

June 2015 Newsletter

In the first newsletter since joining the PTA I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the PTA to thank all the parents, pupils, teachers and wider community who have supported us over the last year. I'd also like to take this opportunity to commend the tireless work and commitment that the rest of the PTA team put in throughout the year. This extends beyond the PTA members to the additional helpers, Parent Class Reps and all the parents who organise, coordinate and support the many after school clubs, school uniform provision, fundraisers and community events. I'm pleased to join such a great group of people and help drive forward the great work that everyone does. I hope that you consider joining us - please contact any of the committee members or pop along to one of our meetings.

In this final update before the end of term we have a few key dates for your diaries, and we'd like to extend special thanks and best wishes to a few staff members and club coaches who are leaving.

We hope you all have a great summer holiday!

Brent Hurley (PTA Chair)

New Members Please!

New members are always very welcome – if you are uncertain about joining then why not come along to one of our meetings to see if it is the kind of thing you would like to be a part of.

WHY JOIN THE PTA?

A contribution from Nikki Watt – my 3 positives about the PTA:

1. Having a better understanding of how my child's School is run. It also helps keep me informed of future events.
2. I like to help ... it's a bit like an extension of my day job. I can help support the school in raising much needed funds. We all need to be proactive with this. Council budgets are going to continue to be tight. We can make a difference to our children's school and their experience in it.
3. I enjoy the social aspect of it too. There are a lovely group of parents and teaching staff. Everyone just gives what time they can. It's up to you how involved you want to be.

Balerno Children's Gala Tombola Stall

The PTA had a tombola stall at Balerno Children's Gala again this year. An impressive £699 was raised! Lots of people came over to try to win a bottle of wine or sweets. Some came back quite often, because winning only tins of beans didn't meet their expectations....!

Run for me - Dance for me - Think of me

Hopefully everyone is aware that there is to be a weekend of celebrations of the life of Louise Duncan on 21st – 23rd August 2015. Please see <http://www.runfordanceforme.org.uk> for full details. The PTA has been extended an invitation to participate, and we are keen to be involved and help towards fundraising for Marie Curie. We have not sorted out the details yet but it is likely that we will take a table on the Saturday morning – we might do face painting, serve Prosecco or do a Tombola, ... or something completely different! Any of the PTA committee members would welcome your suggestions....

Fun Run - Sunday 13th September 2015

This year's annual sponsored fun run will take place on Sunday 13th September from 1.30pm. The route for P1-P7 children is 1.5km from Waulkmill Loan along the Water of Leith finishing at Balerno High School. There is also a short route for nursery and preschool children. Everyone who takes part receives a medal and this year for the first time all children taking part will receive a point for their school house! It is all about taking part and having fun; you can run or walk and wear fancy dress if you like. Children will be getting some practice and some tips on pacing during active Wednesdays when they come back after the summer. Entry and sponsor forms will go into the school bags the first week after the holidays. We hope to see you all there to enjoy some late summer weather!

June 2015 Newsletter

Autumn Fayre - Saturday 31st October 2015

We're aiming to make our biggest fundraiser even bigger and better this year so please put the date in your diaries. There will be further information nearer the time but alongside all the usual stuff expect to see some special themed activities!

Mr Speedie has kindly agreed to help out with a special fundraising challenge (not gunging!), which we think the pupils will enjoy....!

Thank You and Farewell!

Pamela Watson

The PTA would like to say a fond farewell and huge thank you to Mrs Watson for her many years of dedication to Dean Park Primary School. Her effort and enthusiasm has been absolutely phenomenal and has always extended beyond the school gates and school hours to a vast number of school and community events. Have a great early retirement – you'll be missed!

Diane Young

Mrs Young will also be missed! Thank you from everyone for all the valuable help and support you have provided to the PTA over the years – have a happy retirement.

Fiona McKay

Mrs McKay is leaving Dean Park Primary at the end of term for a new teaching job. As a very popular teacher she will be missed by the pupils, but will also be greatly missed by the PTA as a long serving staff member who was always very willing to help out at events like the Autumn Fayre. Thank you! We'd like to wish you all the very best in your new job.

Justin Armsworth

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Justin for 4 years of dedication and commitment to the Football Club. All his voluntary effort in planning and coordinating training and competitions is very much appreciated, and the hard work is reflected in the success of the team. Justin finished on a high and 'hung up his boots' last Saturday following on from a Dads vs Lads final game of the season!

Aileen McLachlan

This year we are saying goodbye to our wonderful Gymnastics club coordinator Aileen McLachlan. We wish to thank Aileen for all her hard work and commitment and her great sense of humor. We wish her all the best.

Tracey and Peter Rogers

Our two popular Karate coaches are unfortunately leaving due to other commitments. We'd like to say a huge thank you as they've been absolutely brilliant with the children and will be greatly missed.

PTA After School Clubs

We are delighted to inform you that the clubs continue to be popular and many are running at full capacity. Please check our website for any updates to space availability and also information on our involvement in various tournaments with other schools.

TIMETABLE

The clubs' timetable for the new School year 2015/16 will be available by the end of July 2015, so please visit our website <http://deanparkschool.org.uk/pta/> for more information on how to book a place.

GYMNASTICS UPDATE

The PTA is delighted to announce that Adrienne Wilson will take over as the new club coordinator.

KARATE CLUB UPDATE

We have a new Karate coach lined up for the start of the new term.

CLUB CO-ORDINATOR VACANCIES

The running of our clubs cannot happen without our wonderful parents who devote their time to helping out. ***We are currently looking for two Club Coordinators.*** No experience is necessary as training and support will be provided. It is a great way to get involved with our School and meet other parents. If you are interested please contact the Club Administrator, Katarina Lauder at katarina.lauder@hotmail.co.uk.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

This is being reviewed with the aim of simplifying the process and ensuring that the focus is on empowering tutors/coaches to apply consistent and proportional responses to behavioural issues with the full support of the School, PTA and parents.

DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Registered Scottish Charity No.24582

June 2015 Newsletter

Projects

Of course we can't forget the reason behind all our fundraising activities: to raise much needed funds for the school. At this moment we are pushing for the final go ahead to implement the sports field improvement project. Following that we will be developing a vision of what our next big project will be...

Parent Class Reps (PCRs)

Parent class reps provide great additional support to the PTA and help coordinate the organisation of events. All classes except 2 have had class reps over the last year – it would be great if we could have one for every class next term so please consider volunteering, even jointly with a friend.

If you would like to become your child's Parent Class Rep, please contact Charlotte Fleming at charlottentf@btinternet.com.

Communications

Please visit the PTA website for all the latest information – it now sits within the school website at www.deanparkschool.org.uk. In particular please look out for all the latest information for after school clubs.

Communication from the PTA will first of all be posted on our website. The notice board beside the Thrift Shop also displays all PTA information, including PTA contacts, club information, news, fundraising info as well as the rotas for staffing the Thrift Shop.

Thrift Shop

MAKING MONEY....

This year the Thrift Shop was visited more than our first year, which is a great success. We earned £840 until the end of June on 473 second hand items and £488 on new items like water bottles and ties.

Having the room opposite the original Thrift Shop gave us more space to show the items we have. In case you don't know: we sell second hand school items like jumpers, trousers, ties, pinafores etc. Besides that we also sell water bottles (plastic and metal) and all kinds

of jackets and sports wear.

NURSERY THRIFT SHOP SALE

On Friday 22nd May, we ran a Thrift Shop Sale for the new P1 children in the huts at Dean Park Nursery. The sale was well attended by parents and their children, who were delighted to be able to pick up some school uniform items at bargain prices as well as useful hints and tips about starting at Dean Park.

Parents were very pleased to have their questions answered, be it about school uniform and advice on how many items you actually need or simply some more clarification about how certain things are done at the school on a day-to-day basis.

The morning was a great success. We managed to raise £138 for the Thrift Shop, which is brilliant. For those parents who couldn't make it or didn't find the items they were looking for, please pop into the Thrift Shop at the Primary School over the next few days or after the summer holidays, as we're receiving new stock on a regular basis.

DONATIONS OVER THE SUMMER

Like last year the Thrift Shop will be open in the last week of the Summer break on Thursday 13th August and Friday 14th August 15th August, 9.00-12.00am. If you need anything or if you want to donate items no longer used, you are very welcome to drop by.

OPENING HOURS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Thrift Shop can't do without volunteers, so if you can spare a little time when you drop your kid off at school or when picking up, please come and help in the Thrift Shop.

Mon-Wed: 8.30-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm

Fri: 8.30-9.00am and 12.15-12.45pm

THRIFT SHOP CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED!

As the youngest child of our current coordinator will be leaving Dean Park in 2016, we are in need of a new coordinator. What does the Thrift Shop coordinator do? Take care of the volunteer rota, bank money, order new water bottles and ties, and keep the Thrift Shop looking nice and tidy!

If you have any questions or remarks about the Thrift Shop or if you are interested in volunteering for the coordinator role, please contact Wendy (wendycleandesk@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support!

June 2015 Newsletter

Rag Bag

The Rag Bag bin was visited quite regularly this year, sometimes it was even too full to donate. We will keep a closer eye on that next year.

What did we collect this year? £46.80 at Dean Park School PTA and £23.60 at Dean Park Nursery School.

School Uniform Ordering

The PTA are pleased to introduce a new school uniform online ordering system, allowing orders to be placed directly with our supplier. The new system will allow parents to order uniform and pay online **AT ANY TIME OF YEAR** and will considerably ease the administrative burden on the PTA.

We therefore encourage all parents/carers to use the new online system, however if you are unable to do so the uniform order form can still be downloaded through the following link, [Download Uniform Order form](#), or obtained from the school office and returned to the office with payment. If you are in receipt of school uniform vouchers, please use the paper system and your order will be placed.

The [Online ordering system](#) is very simple to use and has a secure payment system. Delivery can be to a designated address for a cost of £5.00 or sent to the school for no charge. All other prices are unchanged again this year.