

MSA News - December 2007



Hello and welcome to the MSA newsletter! This is our opportunity to fill you in on our recent fundraising activities, outline projects we are planning for the new year and also gives us a chance to introduce ourselves to new parents and explain a bit about what we do...

Background Information:-

The MSA (Milton School Association) is your school Parent Teacher Association (PTA). It was formed (we believe) in 1984 and has raised a great deal of money for the school over the years. This money provides our children with all the extras that help make this school a success. Over recent years we have provided interactive white boards in 2002, replaced the swimming pool in 2004/5, refurbished the KS1 playground and improved the KS1 reading area in 2005, updated the reference library with new furniture and books in 2006 and replaced the KS2 play equipment in July 2007. We also provide a number of ongoing donations to the school, large and small, ranging from the classroom allocations that teachers can spend on whatever they need, to the Christmas Crackers that add some festive fun to the children's Christmas lunch! We hope you agree that all these extra resources have made a big difference to our children's time at school and, although it may sometimes feel as though we bombard you with leaflets etc, you share our commitment to the causes we raise money for.

Without your continued support we could never have provided these things and for that we are enormously grateful

MSA AGM

This year we held our annual AGM in September after 'Meet the Teacher'. It would be interesting to hear from parents who have any thoughts on the timing of this meeting (obviously we would like to make it easy for as many of you to attend as possible).

Book Fayre:-

Travelling Books (a new company for us) visited this autumn, an event that raised £761.32 for the school. The MSA added an extra £78.68 - so that each teacher/class had £60 to purchase new books. Thank you to Vicki MacLennan for co-ordinating this event and to all the volunteers who helped man the desks. Winners of the competition were:- Emily Roper - overall winner, Ellie Harris - KS2 winner, Rizwaan Baig - Foundation/KS1 winner.

Auction of Promises:-

An excellent evening's entertainment by a very amusing auctioneer. Many many thanks to everyone who donated a lot, they were **all** sold! Thanks also to everyone who came along to support us and helped us raise approximately £2,736. Our thanks go to Vicki again for organising this event.

FunMats:-

The children have all been very creative and have produced some excellent pictures for this project. We hope you are all happy with the finished articles which raised approximately £782 towards school funds. Thank you to Magda Piveropoulos for co-ordinating this.

Fireworks Night:-

We had a very mild evening and once again an excellent display of fireworks. Our grateful thanks go to Brian Blackwell (from Beaumont Butchers in Fulbourn) for supplying the sausages etc and cooking and carving the roast pork. Thanks also go to our school cook Vicki Columbus for her help in the kitchen, the teachers and helpers on the stalls and to the men who love to light fireworks - including Mr. Gilmore. Overall we raised approximately £1450 - thank you to Heather Wallis and Gerda Covell for organising this. Winner of the best Guy was:- Tegan Fairhurst

Christmas Fayre:-

This always feels like the beginning of Christmas; singing from the school choir (arranged by Mrs Cutts), mulled wine and present buying all in one evening. The children from year 2 upwards worked very hard to produce items which were sold and our thanks go to all of them and the teachers for their support. Thanks must also go to the staff from Cambridge Building Society who ran 'Play your cards right' and raised £25.10, and to Barclays Bank who are going to match the profit from the tombola. Thank you to all the parents that donated items for the tombola, second hand stall or raffle and for coming along and supporting us on the evening. The £100 raffle prize was won by Sandra Wilson. Overall the Fayre raised approximately £1,229 for school funds, thank you to Catherine Taylor and her team for a well organised event.

Children's Christmas Disco:-

The children's disco wrapped up the end of another successful term. A new entertainer DJ Rob entertained children from KS1 & KS2. Thank you to all the helpers who gave up their Saturday afternoon/evening and especially Magda for co-ordinating this non-profit making event.

Donations made to the school this term:-

The MSA on your behalf have made the following donations to our school:-



Classroom allocations - £1,680 or £120 per class

Theatre trip to see Cinderella, year groups Reception to yr 4 - £235

Christmas Crackers - £158

Theatre group performance of the Christmas Carol at school, year groups 3 to 6 - £370

200 Club winners:-

This year we have sold 97 tickets, a little lower than previous years, however after allowing £245 for prizes over the coming school year we still raised £240 for the school. If you are a winner, cheques will find their way to you via your child. In October we had 2 lucky winners in classes 1 & 10, November winners were in classes 4 and 5 and in December classes 5 & 10 had winners.

Other ways we can raise funds:-

Brightminds:- www.brightminds.co.uk should you purchase any items from this catalogue or website please enter the **source code: NSP-1241** and the school will receive 25% of the amount spent to purchase items from Brightminds.

School Link Book Club:- www.schoollink.co.uk purchase books from this company saving huge amounts on list price, but don't forget to enter the **SchoolLink No:0005878413** and our school address (Milton CE Primary School, Humphries Way, Milton, Camb. CB24 6DL) for our school to receive £1 (to purchase new books) for every £10 spent.

In December parents supported us by ordering books from the Scholastic catalogue. The school will receive 20p to spend on books for every £1 spent - this has raised an extra £80 for the school.

School Uniform:-

A huge thank you to Helen Carden and Alison DeFranco for running our school uniform sales over the last few years - they have done an excellent job. They are now stepping down from this role and as of January, Karen Johnson, Mel Hodson and Helen Parsons will take up the reins. Normally, school uniform can be purchased on the first Tuesday afternoon of every month in the school entrance hall between 3.15pm & 4.00pm. Alternatively leave your order (with cheque) in the MSA box and the items requested will be sent to you via your child. School Uniform Dates this term will be:-

Tuesday - 15th January (NOT 8th Jan) - 5th February - 4th March

Dates for your Diary:-

Spring Book Fayre	- Monday 3 rd - Thursday 6 th March
Quiz night	- Friday 7 th March
Easter Egg Bingo	- Around Easter weekend
Summer BBQ	- Friday 4 th July



Safer Cycling Donation

The MSA would like to thank four parents, Dr. Catherine Walker, Richard Youell, Susan Johnson and Clare Purvis for giving up their time to provide year 6 children with cycle training in July 2007 and for generously donating their payment for doing so to the MSA.

Class Representatives

We now have class representatives for all the classes APART FROM 2,3,5 and 11. If you are a parent from one of these classes and would like to volunteer please get in touch. Thank you to all those that have volunteered, the MSA will be in contact with you soon.

Printing Request

The MSA are considering producing a Cookery Book next year and wondered if any parents might have access to printing facilities. We would like to produce a (approximately) 200 page, A5 spiral bound book. Could your company help, provide sponsorship or print the book (maybe at cost price)? Any offers would be gratefully received. Please contact Sharen Halfpenny via the MSA box in the school office or email her at sharen.halfpenny@halfpenny.net.

Pool Carer

It may be cold outside but summer is just around the corner - and on this note - the MSA must thank Debbie Karram for her hard work in the Pool Carer role and for also organising the rota for the After School Swimming Sessions. Debbie leaves our school community in summer 2008 and we are looking for someone to take on the Pool Carer role from 2009. This role involves supporting the school caretaker during the 6 week pool season by having the ability to perform a chlorine level check and then, if necessary, dosing of the pool with chlorine. A chlorine check also needs to be done once a day at weekends. For this role you need to participate in a 2 day course in the spring term (of 2008). **COULD YOU DO THIS ROLE?** - if so please get in touch with Debbie via the school office. Expenses are paid. We will also need someone to co-ordinate the rota for the volunteer parent pool supervisors for the After School Swimming.

And finally...

If you would like the opportunity to become more involved in the projects and events we organise, please do come along. Parents/Carers can join the MSA anytime during the year - YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME! Contact Sharen Halfpenny by leaving a note in the MSA box in the school office or email her at sharen.halfpenny@halfpenny.net

Information about the MSA can be found on the school website www.miltonprimary.co.uk.

The MSA Committee wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.