

14th October 2019

Parents and Friends Association Officers and Annual General Meeting (AGM) Update

The Parents and Friends Association met for an officers meeting and AGM on Monday 7th October and discussed the following:

Project Fundraising

- Officers discussed the Primary Playground Development project. The PFA has now secured grant pledges of **£7,500** from the Garfield Weston Foundation and **£10,000** from the Edward Gostling Foundation. There are further grant applications outstanding. Quotes had been obtained from two playground design companies and the total required is approximately **£60,000**. Further fundraising would take place.
- Funding is also required for an iSandbox, a multi-sensory resource demonstrated to staff at the INSET day in September. **£6,750** is required to cover the cost and so far the PFA have received a grant of **£3,750**. Further grant applications would be submitted for the remaining **£3,000**.
- Plans for the Open Minds MSET project to be held again next year were shared and grants would be sought to cover the cost. It was agreed that this had been hugely beneficial for the students that had previously taken part.
- The PFA had entered the Tesco's Bags for Life competition a while ago to fund new equipment to expand the practical learning opportunities available from the outdoor space at the Avelon site. Although the school did not win the competition we will still receive **£2,000** towards this project. Quotes had been sought and received for the installation of a horticulture shed, covered outdoor gazebo/covered space and concrete pathways and bases. The Tesco's grant would therefore be put towards this development.
- An application had been submitted for funding to purchase large seat shaped bean bags and a large mat to create a quiet, reading, social space in Sycamore class.
- A school visit would be arranged early in the new year for Steve Eldridge and John Fitch to present the cheque totals raised at their Golf Days at Brickenden Grange and Romford Golf Club this year. The total raised will probably total around **£20,000** for these two events. Officers expressed their thanks to them both for their huge efforts to benefit the school.

Projects Funded by the PFA

- Officers agreed to fund some accessibility technology for Mulberry Class.
- The PFA were pleased that the Summer Party had been enjoyed by all of the children and they were happy to hear that the funding that they had provided had gone towards such a beneficial event. Officers were happy to hear about another possible Polar Express themed Christmas event and agreed to fund the resources for this.
- Thanks were expressed to the five ladies who ran the Basildon 5k Inflatable Run recently and raised approximately **£1,700** for the school.
- The Avelon outside space has been improved significantly with the outdoor gym equipment (funded by a LA capital grant). Officers were glad to hear that four new large planters had been installed during the summer holidays and that they would be filled with earth very soon. The new shed and outdoor gazebo/shelter are also coming soon.

Any parents or carers who have fundraising ideas, links with sources of external funding or would like to join future PFA meetings would be very welcome.

Kind Regards,
Eddie Fowles, PFA Chairman