

HOLY SPIRIT P & F ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Our Holy Spirit P&F has had another very positive and productive year in 2015. In helping to foster community spirit and relationships through social activities, facilitating parental involvement and interaction, delivering parenting education opportunities and raising funds to assist with the school's resource needs, the P&F has had widespread support and engagement from across the school which has contributed to a worthwhile and rewarding year for our community.

P&F Events

We have a well-established calendar of P&F events at Holy Spirit which have been superbly co-ordinated this year by our wonderful class representatives. On the social front, we began the year with our well-attended Ice-Breaker picnic on the Oval and will close the year out with our festive and fun Family Christmas Party with many events in between. These events include morning teas for Mother's Day, Grandparents and Special Friends and the Sacrament celebrations, the Kids Disco, brekkie for the Dads on Father's Day, Graduation Supper plus our traditional Parents' social event – this year being a loud but fun Bingo Night.

P&F Activities and Initiatives

We have also had a very busy schedule of P&F activities and initiatives which have been facilitated by the generous efforts of various volunteers and Co-ordinators throughout the year. These volunteers have worked quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to run our Second Hand Uniform Shop, the Footy Tipping Competition, Icy-pole Fridays in the summer terms and Milo Fridays in the winter terms. Mid-year we switched online lunch service providers with minimal disruption so that we could continue to provide a well patronised lunch order service for the kids (and teachers!) on Fridays. We also finished off stage 1 of our new Nature based senior playground and launched the first of what will hopefully become an annual calendar event in the Spring Busy Bee. Some of our extremely hardworking parent volunteers also undertook the very big jobs of barcoding the class readers and completely revamping the school website – both tasks resulting in significant improvements and costs savings for the school.

Similarly, our fundraising efforts this year have been quietly co-ordinated through the hardworking efforts of a few generous volunteers. Rather than focus on a major fundraising event, we have aimed to raise funds through a series of initiatives including a wine fundraiser, thermomix raffle and a Bunning's sausage sizzle which have provided the P&F with additional income to combine with the generous funds received through P&F levy payments by families.

The P&F also offered three 'parent education' opportunities to the school community in 2015. With a 'child safety' theme this year, we started with a scary but empowering Protective Behaviours workshop in Term 2, followed by a thought provoking presentation by the Rev. Richard Pengelley on the 'Cost of Excellence' in Term 3 and culminating with our topical CyberSafety seminars for the senior students and parents in Term 4.

P&F Executive

Our P&F Executive has supported all these events and efforts through its financial, secretarial and leadership roles. Greg Williams, Barb Blayney and Linda Marissen have been fantastic team-mates on the Executive with their unfailing support, tireless efforts and unending good humour.

On the financial front, whilst the P&F has contributed funding to undertake several of the initiatives and activities outlined above and provided funding for other sundry items throughout the year, the P&F has had a focus this year on replenishing its resources following heavy expenditure over the previous two years. This focus has resulted in the P&F re-establishing a healthy financial surplus

which will enable the P&F to fund the acquisition of a new Literacy resource to be rolled out in 2016 and to make a substantial contribution to the replacement of the school bus in due course.

P&F Community

The support and participation of our parent body and our kids has been fundamental to the success of the P&F this year (and always). The way our families have joined in, come along and helped out at P&F events with their enthusiasm and energy has ensured our P&F efforts and events have been successful.

Finally, the P&F's best friends - our staff, led by Steve Versteegan and Aleana Brennan (with Mary Pearton's fabulous help) – have again provided us with their amazing guidance, encouragement and assistance in all that we have done this year. We are deeply grateful and blessed to have them in our school community.

In conclusion

Goodbye and best wishes to our year 6's as they move on to high school. A special farewell and best wishes to those families who leave Holy Spirit this year - thank you all for your generous contributions to the Holy Spirit community over the years.

Whilst it's not time for my family to leave Holy Spirit yet, I think it would be terrific to have fresh ideas, insights and leadership of the P&F going forward so I hope we can find someone to take over as P&F President for 2016. It's been a wonderfully rewarding and fulfilling experience and I am very appreciative of your encouragement and support over the last 3 years.

May everyone have a joyful Christmas and safe and happy holidays.

Best wishes,
Jo Quinn
P&F President
November 2015