

## Abernethy Parent Council Chair's report for AGM, 28/8/19

I got a row from my mum last year when I told her I'd taken this job on. I think she felt I might already be over-committed. In my defence, I told her that this was an easy job because of the willingness and commitment shown by all the members of the group. Thankfully, that has absolutely proved to be the case and I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all those of you that have supported me personally as well as the various events the parent council has been involved in over the past year. I think special thanks have to go to Alison and Sue who both stayed on in their posts for a year longer than they'd planned just so they could prop me up!

As always, we held a number of events during the year:-

- Halloween Disco – popular and a good fundraiser. Possible issues around parents dropping off children for the first session without adequate supervision.
- Christmas Fayre – successful in terms of funds raised but didn't really attract the numbers and felt a bit 'flat'. It might be worth considering a change of format for this year's main fundraiser.
- Bingo Tea – not particularly well attended but a fun evening and a successful fundraiser for very little effort. I think it also proved why my career as a bingo caller never took off!
- School Christmas event and Cystic Fibrosis café – these were both supported by the Parent Council although this is not something we would wish to do again in future. Many of the Parent Council members work very hard to make our own events successful and we feel that volunteers to assist with fundraising for other worthy causes should be sought directly from the wider parent community.

We have also had a very successful spending spree on behalf of the school this year as well as successfully securing external funding for further school spending.

So, as a fundraising machine, we're pretty efficient and certainly achieving our objective to raise funds and apply for and receive grants and accept gifts on behalf of the school. Disappointingly, I don't think we're doing so well in delivering our other objectives: to promote partnership between the school, its pupils and all its parents within a welcoming environment; to develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils; to identify and represent the views of parents or carers on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils. I feel we are seen by many as simply a fundraising department of the school and I am slightly frustrated that, despite attempts to become involved in other activities that could be of benefit, we have yet to make much progress.

I'm going to sum up in what I hope is an appropriate fashion, with two stars and a wish!

- \* - for the commitment and effort we all put in to support the school.
- \* - for the funds raised over the past year, most of which have been spent in support of the school.
- ✨ - that, in the coming year, we can work towards achieving all of our objectives to the benefit of the school and everyone involved in school life.

Thank you.

Jill Young

28/8/19