P & F Report 2019

The beginning of 2019 brought a brand-new enthusiastic P&F Committee to St Mary’s. The committee comprised of Courtney FANETTI (vice president), Fiona THOMSON (secretary), Jacinta YUREVICH (treasurer), Chantelle PRYER (P&F Board representative) and Ingrid FITZGIBBINS (2nd hand uniform shop extraordinaire) and, myself as President. During the year we updated our Facebook account from a personal to a business account and in doing so we created a new committee role, Social Media Officer, so that just one member was managing the page. Emma MARLOW has taken on this role and has done a wonderful job.

The Committee last year spent a lot of their time raising funds for the new junior and senior Nature Playgrounds, so the focus this year has been on designing and creating the Nature Playground in the Kindy/Pre-Primary play area. Courtney has spent may hours applying for grants to help fund the playground and we were fortunate to receive a $15,000 grant from TransAlta Energy Australia. A huge THANK YOU to TransAlta.

We started the year with the Easter raffle with Courtney and Chantelle (and chief basket filler Luka) putting the Easter baskets together. It is no secret the children love this time of year; the baskets were well received, and the raffle was a great success.

In 2019 the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls were a great success. The P&F committee decided to change it up this year and sticking to our nature playground theme, Courtney organised succulents in small pots and a small gift for the Mums, and a locally made wooden gift and some chocolate for the Dads. Unlike previous years, the gifts for both Mum and Dad were a set price and the P&F also made a small profit which has been added to the Nature Playground Fund. Many thanks to the committee members and volunteers who made themselves available to help with setup, pack-up and selling on the day. A big thank-you to the Year Six students who helped during the day. You are all great role models.

Mathletics was an important resource that the P&F contributed to, as they do every year. Humphrey’s Dance joined us again this year and didn’t disappoint. The children had a great time and the P&F contributed to this as well.

This year the P&F provided a sausage sizzle at the sports carnival. A big thank you to all the businesses who donated supplies, equipment and cash for the event. Fiona and Chantelle did a fantastic job in organising the event, from pre-ordering all the sausages from each faction prior to the carnival and then cooking up a storm on the day. Many thanks to all the committee and volunteers who helped on the day, making and handing out sausages.

Work began on the Kindy/Pre-Primary nature playground during 2019. Terms One and Two were spent planning and designing the playground and purchasing equipment to add to the new play space. A huge thank you to Ciara OLDHAM who donated her time to draft up the playground design (many times) and provide ideas and input for the playground. Some new concrete paths were completed during the July school holidays and the cubby house installed in the middle of Term Three. Term Four should see the nature play equipment installed and half of the play area covered in woodchips. A new sunshade is due to be installed in November over the extended sand pit area with a few busy bees between now and Christmas to build the vegetable patch and fish pond. Thank you to the Kindy and Pre-Primary teachers for their guidance and support in the design and implementation of the playground.

During Term Four the P&F are hoping to implement a plastic lid recycling endeavour. A company based in Melbourne, Envisions Hands, recycles plastic lids to make 3D printer cable which in turn makes prosthetic limbs for children all over the world. Which class will collect the most lids first?

Currently we are finalising the plans for the upcoming “Sunset Night”. The P&F host this night every year and find it’s a great way for the school community to get together and relax with the children. There will be the usual stalls, food vans, bouncy castles and maybe a surprise or two. The Year Fives will also have the chance to do their first fundraiser to kick off fundraising for next year’s camp.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Chris DUNNING, Elizabeth BROWNER and Sue COYLE for their support of the P&F Committee this year and helping the new committee to navigate our way through all the requirements of the P&F at St Mary’s. I would also like to thank all past committee members who have provided much needed advice to our current committee during the year, along with the parents who jumped in and helped when asked.

Finally, a huge thank you to the current committee, without their support, enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and FABULOUS-NESS we wouldn’t have had such a great P&F in 2019. I have enjoyed working with the P&F this year and hope to see the current committee members and hopefully more members in 2020. “As many hands build a house, many hearts make our school”.

Merle Newton

P&F President 2019