

Oct 2009

Parent to Parent



Dear Lodge Parents,

A belated welcome back to school after the summer break, and hopefully the weather will be kind to us for the next coming weeks as we come to terms with the arriving autumnal evenings.

For those who have not received this newsletter before, it is written with intentions of improving communication between the Lodge Parents Association, Parents, Staff, Governors and Children. The LPA would like to update you on events in the forthcoming year and with a couple of changes in the committee.

Events Calendar

6 th November	Grand Fireworks Display
11 th December	Kids Christmas Disco Year 2-6
12 th March	Quiz Night (or alternative event- suggestions welcome)
21 st March	Easter Fun day- Westdene and Year 1
30 th April	Kids on the Catwalk
21 st /22 nd May	Downside Centenary Celebrations
3 rd July	Summer Fun day



Firework Display

This year will be our second Firework event held at Downside Lodge.

Nearly 400 people attended last year despite the terrible rain and wind, but in order for this to be a great fundraising success we are hoping for an ever larger turnout. Frontier Fireworks Company put on a tremendous display set to music from various well-known themes. In order to run the event on this large scale it is necessary to make a plea for volunteers to help with a number of tasks including refreshments, safety stewards, tidy

up helpers, and other jobs in the run up. If you think you can spare some time to show your support then please contact Lynn, number on the reverse.

Tickets are on sale now, with discount offered for tickets bought before the event.

Fundraising spend

In the last year the LPA have raised over £8,000 and with an amount carried over from the previous year we have been able to fully fund the refurbishment of the Downside ICT Suite. This has added considerable value to the education of the children as the new updated fully networked system is enabling the staff to deliver the most effective lesson possible. This level of fundraising is only possible with the commitment and generosity of the Lodge School Parents, family supporters and Staff .





Congratulations to our winners.

At the summer fun day, visitors were offered the chance to enter a sunflower competition, where your selection of seedling was planted in a plot in the Downside playground. The winners of the competition were- Daniel Ball-Tallest flower, Charlotte Ball- Largest Flower, with runners up Mrs Barnett and Lucy Perry

Another successful year of balloon racing has resulted in a record 11 returned tickets.

The furthest yet again crossing the seas and landing a spectacular 258 miles away in Holland, the other 10 mainly landed in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The winners from the three lodges are Olivia Richards- Westdene, Ryan Kiggundu- Downside and Megan Cross Commonweal



Committee Changes

The current position of Chairman is being shared jointly by myself (Lynn) and Tory Skinner for the forthcoming year. Both of us are regularly at Downside and West Dene, but will endeavour to stay in touch either by email or text to those we miss in person.

We are pleased to announce that we have been joined by 2 vice chairs, Deborah Mc Crimmon and Belinda Sims who will assist us in the day to day running of the events. Our Secretary, Choy Brothers has decided she has writers cramp and will be resigning from this position. Anyone who would like to step up to this role is asked to contact any of the Chairs or Vice Chairs for more information. Although we currently have most of the committee member places filled, we are always looking to attract more members as often those people holding positions of responsibility will only want to do this for a period of time and we need to plan for future members.



Internet designer/ Website development

The LPA for some time has been exploring the possibility of the creation of a dedicated website, and is striving to become a paperless organisation.

We are seeking help that is either free or for a minimum cost to help develop this function. Once established the maintenance can be given back to the committee members to prevent any ongoing commitments.

Additionally we would like to aim for a complete email approach to communication to reduce paper wastage and time consuming photocopying. We understand that the school are attempting to launch this system, and once its underway we hope to join.

To this end we are shortly going to be asking your permission to gain access to your email contact. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this further.

Ideas for event

We have pencilled in a date for your diary for the 12th March in the new year for a quiz night, but would like to offer the opportunity to try a different type of event. Over to you for ideas on what kind of evening you would like to see. It needs to be able to be held at either the Downside of Commonweal halls on the selected dates.

Feedback and comments welcome, and suggestions for entries to
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