

St Joseph's School Clare P&F AGM

Presidents Report – Sophie Millington

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Welcome everyone and thank you very much for coming.

Seven years ago, I re-engaged with my former Year 7 teacher, Peter Shearer, as St Joseph's School Clare had a great reputation, and I was looking for something more for my children's education. I wanted them to have the best education that a regional location could provide and be part of a personable community, that would nurture and care for those in it. Looking back over the seven years, my children have received everything we were looking for and more, so when the position of President of the Parents and Friends was vacant, I knew this was my time to give back to my former teacher, my children, and St Joseph's Clare.

As Term 1 had already commenced before my appointment, I hit the ground running, daunted but honoured to be in the role as President. We appointed **Class Representatives** for 2023 and I am very thankful for the great cohort of parent leaders who accepted these positions. These parents were assets to each class, disseminating information between parents, teachers, and the school community, in a very busy 2023.

The coffee machine was fired up by the P&F at the first Assembly and all other Assemblies for the year, proving to be a welcome service to many parents for socialising and a caffeine fix. It was fantastic that many Year 8 students undertook barista training last year, as part of their Food and Nutrition curriculum. The P&F then gave them the opportunity to operate the machine, relieving the need to call upon the ever-reliable St Joseph's Coffee Stall volunteers quite as much. The students proved to be a great asset, as through many events such as Norma Schell's wake, Assemblies, and the School Fete, they were able to refine their barista skills. It was great to watch their confidence grow, and a few have now applied for local barista jobs, with one student securing a job in a local cafe. The P&F also facilitated the machine for the busy days of Sports Day and Book Week, and I would again like to thank the P&F for stepping in to assist.

It was great to welcome the **new parents** into the community with the annual New Parents Dinner at La Storta. This was a lovely occasion with delicious food prepared by Alice Duncan and Laura Davidson, with Adele Agars assisting. Thank you, ladies, for coordinating such a welcoming event and to all the Year 7's and student leaders for waiting.

Our hardworking **Canteen Committee** has again tirelessly worked to coordinate and facilitate the canteen for our students. The committee continued to review, investigate, update, and coordinate the best options for our children, whilst trying to support local businesses. The efforts of juggling weekly volunteers, rosters and food handling

procedures is testament to the dedicated committee. I would personally like to thank Janes Adams, Vicky Stewart, Fiona Sullivan, Kira Jade Schunke, Amy O'Shea- Coulter, Amy Trengrove, Jen Chestnut, Yana Zanette, with staff rep Helen Hay, for all their hard work and efforts.

Another sub-committee of the Canteen is the **Bakery Fundraisers**. Catherine Driscoll took over the coordinator role for 2023 and I would like to commend her for how seamlessly she took over this position. Catherine ran several drives throughout the year, raising funds for the school, whilst providing delicious local baked goods for the school community.

A highlight for 12 x Year 5 students, was the **Kids Can Cook** "First Nations Food" program, which Rebecca Sullivan kindly agreed to coordinate. The spots filled very fast and each week, students were introduced to new native ingredients and taught how to cook with them. This was very generous of Rebecca to donate her time and the feedback we received from the students was immensely positive and I am sure they will remember the program and dishes like "Salt and Pepper Crocodile" for years to come.

In 2023 a variety of catering jobs were undertaken by the P&F, which allowed for some good **fundraising** opportunities. From smaller events such as 'Makers Empire', offsite events such as the Opening of Weikert Cottage, to large scale events that were hosted at school. The annual Community Dinner organised by Year 7 parents, was a success with Guy Parkinson catering for the event. Parents in the community were very fast to sign up to assist Guy over a 2-day period in the kitchen, which was a very enjoyable and an educational experience for all involved. Thank you to Guy for helping make the event a success.

Grandparents Day was again introduced into the school calendar and was a highlight for many with approximately 300 grandparents and significant others attending. The plentiful supply of delicious, donated food by the P&F, contributed to the school receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback in the form of thank yous via text, email and verbally.

A major **catering** commitment by the P & F was the SA Rural Women's Gathering, which consisted of catering for 130 people, for morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea. Thanks to our supportive P&F community, this event was a success and initially raised approx. \$6000. We have since had positive feedback about the event and the organising committee will be donating more of their profits back to the school due to the event's success. I would like to thank all the parents involved and the Year 9's for setting up and packing down for the event. It was also another experience whereby middle school students were able to showcase their hospitality experience by assisting with waiting for the evening meal, which was catered for by Day's Butchers.

Another event held at the school was the Sevenhill Parish Regional Assembly, and parents again supported the event by donating morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea for

80 people. Our Year 7 students also were able to showcase their culinary skills by making slices for the event. Thank you again to all parents and students involved.

We held our 4th consecutive **School & Parish Fete** on the school grounds. This is a calendar highlight for many children and was a very successful day. Significant funds were raised and shared with our Sevenhill Parish. Special thanks to Kristy Woodlands and Stacey Butler who did a great job of coordinating this event for their first time.

The P&F also showed appreciation for our teachers by providing a morning tea to thank our staff for World Teachers Day. The staff at St Joseph's always go above and beyond for our students and community and this was a small gesture to say thank you.

The annual **school photos** happened over a 2-day period in September, with the help of office staff and several parents, coordinating the event. This is a momentous task of getting all students and families together, looking at their best for their annual portraits. Many thanks to all who facilitate this and for ensuring parents capture a snapshot of the school year.

I would also like to thank the **Uniform committee**, particularly Vicky Smith and her team for facilitating another year of running the uniform shop to ensure our children are equipped with the right uniforms. The committee continues to develop the Middle School uniform, ensuring there is ample sizing, quality, and products. The well-stocked shop and seamless ordering process via the QKR app, is very fast and efficient and appreciated by all parents.

Regarding the QKR app I would also like to thank Sarah Werfel, our ever reliable and professional lady in charge of finances. Sarah is a huge support to myself and the P&F, and plays a vital role in ensuring the finances, communications and school operations all align. Her patience to my endless questions is much appreciated and I thank her for her unwavering support. I would also like to thank Jeremy Kells for auditing the P&F finances for Sarah to provide the 2023 financial report.

I would like to thank the **School Board** and particularly Jess Redden for her efforts as Parent Board representative. Jess has attended both P&F and board meetings, reporting on discussions and sharing proposals. The support and guidance of the School Board ensures the schools values and community are reflected in the ethos of the school; to live, to learn, love in all things.

Finally, I would also like to extend a thank you to our Principal, Peter Shearer, for his support in 2023 and endorsing my position as President of the P&F for my final year at St Josephs in 2024. Throughout this year we will be looking for a Vice President and a successional President for 2025. It will however be my honour to be able to give back to this great regional school and I look forward to another successful, rewarding year at St Joseph's for 2024. Thank you.