

East Craigs Primary School PTA Meeting 17th January 2024 18:30 – 19:30

Attendees

- PTA: Clair Mochan (Co-chair), Laura Rafferty (Co-Chair), Julie and Lynsey
- School Staff: Pamela Briggs, Lisa Bradley

Welcome and PTA business

- **Welcome** from Clair Mochan and a thank you to parents and staff for coming along to support the PTA.
- **Leavers hoodies.** While funded by the parents, the PTA usually organise these before June so that the order can go to Borders and be back with us before the start of the new academic year. We discussed whether there would be a preference to go without names and just include the leavers year (to prevent what can be costly template updates) or have all the P7 names included as usual. Parents are being consulted so that we can go with the preferred option. This is a non-profit activity, but we'll keep a contingency pot for any late joiners.
- **Christmas Cards.** The general feedback was that the Christmas cards (and mugs, tea towels, stickers) were very good quality this year, from Xmas4Schools. However, we all agreed that things were very rushed with deadlines. We'd like to reach out to the company about using them again this year, however would like to make sure we are organised earlier to allow more time for orders and ensure our admin team aren't left the task of manually matching the codes.
- **Social channels** have been created since our last meeting and are a great place to keep up to date with what's happening (as well as in the Head Teacher updates). Links:
 - o Facebook: [East Craigs Primary School PTA | Edinburgh | Facebook](#)
 - o Instagram: https://instagram.com/ecps_pta
 - o X (formerly Twitter): https://x.com/ecps_pta

Fundraising update

- We fundraised a truly fantastic **£4,302.36** between the start of the academic year in August, to when we finished up for Christmas. A summary of our activities is below. A huge thanks to everyone for a phenomenal effort – children, parents and carers, teachers, PTA volunteers and the local businesses who donated to and exhibited at our fair.

Activity	Month	Amount Raised
Meet the teacher	September	£33.20
Family bingo night	September	£313.92
Halloween disco	October	£1,015.53
Bag2School	October	£139
Christmas Cards	November	£482
Christmas fair	December	£1999.46
Festive Friday dress up day	December	£290.34
easyfundraising	Ongoing	£28.91
TOTAL		£4302.36

Upcoming events

- **Family bingo night** – 21st February 2024 (18:30 – 20:00): Traditional bingo; Irish bingo and a break for juice, tea and coffee, home baking, sweets. Advanced ticked sales will be available on ParentPay.
- **Easter disco (P1-P3 and P4-P7)** – 27th March 2024: Two discos for the younger and older age groups, with DJ, dancing and juice. Advanced ticked sales will be available on ParentPay.
- **Krispy Kreme Day** – 19th April 2024. Discounted donuts will be on sale at the end of the school day for those who wish to purchase one.
- **Crazy Hair** – 3rd May 2024. This was popular event last year. Kids are encouraged to come to school with a funky hair style. Suggested £1 donations at the gate.
- **Summer fair** – 25th May 2024: Stalls, raffles and summer activities with full details to follow.
- **Kids Ceilidh** – June (date TBC): We reached out to CeilidhKids to run an event for us and they are happy to support. We are currently looking at dates in June for a kids ceilidh and potentially a family ceilidh in November as we approach St Andrews Day too.

- Note: The school have also planned some activities around World Book Day in March. This won't be a fundraising initiative and the focus will be on sustainability as we do not want parents to be buying anything new for this. The PTA are happy to support with comms on our social channels.

Actions:

- Volunteers needed for all events. PTA members to confirm if they are available to help via WhatsApp.
- PTA to notify school of on-site first aider ahead of each event.
- PTA committee to continue to send any event or fundraising updates for HT Friday news throughout the year.
- Laura to confirm ceilidh dates for PTA to begin planning for this event.

Other fundraising initiatives

- We agreed look into personalised **Lego Brick keyrings** as another fundraising initiative before the summer holidays which was a great suggestion by Carolyn at our last meeting.
- **Bags for School** to take place again (date TBC).
- **Easyfundraising** is an easy way to support East Craigs Primary School. Shoppers can raise donations for us at no cost to them when they shop online with over 8,000 brands. We will add a link to our PTA webpage drive awareness on our social channels.
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ecppta>
- **Lost property**. The PTA have registered for two labelling / stamp options for uniform so that the school can benefit from purchases made via these companies. The details are below:
 - o Labels – MyNameTags. We have a school ID with MyNameTags and East Craigs Primary School will automatically be credited with 24% of each order. The ID is 24789 which can be entered at the checkout page. Or, use the direct link below:
<https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=24789>
 - o Stampers – StampTastic. Every order placed with stampTastic using our link will earn 15% commission for the school. Our direct link is below and our parents and carers can

receive a £4.99 discount when they order the School Name Labels Deluxe Bundle, using PTA Code EH128XF.

<https://bit.ly/STAMPEH128XF>

Actions

- Clair to reach out to Carolyn to look into Lego Brick idea.
- Clair to schedule bags for school as appropriate.
- Laura to share easyfundraising and label / stamp with admin team for addition to our webpage and create comms for parents / carers.

Initiatives supported / funds spent

We provided funds for the following between the start of the academic year and the end of December:

- **Violins.** Free instrumental tuition is available in the upper school. The violin teacher had the capacity to teach more children than we had violins, so the PTA was able to purchase more which were good quality, fully refurbished instruments. Thanks also to our school community who donated their old instruments and to Stringers of Edinburgh for giving us a fantastic deal to support our school.
- **Lagganlia coaches.** We paid for the transport for this P7 trip in November.
- **School football goals.** The previous goals were old and the nets were disintegrating. The PTA provided funds for one goal and the parents of the football team(s) fundraised for the other. These have been delivered and are now in use.
- **Trip money for every class.** £100 was given to every class to be put towards a class trip at a time of choice throughout the academic year. Note, those classes who didn't get their trips in our previous Academic Year (2022-23) will have their balances carried over.

Funding requests

Additional funding requests from the school:

- **Learning Space.** There has been a lot of planning going into the extension area which currently houses classes from P3, 5 and 6 and a lot has already been improved since August. P5s and P6s are designing the space and interior designers are being consulted. The PTA agreed to help fund furniture once we have more ideas on costs and requirements.
- **Ovens for food technology.** There are a number of learning outcomes our children should be working towards which include food technology and without any cooking equipment or kitchen in the school, things like making soup are not easy to achieve, The PTA agreed to fund 2/3 desktop stoves and hobs for the school to support the food technology education of our children. These are relatively low cost but will have a high impact on learning.
- **Trip money for the nursery.** Trip money for the nursery classes. This was agreed by all and £200 will be sent for the nursery to put towards an outing.
- **Playground experience resources.** The leadership are looking to see how they can make the playground more of an experience and would be grateful for donations from the PTA funds to help provide resources. We discussed that fixed items such as jungle gym equipment tend to be very high cost to purchase, install and maintain, however loose parts tend to go missing. Ideas such as donated old tyres were discussed, and we may also apply for grants to support this. The PTA are keen to stay involved in this project.

Actions

- Pamela Briggs to confirm funds requirements for learning space.
- School to take funds from the PTA ParentPay fundraising pot for stoves and hobs and order via our these directly.
- Clair to write cheque for £200 for trips to be provided for the nursery children.
- School Leadership team to keep PTA informed on ideas and funding requests for the playground.

AOB

- We talked about getting the pupils feedback involved in our comms to share the benefits of what we've funded with the wider school community.
- It would also be great if the wider teaching staff and house captains can put forward ideas of what they may wish to have funded from the PTA.

Actions

- Laura to arrange photos and reach out to Pamela based on what we need in terms of pupil contributions to our comms.
- Laura to send the minutes from today's meeting as well as the easy fundraising actions to admin team to update our webpage.

Thank-you

Next meeting to be scheduled.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to join the PTA, please get in touch and we can get you involved, whether on an ad-hoc or regular basis. We would love to welcome new members any time. In addition, if you have any ide or suggestions we'd love to hear them! eastcraigspta@gmail.com