smsa website. Issue of stickers re-raised to help consciousness raise.

Claudia offered to do an ‘advertising campaign’ to help promote the website.

Laurence will try and arrange weekly updates of what money has been raised via people using the smsa website shopping.

Discussion about banners and clearest communication of the shopping page’s existence on the smsa website.

Recent Events:

- **Classical Music Evening:** Great success, lovely evening. Will be repeated as no doubt there are other talented musical parents out there.

Tessa did not yet have the final figures for costs/profit.

- **Fireworks night:**

Trish, went well, weather kind. PA system problem. Had hoped people would have stayed longer after fireworks. Huge praise for the bonfire and guy which was fantastically done by y2. Thanks to all helpers, the bonfire builders, the fireworks, all wardens and everyone who came.

Didn't seem crowded, but more tickets than ever sold.

Laurence proposed having another bar close to the bbq.

Caroline B. said the ticketing at the entrance was tricky in terms of distinguishing adults/children tickets and bottle-neck busy-ness/mayhem. Was checking of tickets vigorous enough? Feedback received about this, saying it wasn't.

Talk about advance information/communication of designated lost child location. Perhaps where St John's ambulance folk are based in junior classroom behind stalls. This would enable to tell their kids in advance where to go if lost.

Discussion about the cost of tickets. Also, popcorn too cheap at 50p (discussion ensued on whether it was a good thing to have a cheaper product on offer!).

Toffee apples, candy floss and popcorn raised £450-500.

Trish reported that just under £5k was raised.

Lynne told meeting about candy floss crisis when a delivery didn't turn up and how this was sorted!

Ran out of glo-sticks, could sell more next year.

Cost of meat was higher at the BBQ for this event, discussion of quality/pricing as meat was more expensive from a new source this year. Discussion of whether better using a local butcher (Elite Meats) and setting up an account. Talk about suppliers extended to alcohol.

For next year, stalls need BIGGER floats at the start.

Clearing up the fireworks after the display e.g. the following morning also needs to be planned for in advance. This year it fell to two people as they had relied on the big dig to do it and then that was cancelled.

Kirima evening Nov 19th:

Tickets are still available for this fundraiser at Highgate School, starts 7pm. Tickets from Tessa in the office (£30 per head), Clive Anderson, music, auction etc.

Xmas fair Sunday Dec 4 (12-4) c/o Ruth McBurney

Stalls are allocated

BBQ c/o Bill Nathan

Choir booked c/o Miss Clifford – two performances this year

Ticket for entry £1 adults 50p kids

Music (xmas compilation, any DJ volunteers out there?)

Prizes, encourage parents to donate or take costs out of takings.

Tessa stressed that classes must be responsible for post-fair clean up of their stalls and AROUND their stalls.

Hampers to be wrapped (cellophane etc) by the class organising i.e. Paddington class

Reindeer coming again!

Any dads who would like a stint as santa please contact Monument reps.

Panto

Casting dates Dec 5 and 6 for speaking parts

Rehearsal time will be over the three weeks from the start of term (JAN) to the performances.

Re kids (juniors only), they will probably be divided into two groups with two performances each.

Quiz Night - March 22nd (Thursday) c/o Laurence +

Football Fun day - April 29th

BOTB, postponed until Nov 2012

AOB

- Lynne Featherstone has emailed those who responded to funding issue, thanking them and explaining next round of consultation.
- Claudia raised issue to Jeremy Wells (Gov/premises committee) of Reception loos not being cleaned/checked sufficiently during the day and this resulting in them not being clean and smelling at the end of the day. Can anything be done to address this? Jeremy promised to look into this.
- SMSA is considering changing our bank from Lloyds to Barclays further to exploring if Lloyds want to offer what Barclays are offering us in terms of facilities.

Next Meeting: Thursday December 1st

Remember:

Xmas is coming and if you shop via the SMSA website (www.thesmsa.co.uk) you help earn 'free' money for the school – up to £500 a month.

Please remember to access online shops via the SMSA SHOPPING PAGE.



SMSA Committee 2011/12 and useful email contacts:

SMSA Chair – Lynne Riley/Durand lriley157@gmail.com 07796464787

Vice-Chair – Ruth McBurney ruthpdq123@hotmail.com 07809608454

Co-Co-Treasurer – Karel Mcnamee mcnamee.karel@googlemail.com

Co-treasurer Tessa Cows tessas@eproductive.com

Co-Secretary – Claudia Wordsworth Claudia@macace.net 07768 094304

Co-Secretary – Jessica Worthington jessica_ferrandiz@yahoo.co.uk 07980 560540

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