

SMSA MEETING – Jan 2013

Thursday Jan 24th, 7:30pm in the staff room

NB: Points requiring volunteers or rep mobilization are highlighted

1. Introductions/apologies & welcome from the Chair.

Present: Claudia Wordsworth, Lynne Riley, Lorna Ross, Karen Revel-Chion, Tony Lanfranchi, Rachel Maynard, Karel McNamee, Ainsley Stocker, Georgia Baker, Maria Abellas, Anna Mazzega, Jenny Taylor, Sharon Smith.

Apologies: Jeremy Wells, Trish Ferguson, Tessa Cowls, Bill Nathan, Julia Weiner, Sally Holyland, Kate Waine, Elizabeth Meakins, Ruth McBurney, Laurence Penn, Jessica Worthington, Helen Barrison.

2. Matters arising from last minutes Lynne Riley

People willing to have boards advertising school events outside their houses, please contact Jessica Worthington or Kate Waine – this is an on-going need.

Breakfast and after school clubs survey c/o Mrs Ross has been actioned and responses are being gathered. A good number of families are keen so this is being pursued. Mrs Ross spoke of what the clubs would involve as per the information circulated via Groupcall. Morning club run by two TAs and after-school would be run by mi-sport, independent of the school but using our premises. Morning club is per half-term commitment and mi-sport ad hoc online booking. To start after the Feb half-term.

3. Treasurers Finance Update Tessa Cowls & Karel McNamee

Funds: £60k in the bank, but £17k plus is about to be paid to the school. Available funds approx. £35k.

Cake sale funds available update has been circulated to the reps and T Lanfranchi will distribute to the staff. Contact Karel if you have any questions.

Also audited accounts for 2011/12 have been distributed to the reps for wider circulation. Lynne said they are wonderfully thorough.

If cake sale cancelled due to snow etc, please ask office for another date even if a Friday is not available.

Ana Mazzega said Ms Wegner was keen for a whiteboard to be bought, but Mrs Ross and Mr Lanfranchi thought that was more of a school budget or wish list item, not a cake sale. Mrs. Ross will feed back to Ms Wegner.

Mr Lanfranchi talked about not always using school catalogues as prices can be higher than necessary. Said it would be good if reps can help source most economical outlets for items wanted by teachers, as long as quality and durability are not compromised.

4. Governors' updates Karen R-C;

Ongoing talks about academyisation as many schools are looking into becoming academies due to the decline of local authority provision. Options are being investigated, but academy route only possible with wide consultation of parents, teachers, governors etc. No sudden change can or will happen, rest assured. One possibility is via the London Diocese who are supporting academy changes elsewhere in Haringey. They operate not for profit. It is very early days, only discussion stage, way before consultation stage even.

The purpose of bringing this up was to reassure parents that we want to be in a position to understand the changing landscape of academy status, not an indication that this is the route we necessarily wish to take.

Mrs Ross talked about how the authority has linked St Michael's with two other schools to cross-benefit in terms of staff development or cross fertilisation of ideas (the new Jewish school in Muswell Hill and a school in the east of the borough).

Rachel Maynard voiced concern regarding the perception of academies, as those schools who opt for this status are often those whose were previously known as failing schools. Karen re-

emphasised that the landscape was changing and all schools are looking for alternatives as Haringey local authority would increasingly be unable to provide certain services.

Security ongoing – gate in situ but not currently working properly.

5. Wish Lists and discussion Tony Lanfranchi

To be discussed at next meeting. Tony to update staff on available cake sale funds.

Will encourage teachers to spend some of their available funds.

Rachel Maynard mentioned that Amanda Sapsed is keen for 1 or 2 computers/PC's for nursery/reception. Mrs Ross is having ongoing discussions about internet routing etc and is speaking to the IT people about best way forward on this.

6. Sponsorship Kate Waine/Jessica Worthington

Lynne spoke on behalf of Kate and Jess re need to compile events calendar dates to facilitate forward-planning for our estate agent sponsors. Lynne has some dates to clear with Lorna, so we will progress with this.

Karel said the Shrek tickets raised £500 for the school! Will speak to Kate about finding another theatre ticket opportunity as it obviously has scope to be a success and great easy fundraiser.

Lynne re-mentioned potential collaboration with Jacksons Lane – agreed in principle so will be pursued by Jessica Worthington.

7. Library update Julia Weiner

Library rota will be distributed very soon.

We have started opening the library on Fridays to all the Junior school and cards for the Year 2s are being made so they can start coming on Fridays too. Julia plans to send out a mail next week so that Years 2-6 can use the library between 3.30pm and 4pm on Fridays. On the first Friday only 5 children attended, 3 of them

belonging to either Julia or Laurence so please encourage more children to come.

Restriction of Darren Shan books to Years 6 as requested.

8. Garden update Alicia Pivaro/T Lanfranchi

Lynne spoke of desire to have a clear project for the gardens that the SMSA could support, jointly with the Governors.

There will be a meeting with the Governors premises committee soon so as to establish nature of project and likely costs and scope for specific fundraising events.

Karen said this kind of premises improvement was also a big priority for the Governors, wanting to form a proper holistic plan with clear coordinated phases.

Mrs Ross talked about meeting with St Mary's School in Hornsey re a grant they recently received for updating foundation stage outdoor space and that teachers from here are to go and see what that school achieved so that we can learn from their experience.

Mrs Ross wants to open up the green room access via a proper walkway so that usage increases. Would also open up access through to the KS2 playground. Lynne said there are funds available for this kind of project. Karen also thought people leaving the school may also want to sponsor something specific.

Gardening clubs – parents are enthusiastic, but needs more coordination muscle. More adults are coming co-ordinated by Lucy, Alicia and Tony. Clearly the weather has not been optimal for gardening club recently, but there is still a feeling that we have valuable space not being used to the max. Claudia suggested a Doodle sign-up for rota forming... WOULD ANY OF THE CLASS GARDENING REPS LIKE TO TAKE ON A COORDINATION ROLE TO ENSURE THE RIGHT NUMBER OF ADULTS ARE ABLE TO ATTEND FOR THE FRIDAY LUNCHTIME GARDENING CLUB AND THEN WE MAY ALSO THEN BE ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE WEDNESDAY GARDENING CLUB. IF SO, PLEASE LET YOUR REP/SMSA KNOW. Likewise, if any non-parent, but gardening enthusiast would be interested in

helping in the school gardens, please let us know. Eg –grand-parent/carer etc.

9. SMSA Website & shopping Laurence Penn

Laurence sent apologies, but please keep using the shopping links via the SMSA website.

10. Review of recent events:

Previously covered in Dec meeting.

11. Forthcoming events/important dates:

Panto (Feb 7, 8, 9 mat and evening) Kath McG & Sarah Rayment

Front of house help needed: selling tickets, selling food, help at the bar etc. Saturday helpers and audience (matinee show) will be asked to bring a cake. Please email Lynne if you would like to help. lriley157@gmail.com You only need buy one ticket even if you are willing to help at several performances – this will work as a front of house ‘pass.’ Ideally we need a minimum of six helpers for the kitchen/bar per show.

Sales of tickets from next Thursday. Thursday is easiest night to get (Feb 7), but Sat night sells out very quickly!

We also need someone to professionally film the show from which a DVD will be made and sold. If you are able to do this or know someone who will do it at a totally knock down price, please let Lynne know.

We also need – for the children who are taking part in the panto – an adult who will stay with them in the classroom ‘green room’ and chaperone them for their cues. Someone is needed for each show.

TEN =Temporary Event Notice needs to be organised asap – Lynne to do this.

12. AOB

Lorna wanted to thank all the parents with shovels who came to clear the snow from the school playgrounds.

Rachel Maynard : re the xmas fair and father Christmas outfit – thought that need to improve beard etc so that no child could recognise their own teacher! Rachel to research options for buying a new outfit for this year.

SMSA DATES:

27 Feb next SMSA meeting

21 March SMSA meeting

24 April SMSA meeting

12 May football fun day (keen to have football mad dads/mums from the infants too)

Possible quiz night in March – exact date TBC.

Shop online via the SMSA website (shopping) and earn easy £££££ for the school (www.thesmsa.co.uk)