10 Reasons to join the PTA.

1. Ok, you pay your taxes but budgets at every school are tight. Money raised in school fundraisers is often used to pay for those little extras that can make a school a bit special be it an interactive whiteboard or a school trip to the theatre.
2. Knowing that they can (within reason) predict a certain level of fundraised extra income each year will allow your school headteacher to plan an effective and realistic budget.
3. Helping at PTA fundraising events helps you get to know your kid's teachers better and understand the way the school works and all the problems, challenges and joys they find in their work.
4. Being part of the PTA helps you get to know other parents and their children. This is important for school matters but also great for a more active social life!
5. By joining the PTA you have the chance to promote and enhance your school's standing within your local community.
6. Although occasionally embarrassed (watch older kids squirm as you talk to teachers and other parents) most children do actually like to know that you are there for them, taking an interest and sharing their experience.
7. Talking to other parents helps you and them. As we all find out, kids don't come with instructions. No sooner do we feel we have learned to deal with one thing and there is something else to address. Sharing experiences and parenting tips helps us all. Often this is as simple as knowing the ratio of 'incidents' and problems in other households. "Phew we’re not the only ones after all!
8. If you work it out the commitment is not too much. The occasional evening meeting and the odd school fundraiser.
9. Everyone has different talents and skills they can bring to a parent teacher association. The best PTA’s are inclusive and find ways of incorporating all the different things that people can offer. Be that a fantastic cookie recipe for a bake sale, an ability with something like graphic design or computers. Similarly, parents are a great interface between the school and the ‘outside world’.
10. It’s actually quite fun to watch the kids enjoy themselves at the school disco or fundraising event. Isn’t that what it’s all about – part of the whole parenting package!