

President's Report 2017

I was honoured to be elected as PTA President for 2017. I have had big boots to fill following my predecessors, Mandy Curry and Michelle Johansson.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this group of wonderful parents, who give up their spare time (which people actually don't have these days) to help WBHS with community events and run our very successful second hand uniform shop.

I, myself could almost say that actually I don't have time to join a PTA but, to be honest the rewards are great! I have met some amazing women and made lifelong friends. As a busy working mum (I have two jobs as a nurse, I work at WGHS as a school Nurse and also at an Accident & Medical centre, and as a food writer, I'm about to publish my first cookbook) My son, Adam came to Westlake in 2015 in year 9. I met Mandy Curry at the Welcome to Westlake evening and got roped in to join the PTA. It's been great to get to know other parents and be part of WBHS.

Support for School Events

The PTA support the school in a number of events throughout the year, meeting parents and providing a friendly face and a cup of tea or coffee. Our first event being the "Welcome to Westlake" evening where we meet new families of boys that have just started at WBHS. It is also a great forum for parents to come and talk to us about joining the PTA.

Our PTA is different to primary school PTAs in that we support the school in community relation events as opposed to solely fundraise. We do fundraise, but mainly through our second hand uniform shop.

On four evenings in June we serve teas and coffees to parents who have gaps between their Parent/teacher appointments. In August we welcomed prospective students and their parents with refreshments at the school Information Evening. Our final official duties were to help set up the auditorium for Graduation Dinner at the end of November. The very last Westlake event for some parents who have helped out for five years and whose sons were finally leaving the school. It is always sad to say goodbye to these parents who are graduating, as much as their sons are.

We also support the school when they run the annual Grandparents Morning Tea, this has now been going two years and is always a success.

One of the highlights of our year at the end of October is to provide a special morning tea for all the staff. This is a chance for all the parents to say thank you to the teachers and support staff who work so hard throughout the year for our sons.

This year we kept it simple with a 'Spring flowers' theme, we had lovely flowers in vases and each teacher got a gift which was kindly donated by parents. We are also so grateful to so many parents who donate these gifts and food for the morning tea. It's a very special event that the staff really look forward to. They are enormously appreciative and I want to thank everyone who contributed to making it such a special event, whether donating gifts or helping the week before with the organising the gifts and setting up the staffroom or clearing up afterwards. Without the PTA this event would not be possible, so thank you.

Fundraising

Our major source of fundraising for 2017 is, once again The Trading Post, our sales of second hand uniform shop.

We are grateful to all those who volunteer their time to open the shop once a week and spend many hours of their time, sorting through all the items of clothing, often washing and mending . They keep records of every sale, balance the books and ensure everyone who has handed in clothes to be sold get paid. We owe a very large part of the money we raise to their hard work. A huge thank you, especially to Rochelle Thomas, who also finishes at WBHS in 2017.

A warm welcome to Robyn Dean who took over the running of the Trading post from Term 4 and also organised the sales in January. Thank you to Robyn and all the other parents that helped with this.

We also had our first speaker's event in 2017, which was with an overseas speaker Dr Kimmel, one of the world's leading expert on men and masculinity. A professor of Sociology and Gender studies and author of 20 books.

He spoke to the student, teachers and in the evening, at a community event organised by WBHS PTA. He talked about his book Guyland and how to support our young men with good role models. The event was very well received in the community and we are hoping to make this an annual event, getting different speakers in every year.

We have a speaker set up for March this year from Canada, who is a Psychologist, and a keynote speaker. So we look forward to organising this event.

We are, as always very conscious that the PTA is only one of many groups fundraising for different purposes at the school. There are always sports tours, music tours, and rowing events trying to raise money, and to an extent we are all competing for dollars from the same sources. We hope that our speaker events, are hopefully going to be community events that make a difference. As a PTA the purpose of our fundraising is to provide additional facilities to supplement our son's education as requested by the school and agreed by our members.

Meetings & Social Events

One of the newer highlights in our calendar is our annual Grandparents Morning Tea, which has always been a great success, the PTA helps the school organise this event and is always an enjoyable event.

We held a meeting off site in the middle of the year just to get a chance to be social. And our last social event was a pot luck dinner at my home, where everyone bought food, partners were welcome and it was a lovely way to end the year.

I would lastly like to end with some thank yous. A big thanks to Rochelle Thomas who has tirelessly served the second hand shop.

A huge thanks also to the very organised Jayne Jarrold, who has been amazing in keeping us all up to date and informed and sending gentle reminders when things are due to happen. We will miss Jayne who has served the PTA for 7.5 years.

Finally a big thank you to all the PTA members who have made 2017 another successful year, attending regular meetings , helping at events and giving up their time.

Thank you.

Ashia Ismail-Singer, WBHS PTA President 2017

