

Darell School PTA Minutes – 24 February 2010

Present

Jane Faulkner
Emma Steadman
Rachel Cronin
Sangita Kale
Daniel Drake

Tracy Mullen
Laura Khalil
Denis Leroy
Fern Roberts

Apologies – Jess Craig, Ray Ferris

Minutes and Matters Arising

No particular matters arising from the previous meeting.

School disco

Friday 26 February, Tiny Twisters will be running Darell's first disco. Who will be able to help man the drinks table, make sure that children stay in the hall?

Do parents have to stay while the disco is on? Yes, after school hours, parents are responsible for children's safety, so if not present then there has to be a particular adult present who will be responsible for a child in case of an accident.

Teachers' report

Years 1 & 2 went to Windsor Castle.

Year 5 has been to the Imperial War Museum.

Year 4 has been to the British Museum to study the Ancient Egyptians.

Year 3 has visited the Mayor to celebrate artwork.

Darell has an Artsmark Gold award; they will be visiting on Friday 26th to review this and see whether we are still eligible for an Artsmark award. Bella Rustage completed a long and complicated application form for this.

The first week of March will be Book Week. Val Bloom, Drew Colby, Kate Brook, Richmond Library and people from Orleans House will all be visiting the school in this week.

Treasurer's report

Thank you to classes for recent bake sales. The PTA currently has £9,500 in its current account.

Handmade Places will be starting the next phase of the playground – an adventure trail in the junior playground – during the Easter Holidays. The total cost for this will be £18,000, which will be half funded by the PTA, and half funded by the school. The PTA's balance towards its share of the £9,000 will hopefully be met by the end of this summer with proceeds from a successful summer fair, as well as a stall at the Richmond May Fair, which Caroline Clark has kindly agreed to take the lead on running again.

Fair Trade status

Rachel Cronin reported on discussions between the Green Team to get Fair Trade status for Darell School. Currently staff need to pay £5.99 per person for their tea and coffee per term. In order to gain fair trade status this amount would triple to £15.99 per person. Staff members have agreed to double their contribution but would the PTA meet the difference? The cost would be £300 in the first year...

Meeting attendees questioned whether supplementing tea and coffee - albeit for a very good reason – is a valid use of PTA money when our constitution specifies that our funds should be towards enriching pupils' experiences at Darell. We asked whether there are any other ways to gain fair trade status which would directly involve students. For instance, when Sodexho's contract is renewed, would it be possible to get fair trade fruit and vegetables at lunches or for snacks which then can be discussed by visitors with the pupils?

Laura will look at the benefits to the school in supplementing Fair Trade status.

Any other business

Should there be another social event for parents this term? What about having a Caribbean night?

Would it be possible to do this before Easter?

Fern to look into this.

Football tournament

We wanted to start a 5 a side football tournament or league on the 3 March after school but the weather has been very cold and we have not yet had a volunteer to manage it. Postpone this to after Easter and appeal again for a volunteer in a newsletter. It is a difficult time of the day for a volunteer to help and it is an ongoing commitment for several weeks. It also needs to have someone who loves and knows about football!

Summer fair

The Kew Fair has been moved from the end of August/start of September to the 26 June. The Queens Fair will be on the 12 June. The Mortlake Fair is generally on the last Saturday in June. When should Darell have its summer Fair? There is a possibility that the 3 July would clash with a semi-final match if England get through in the World Cup – disaster! Same problem potentially on the 10 July. What about the 5 June or the 17 July the 5 June? Laura will speak to staff and let us know – we need to start getting organised for this fair! Also, does anyone have thoughts on a theme for the Fair? Last year's was 'Diggin' it for Darell'.

The next meeting will be in the morning after drop off on Friday 19 March.