



Solefield School

Solefield Parents' Association - Chair Report

We started the SPA year with our second Comedy Night which was full of hilarity and a great fun way to start the school year. It gives new and old parents the opportunity to socialise outside of the day to day 'school gates' - as with many of our evening events throughout the year.

Our second event was Quiz Night. Tim Payne was once again our quiz master for the evening, which he does so well.

We finished before Christmas, as always, with the much loved Christmas Fair. Father Christmas' appearance made the event a magical one for the boys, particularly the younger ones. The boys all went home with lots of gifts for their family and friends. Each year group donated a fabulous hamper which formed our Hamper Raffle and I had the privilege of contacting each of the Hamper winners at the end of the day; they were all delighted to receive their prizes.

We finished the day with some great external traders coming in to sell their goods which helped some of us 'parents' finish our Christmas shopping. I would like to thank all of the SPA members, class reps and parents without whom the Christmas Fair could not happen. I must not forget also a special thanks to Mr Palmer who returned to school to help with a 'special top secret' job at the Fair. The Christmas Fair is our biggest event to which everyone contributes and it's a great example of how all of our SPA members, parents of the school & school staff work together.

We started 2016 with our Music & Curry night. Thanks to Mr Fenning, Rachel Evans, Hilary Peters and Vicky McDonagh for organising the evening and of course Tim Payne who was yet again our compere for the evening. Each year I find it amazing to see how much talent we have amongst our parents and staff at Solefield. I must also thank the schools catering team for once again feeding and looking after us so well during the evening.

The year 7&8 disco was held in February which was very successful with students attending from New Beacon, Walthamstow Hall and Coombe Bank. It was great to see our boys mixing with students, boys and girls from other schools and scary to see how grown up they all are! Thank you to Tara Wright for organising the disco and to all of the parents who helped on the night to make it such a success.

I still feel the cold when I remember the sponsored walk on that very windy wintery day... the boys did so well and exceeded all of our expectations for the distance they walked. Thank you to all the parents who walked with the boys and marshalled as well as serving refreshments; without whom, we could not have held the event and raise money for an amazing cause.

During the school year we held three film nights, of which one raised money towards the Malawi Fund. We finished the year with our final film night on the last week of term. I

must thank Rachel Evans, Penny Walsh, Sandra Walters and their wider team of parent helpers for making these evenings such a success.

We have changed the way we run the school uniform shop this year with termly rather than weekly sales. Rachel Evans and Emily Carey have been leading these sales and I must say another big thank you to them both and the wider team of parent helpers who all work together to prepare for and run these sales.

In addition to the end of year film night, I mentioned earlier, our SPA Dinner Dance, which took place on 25th June and was another fabulous evening.

This year we have been raising funds to upgrade the schools' transportation, which we will continue to focus on next year. We have also paid for the boys to attend the Christmas Pantomime and purchased Eggs for the Easter Egg hunt.

Over the course of this year we have tried to involve our wider parent group in organising some of our events. This helps the SPA team spread the workload and also gives parents who are unable to commit to joining the SPA, the opportunity to be involved in events when they have the time to do so. We plan to continue working in this way going forward.

We have an outline plan for our 2016/17 SPA events and will continue to hold many of our annual evenings starting the term with comedy night in October.

At this stage I would like to give a very special thanks to Gilly Thorpe who will sadly be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Gilly has been part of the SPA for a number of years and has been a great help to me as Chair for the last two. This year Gilly pretty much single-handedly set all of the questions for Quiz Night and ran the evening so efficiently. Gilly also seamlessly organised the sponsored walk during which we raised funds towards our Malawi project and has been a key member of the SPA team for all of our projects. Gilly, we will miss you going forward but can I say a massive thank you from me and the SPA team for being such an integral part of our work?

Before we finish I must add a few extra thanks. Firstly, thanks to Tara Wright and Rachel Evans for their roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Secondly, to Mel Thomas who has helped run the bar for many of our evenings this year and has helped me organise the Dinner Dance. I must also thank the school and particularly Mrs Mahon, as well as Barbara Volpato and Lindsay Savage in the office who help behind the scenes for much of our work.

Lastly a massive Thank You to all of the SPA members who have given their time and support over the year to ensure SPA continues to be a success in raising money for the school and provide fun, social occasions for parents attending.

Nicole Cazeaux
SPA Chair