

Presidents Report -2022

Just when we thought we had dodged the covid bullet last year, unfortunately it was not the case!

This past year as PTA president have been challenging with the effects of trying to organise a large fundraiser amongst a pandemic and rapidly changing government rules and regulations, and lack of support from the wider school community.

Last AGM raised concerns around the future of the PTA going forward as we struggled to fill office bearing positions and maintain committee numbers with an element of uncertainty going forward. Unfortunately, nothing much has changed over the past year and we find ourselves in a similar position. Tonight, some difficult decisions will need to be made. Can we rely on the school community pulling together to support the PTA or is this the end?

On a happier note, I am extremely grateful to the small number of hardworking committee members continued to work tirelessly to organise fundraisers for the PTA. The oyster raffle was once again a great success generating \$5,665 for the PTA. This income boost was essential in helping us get through the year as other fundraising events such as the garage sale BBQ, and sale of food at the events such as Winton's Got Talent and the end of year prizegiving could not happen due to covid restrictions.

The popular Friday BBQ continued this past year with income slightly up on last year, from \$1,219 to \$3,153, however with further disruptions due to Covid, these figures are difficult to quantify as we haven't seen any sense of normality for the past few years!

Plans for a significant fundraising event were made - The Masked Singer. The organising committee was determined for this event to go ahead, however covid was against us and no matter how hard we tried, this fundraiser along with many others became a victim of the covid rules and restrictions. Significant groundwork and planning for this event has already been completed so hopefully this event can happen in the near future.

We still contributed significantly to school activities throughout the year such as;

- Years 7-8 Camps = \$4,450
- Contribution to Y8 Leavers Jerseys
- Dragon Maths Books
- Year 8 Leavers BBQ
- New headphones for the junior school
- Cupcake treat and a visit from Minnie and Mickey Mouse for the juniors

Due to the lack of parent support from the school community, the committee has decided to scale back the amount of assistance it provides for specific activities. Many of the activities the PTA contributes towards is senior level heavy, and it was suggested that the focus should shift to funding things such as resources/ sports equipment that benefits the whole school rather than a select group of students. As a result, it was decided that the PTA would no longer contribute towards the Dragon Maths/Action English books or \$50 per child for school camps. The books would be funded by school and the increased camp cost will now fall back onto parents to cover.

Other activities would be assessed on a case-by-case basis depending on the level of participation by the school.

PTA will still continue to fund the year 8 BBQ and hoodies as it was something nice to contribute to the year 8's in their final year.

Aside from supporting the school in a financial sense, we also provided helpers and volunteers for school discos and cooking the Y8 leavers BBQ.

Massive thank you to those parents who take the time to volunteer cooking the Friday BBQ's. Without volunteers such as yourselves we would be unable to run this popular and successful event each week. Thank you to Steph Wilson for co-ordinating the Friday BBQ last year and Joanne McIlwrick who put her hand up to take on this role for 2022. Our volunteer helper list has been dwindling with very few coming forward to help, however Jo has jumped right in to help and is busy working on recruiting more volunteers which is fantastic.

Massive thank you to Jenni and Suzan for their fantastic ideas and tireless work behind the scenes organising the Masked Singer. You both put your heart and soul into organising this event and I really hope that we can finally get this event off the ground and bring it to the community in the near future.

I am grateful to Kirsten (treasurer) for her 5ish years contribution to the PTA. You are a huge asset to our committee and we are going to miss you! I also want to thank all members of the committee from taking time out of your busy lives to come to meetings, put forward ideas and take on a leadership role in organising events to ensure their success.

Big thank you to Megs for organising what has become the annual ski trip. Unfortunately, this trip didn't work out due to covid so fingers crossed for this year!

A big thank you to Jacs Reid for all she does behind the scenes for the PTA particularly with the banking of the BBQ money since the local bank closed. Also, to Denise for looking after the PTA second hand uniform sales. We really appreciate all you do for us.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the PTA is a very small group of dedicated parents that work tirelessly for the benefit of all students at Winton School. We all have a life outside of this committee and being a member of the committee shouldn't be seen as a chore. You don't need to come to every meeting, you won't be given a job to do and you don't have to be involved in any fundraisers. Your ideas and support would be greatly appreciated. Any fundraising supplements the school's operational budget and pays for the 'nice to have extras' for all our children.

If the PTA failed to exist, the ones losing out are your children, through reduced opportunities and/or resources due to lack of PTA funding assistance or volunteer help. We are all here for the same reason – to support all the children at Winton School, but are unable to do so without support from the families within our school community.

Bridgett Aitken