

## **The PFA (Parents & Friends Association)**

### **What we do.....**

Occasionally I have been asked by new parents, "What does the PFA do?". I suppose a formal description of the role of the PFA is 'to promote the spirit of community within the School and College'. Put simply, we organize events for the children and parents of Thriftwood School and College, with the focus on having fun! These events may be fundraisers (where money raised is put towards activities or equipment for the children) or purely social occasions for parents and children.

The last year has been a very busy one for the PFA, especially since we were a completely new committee – so organising events for the first time was a fun challenge!

We had two discos in the year, which are wonderful for children to 'hang out' with their friends and sample the delights of all the tasty homemade cakes. They are also a great opportunity for parents, family and friends to get to know other families at Thriftwood and even see a few teachers getting into the groove on the dance floor! The Bingo Night went down very well, with some wonderful prizes for the winners and, as usual, a raffle was held to raise money.

Our biggest event of the year was the Summer Family Picnic – which was a great day and luckily the sun shone on us. Parents were able to relax with their children and enjoy the activities and entertainment. It's a very informal chance for families to meet each other, the teachers and to have fun.

We also organised a non-uniform day and the funds raised were used to buy new gardening equipment for the children. We also arranged for aprons and shopping bags to be made with self-portraits of the children have printed on them. These made lovely Christmas presents, but we still have plenty in stock if you would like to purchase anymore.

The next big fundraising project is for Outdoor Areas and Playgrounds. We are investigating grant opportunities to help support this goal. We are always grateful for ideas for new events and activities – for both the children and parents.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the PFA Committee and our regular volunteers for the time, effort and creativity they put into organising our events; without them the PFA would not be able to continue to flourish. I hope that you will continue to support the PFA and perhaps think about joining the Committee or becoming a volunteer. If you are interested please contact the school and we would be pleased to welcome you on board. We have one meeting every six-eight weeks during term time.

Jo MacSween

Chair 2014-to date  
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