

**Canonbury School Parent Teacher Association**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2010**

**Present:** Abigail Hopkins, Beatrix Payne, Suzanne Ting, Andrea Crooks, Carine Wittenbol-Ocak, Alexis Schwartzreich, Michaela Field, Harriet Guggenheim, Jenny Puddington, Tania Raymond, Marci Jennings, Alice McAllister, Ntanga Bodibengi, Pearl Wong, Julie O'Reilly, Kate Buchanan, Sian Thomas

**Committee:**

Staff - Lisa Horton, Mich Bahn

Parent - Jacque Moreton, Sarah Wallis, Angela Bhardwaj, Shu-Chi Souillard

**1. Successful Christmas Fair**

A big thank you to all who helped make the Fair a huge success. Not only did we raise over £2300 (we took in £2873 and spent £572), we also contributed to the school's community-feeling.

The committee reiterated that we would love to hear from parents and carers any ideas of new PTA events.

**2. Treasurer's Report**

Jacque Moreton reported that at the end of January the PTA held a total of £9256 in its two accounts (Natwest - £7643.52 and Nationwide £1,613), so close to £10,000, which is very healthy.

The fireworks night from Nov last year was extremely successful, bringing in £3379.

However, with expenses around £3000, we only made a profit of around £440. The majority of the money was spent on the fireworks, which all agreed, were spectacular.

Since the last PTA meeting in Oct, we have spent £2885 on the requests for funds that were approved at the Oct meeting – eg, book corners in each classroom, playground equipment, digital cameras and problem solving material for foundation stage. This payment, which has just been remitted to the school, will reduce the current funds in the account.

**3. Approved Requests for Funding Not Yet Completed**

At the last meeting, we approved an expenditure of £1000 to resolve the sandpit cover issue (sandpit is constantly flooded and children cannot use it). Lisa Horton reported that the problem is with drainage. Without a working drainage system, simply putting on a sandpit cover will not solve the problem.

Lisa is currently working on investigating alternative uses for the site. As sandpit has proved to be extremely popular with the children, we will try to incorporate sand into the eventual design.

We will put aside the approved £1000 to be used towards the new equipment.

**4. New Requests for Funding**

The following bids were presented:

- a) £1000 for a shed to store PE equipment. This is related to the work that has been funded by the Canonbury Foundation to build a wall in the playground and move the football pitch. Having a shed will mean that equipment can be stored in one single location.
- b) £1000 for handheld camcorders. The school is running a film-making project with Year 4 children to make a short film about our school. Once the project is finished, the camcorders will be used by all children in the school if and when they are needed.
- c) £500 for 3 digital cameras for taking pictures for projects.
- d) £250 for tricycles to be used by foundation stage (reception classes) children.

- e) £430 for 15 bee-bots to be used by foundation stage children. Bee-bots are programmable floor robots which help the children develop their ICT skills.
- f) £85 for 25 swimming caps for the swimming team. These will be printed with the Canonbury logo.
- g) £100 for bouncy balls and other indoor games for the nursery. These will be particularly useful on rainy days.
- h) £1000 for Cubitt's work in the school. Cubitt assists Canonbury in Everybody Draw and Everybody Click, and will be funded partly by the school (£2000) and partly by PTA (£1000).

All the above requests were approved by those in attendance. Total approved expenditure £4,365.

- i) The nursery has only one computer between the two classes, and it often does not work properly. The school is aware of the lack of resources, and it will be addressed as part of the ICT improvement programme which will be discussed with Matt, the new Headteacher. Donations of old computers (to be used until the ICT improvement programme is rolled out to nursery) will not be feasible as it would be too expensive to clean out the computers of any unwanted data. A question was raised as to whether or not there are ICT audits to ensure any equipment is not stolen. Lisa confirmed that there are audits and that although there had been thefts in the past, there has not been one in the past year.
- j) Lisa will ask Scott (music teacher) if there are any needs for new musical instruments.

## 5. Future Events

Upcoming events in the second half of spring term include:

- Valentines' disco on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Proceeds will go towards Year 6 journey.
- Quiz night on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar. Proceeds will go towards Year 6 journey.

Upcoming events in the summer term include:

- A barn dance, organised by Abi Hopkins.

### Fashion Day

- Date is to be determined, but will be in the beginning of April.
- The theme will be recycle and re-use.
- This will be a fund raising event, with a day event for the children and an evening one for parents and carers.
- The event will also be an educational one for the children. They will develop their design and creative skills, as well as an awareness of where resources come from and where they end up.
- A Year 1 parent, who is a design professor, has offered to bring in 8 MA students (one student to guide each Year) to help the children in this project. As these students will be travelling in from Kent, the organisers (Tania Raymond and Alexis Schwartzreich) would like PTA to help cover part of the students' travel expenses.
- Tania and Alexis have requested £500 to fund the MA students' travel expenses, materials needed (fabric glue, Velcro), as well as bringing in TRAIID (Textile Recycling for Aid and International Development). The request was approved.
- Tania and Alexis asked if there would be any security issues with bringing in external help (eg CRB checks). Lisa Horton will look into the issue, but does not think that CRB checks will be necessary. The school needs to perform mini risk-assessments on the external help (as well as parents helping), which will involve ID checks and signing in and out of the school.
- The £500 expenditure was approved by all in attendance.

### Art Show

- The governors would like to organise an art show (Harriet Guggenheim is the contact person for this event) to raise funds for the school. It has been run in the past and was very successful.

- The children will make art pieces, which will be framed and displayed in the school. Parents and carers can buy their children's art, price to be determined by the parents themselves. However, parents will be informed that the cost of each frame is £2.50, which hopefully will mean that the event will make a profit (from past experience we believe it will).
- Harriet requested that the PTA purchase the frames (the cost will most likely be recovered from the proceeds). The cost will be £1125 for 450 frames. This expenditure was approved.
- Date is to be determined.
- Cubitt would like to help the children produce their art work, and to display them. As this project is covered under the current work that Cubitt is doing at Canonbury, there will be no additional costs.
- Mich pointed out that in another school that she had worked in, they also had this event and they had to unexpectedly hire a hall to display all the children's art work. This would mean that the cost of the event will go up substantially. Emma Kay has discussed this with Harriet, and believes that all of the work can be displayed in the school with existing equipment and space (ie, no expenses). It was noted that the last time Canonbury ran this event (with an outside company), they brought in partitions which were stored during school hours.

## **6. Thank You Sue**

Sue Seifert will come into school to say goodbye on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb from 9 to 10am. We approved a spending of £100 (later amended to £150) to buy a bouquet of flowers and a gift to show our appreciation.