

P&F PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

AGM 15th November 2016



I would like to begin this report by thanking the 2016 Parents and Friends Executive Committee and all of the ordinary members for your commitment and enthusiasm this year. Without your efforts we would not be able to do all of the wonderful things that we can do for our children at Queen of Peace.

Apart from the fundraising aspect that is the core of any good P&F it has been great to see the P&F expand into other areas that include the social and pastoral areas. Having the mum's and dad's nights, even though the attendance so far has been small has been a great way of beginning to build the community of Queen of Peace. Setting up the pastoral side with meals and transport will be wonderful as we need to use it. Again it shows our families that there is more to the P&F than just asking them for money.

There have been some great fundraising activities this year that have been run expertly by those who were in charge. Through a fear of missing one out I won't mention them all. I do however want to say thank you to all who organized a fundraising event this year and thank you also to those who jumped in and helped out. It has been fantastic to see just how many families have put their hands up this year to help out with the various events that have taken place. Without these people we would not be able to run the activities. I know not everyone who has helped is here tonight, but I hope those here will pass on my thanks from the staff and children.

2016 has been a great year, filled with so many learning and fun activities. This year we moved into the second year of our two-year Faith Life Inquiry cycle and all staff were more comfortable working in this way. The feedback for having the whole school learning about the same topic has been positive from teachers and families. It is so much easier to have a discussion as a family around what is happening at school when everyone is doing the same thing.

Excursions and incursions have featured more during this year which I believe is an important aspect of the children's learning. Our Year 5 & 6 students even ventured into Melbourne on the morning train, (and they all made it home again). Thanks to the P&F we were able to run a whole school World of Maths Incursion last week to promote the importance of maths across the school.

We continued our focus of trying to demystify what happens at school by running some Parent workshops in Reading, using iPads, how to read the reports, Parent Surveys as well as Parent helper workshops. We will expand this into 2017 and try to give more information about what happens in the school so parents feel more connected to their children's learning.



This year, we expanded the use of technology for recording children's learning and in Year Prep – 2 have been trialling a product called See-Saw which will be open to parents to see by the end of the year. You will be able to see the great work the children have done with them also explaining how and why they did it. The Years 4 -6 have continued to develop their own digital portfolios using Google Sites. This is where they store their learning that they will be able to share with their families. Into the future these two products will take the place of the paper based portfolios that come home at the end of term 2 & 4.

This year the Parents & Friends through their fundraising efforts have made it possible for us to impact our children's learning through the purchase of classroom IT resources and extra furniture to complete the Senior school. The P&F were also able to contribute to the completion of the Peace Garden which I believe is the major triumph of this year. We have a new fence that will soon be erected along Queen St which will complete the project. There is also a new shade structure that will be erected in the Children's Garden over the holidays that the P&F have agreed to fund.

We will have our first Working Bee this Saturday and have over 20 families who will be coming along. Let us hope that this is a sign that we will be able to continue these into next year and make our school a better place for our children.

Once again I would like to thank all of you for your commitment, enthusiasm and drive this year. I can highly recommend that those here consider to take up one of the roles on offer and leave your mark in 2017. The children love having their parents working in the school and so do I. I look forward to working with the Parents and Friend again next year to continue to build our fantastic community.

Anthony Drill
Principal