



Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School

President's Report Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting – 22rd November 2017

Good evening and thank you all for attending tonight. It's pleasing to see the numbers of parents and friends attending all P&F meetings during the year and that we see that reflected again here tonight. It makes the work of the P&F committee much easier when you have a strong support base to work with.

In February I attended the P&F President's Induction evening run by the Parents and Friends Federation of WA Inc (PFFWA). During the evening it was interesting to hear that the focus for P&F committees is now shifting from concentrating on fund raising to "*Friend Raising*", helping us to build greater community connections. I believe that MGCPs P&F already has a strong focus on friend raising and has been developing this for some years. Speaking to the other P&F President's showed me that we have strong commitment and support from our school community compared to other schools.

The PFFWA also introduced a new online induction programme for the P&F Executive to complete which helps in their understanding of their roles. We have already received an invite for the P&F Executive to attend the 2018 PFFWA induction evening.

Another item that was discussed was the introduction of the "Successful Learning" programme by the PFFWA. In May the P&F supported and funded this initiative and, with the support of the school, were able to present a day and evening session for parents. This was offered to the parents of children in Pre-Primary through to Year 2. The feedback from those who attended was encouraging and it was decided that the Pre-Primary parents / carers of 2018 be presented the opportunity to attend this programme at the start of the 2018 school year.

In September the P&F received notification from the Parents and Friends Federation of WA about their proposed name change. The proposed name change will be "Catholic School Parents Western Australia" (CSPWA). The PFFWA decided the name needs to include the word 'Catholic' as this gives a clear statement about their representation of Catholic school parents in the context of the overall education system. Continuing to identify 'parents' as the main audience is also important. The work of PFFWA extends far beyond supporting P&Fs/Parent Groups – it benefits ALL parents in the Catholic school system whether they realise it or not. The name, 'Catholic School Parents Western Australia', will tick off the main elements of who the Federation represents and will provide a clearer statement about who they are and who they represent to anyone who sees the name.

In February a meeting of the P&F Executive and the Parent Class representatives was held to discuss the scheduling and running of the four community activities and four fund raising events for the year. The schedule was created to ensure that all parents had the opportunity to be involved in bettering their school community. It also takes the load off those parents that had always found that they were the "go to" people for making events work. At the meeting it was decided to delegate two classes to run each of the community activities for the year and for the same grouped classes to each run a fund raising activity. The four Community events occur one per school term being Welcome to School, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Matthew Gibney Day. It was agreed that as the school had run a major fund raising event last year ("Fair") we would only run smaller fund raising events this year. It was put to the parent class reps to identify what they would like to do as a fund raising

activity. To their credit they were all able to decide what they wanted to do at this meeting saving us coming together again to schedule events. This was presented at the March P&F meeting for endorsement with the motion being carried. The P&F Community Activities and Fund Raising Schedule has worked well with parents from the scheduled groupings making themselves available to assist wherever required.

At the last week's P&F meeting it was decided to continue to use the schedule to plan for events in 2018. The Class Parent Representatives for Years 1 and 6 will be asked to organise the 2018 Welcome to School community activity with the assistance of the P&F committee. Once the parent representatives for 2018 have been identified a special meeting of the P&F committee and all the Class Parent representatives will be carried out to discuss the schedule covering community and fund raising activities in 2018.

This year's activities were well supported by the school community. In February the Year 2 and 6 classes held our "Welcome to School" evening with a large number of families attending a disco. It was a great opportunity to meet other families within our school community.

In May the Years One and Five parents ran their community event for the year. They organised the Mother's Day morning tea after the Mother's Day Mass at St Frances of Assisi Parish Church. This was a successful outing recognising all those deserving mums of our school and parish communities.

The Pre-Primary and Year Four parents organised and ran the Bunnings sausage sizzle fund raiser. This was run on Mother's Day. Many mother's put in time at the sausage sizzle stand giving up their time on what is a special day for them.

August saw the "Book Week" fund raiser organised by Kindy and Year 3 parents. The children enjoyed the events presented by the organisers with the children provided the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character.

The Pre-Primary and Year 4 parents arranged this year's Father's Day breakfast. Once again this was run on the morning of the school athletics carnival. There was a good turnout of Dads looking for their burger and drink. It was good to see many of them stay for the day and cheer on their kids and respective factions during the carnival. There were other benefits of having so many dads available on the day. The setting up and packing of all the equipment to run a successful sporting carnival was made so much easier with the many strong hands in attendance.

In October the Kindy and Year 3 parents prepared their community event for the year when they organised the Matthew Gibney Day celebrations. This is an annual event on the school calendar celebrating the life and work of our school patron, Bishop Gibney.

Earlier this month the Years One and Five arranged their fund raiser for the year when they provided families with an opportunity to have family photo packages produced. This was well supported by the families of the school.

As shown, it can be seen how strong our school community is when we can see so many people make themselves available to help in putting all these activities together. Thank you to all those who have helped or volunteered during the year. Your efforts have been recognised by the school community.

2017 has been a very successful year with the P&F being able to support the school in many ways from fund raising to general volunteering. The Parents and Friends Committee were pleased to be able to fund several requests for the school community. These included a \$3,500 contribution to the Year 6 camp.

Funding of \$15,000 was provided to the school for the purchase of 30 iPads which reduced the need for students to have to share iPads.

Further funding of \$10,000 was provided for the purchase of reading books for the children. Every year the reading books need to be updated due to some being damaged or replaced, due to age. This funding enabled a better variety of reading books in each reading level. The books are shared between PP to Year 6. The P&F have annually supplied funding for the reading books but this year is the largest commitment from the P&F to date. It's good to see the funds raised at last year's Community Fair being used to better support the learning needs of our children.

The P&F has also supplied funds for many other smaller initiatives and activities during the 2017 year.

It was great to see the children wearing their new interschool sports uniforms. These were funded at the end of last year and worn for the first time this year. It's a huge improvement on the old 20 year old interschool sports uniforms.

The P&F Executive and committee have developed an "Events Policy" providing the P&F school community with some guidelines in financial planning and spending of P&F funds for all fund raising and community events. This was endorsed at the P&F meeting last week. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the creation of this policy.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank our Principal Mark Powell. Since taking on the role of President of the P&F, I've received a lot of guidance and support from Mark. Thank you.

To all the teachers and administration staff of Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School, thank you for your terrific efforts with our children and for your support of the P&F during the year. This was very much evident throughout the year in your support of many of our school activities. All your support is appreciated.

To all the class parent representatives and their Coordinator, Angelina Hale, thanks for your efforts during the year. You play an important role within our school community.

To all the volunteers, who have supported the various school activities and fund raising events during the year, thank you. You help our school community to grow strong. It is through the amount of support shown that we are able to see how successfully we are carrying out our various roles within the school community.

Thanks to Michael Belletty our P&F Vice President who took up the reins of the P&F while I took some time away in term three. He was able to direct some important work during his time in the chair.

Lastly, I want to thank the other members of the P&F executive committee for your valued work and assistance during the year. It's very easy to be the President of the P&F when you have a strong team supporting you. Thanks Michael, Natasha and Michelle. To all those parents and friends who have attended the P&F committee meetings, thanks.

This year marks my third year as President of the Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School Parents and Friend's Association and as such, as per the constitution, the end of my tenure in the position. I wish the incoming President all the very best in taking over this important role.

Thanks

Mike Feltham

President P&F 2017

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