

FRIENDS OF LAWNSWOOD

It has been some years since there has been an active Parent Teacher Association at Lawnswood School, but that has all changed recently with the launch of 'Friends of Lawnswood'. Bringing together parents, staff, pupils and members of the local community, it aims to:

- create opportunities for parents, carers and the wider community to get more involved with the life of the school; to use their skills and talents for the benefit of the pupils and to support events in the school calendar
- facilitate a number of activities that maximise the use of the school facilities and bring people together in the process – helping to make Lawnswood a true “community school”.
- help the school liaise and consult more effectively with parents and carers and to help promote a positive image of the school within the wider community.

LAUNCH AND SOCIAL EVENING

More than **60** parents, teachers, governors and pupils attended a **social and launch event on Wednesday 19th November** held in the school library. Carillion, who manage the building, provided refreshments and there was some fantastic live music performed by several pupils. Milan Davidovic, headteacher, welcomed everyone to the event and expressed his and the governors' support for Friends of Lawnswood and the future development of Lawnswood as an increasingly inclusive community school.

As well as having the chance to meet people and share ideas, there was also the opportunity for people to find out about **five new initiatives** currently being promoted through Friends of Lawnswood:

Friends of Lawnswood Community Choir – There has been a huge amount of interest in the idea of a choir. With the help of the music department and some very dynamic sixth formers, the first session will be on **Thursday 8th January 2009** from **7pm – 8.30pm**. It will run every Thursday evening in term time in the music department and will be open to all. For more information please contact Joanna Williamson on 2754233 or email friendsoflawnswood@hotmail.com

Art and design technology - A group is looking at developing an end of year exhibition to showcase all the best art and design work of the school. There are also ideas to: organise a Big Draw event for October 2009; work with staff to organise projects and arrange talks by artists and designers etc. If you would like to get involved please contact Clare Lane by email: clare@urban-fabric.co.uk.

Readers and writers - This group aims to encourage the sharing and appreciation of good books and the opportunity to exercise imaginations in the development of creative writing projects across all ages. The first exercise is to run a Lawnswood book award based on “What we read now versus what we read then”. The group is looking for parents and community members to nominate their top three books read as a teenager, the top two of which will be set up to challenge the top two books to emerge from current pupil nominations. There is also an open invitation for anyone to write a book review (initially of a favourite book read as a teenager) which will be published on the school website. If you would like to get involved please contact Lynn by email - lynn.taylor@outsideuk.com. Any nominations for the book award can be submitted directly to Lynn or friendsoflawnswood@hotmail.com.

Lawnswood Garden – The school have recently identified a piece of land they wish to turn into a garden. They are looking for people to help, so if you are interested, please contact: Laura McGuigan at school on 2844020 or email her at: mcguigan.lau@elawnswood.co.uk

Events Support – This group is going to provide refreshments and support for events at school such as the Christmas concert and Summer Fever. If you would be interested in helping out, please email Sue Orange on: sue-orange@ntlworld.com

If you would like to get involved, or would like more information about Friends of Lawnswood, please contact Claire Swan on 2752917 or email: friendsoflawnswood@hotmail.com

THE NEXT MEETING OF FRIENDS OF LAWNSWOOD IS ON 14TH JANUARY 2009 6.30PM AT SCHOOL. ALL WELCOME