

19th November 2019

AGM Presentation – Mark Nolan (P&F President)

My name is Mark Nolan and I have been President of our P&F (aka Holy Rosary Community) for the past two years. It has been a blur; it has been rewarding and most of all a wonderful opportunity. An opportunity to work with families and staff who understand “community”. People who are more than willing to pay it forward.

As a committee we try to make valuable contributions to the school by ensuring each event or initiative addresses one or more of our Four Pillars. We want to engage and empower our parents. We wish to keep a close relationship with our business community. And if we can do all of this and fundraise at the same time, we consider the year a success. This year was a success!

A refresh on our past year:

- Our Sundowner welcomed families back on the lower oval with a sausage sizzle
- The Dad and Kids Campout had a great turnout with over 100 families and no sprinklers showing up – Led by Nathan Byrne and his merry men.
- In a significant move away from chocolate drives we had fun with a Mushroom box drive led by Alicia Adkins
- The Bake Sale was lit up a wintery day – Driven by the parents of Kindy and Pre-Primary
- Jean Williams invited Dr Kristy Goodwin to give our community a presentation on Cybersafety
- Mother’s Day Morning Tea was held in the new Parish Centre. All felt very welcome and it was a fantastic venue.
- Father’s Day Breakfast keeps getting bigger and bigger. It was led by the Year 5 parent reps – thank you!
- Disco Fundraiser – was an excitable event led by our Yr 6 students and Parents reps
- Lapathon was a big fundraiser led by Megan and Kristie

During the year:

- Supermarket Stickers were collected and stuck
- Entertainment Books were bought and distributed
- Business Directory was updated to over 50 school family businesses
- Bakers Delight continue to give
- One major benefit of being a not for profit organization means we can apply funding via community Grants. These were applied for and big one won for the school thanks to Bec Watson!

You will shortly hear from our Treasurer Kristie who will elaborate further on our financial position and what we helped the school fund this past year.

As a committee, this year we put a lot of time into improving the way we worked within the school fabric. Conscious that competition for peoples' time and attention has never been so fierce, we sought to change our model to a more sustainable one - one that encourages both participation in school life and distributes the workload – and did not involve people attending every meeting if they wanted to contribute.

So, as our committee rolled from one event to another, we also rolled out (and I acknowledge not necessarily smoothly!) a model that saw events allocated to each year group.

This built on guidance shared previously by Brother Stephen, who saw how shared projects brought communities closer.

Our model is not perfect, and will undoubtedly go through more change, but we hope it enables future committees to more readily lean on what is very supportive school community.

We have a few committee members who are moving on and their absence provides an opportunity for a new generation of community-minded parents.

I would like to say a few words about each of them:

Megan Boekhoorn (outgoing Vice President)

She puts the fun into fundraising. She finds the time. She never says never when it comes to making an event happen. Last year's Art Show and this year's Lapathon are great examples of her bringing everyone together and raising money at the same time.

Kristie Denham (outgoing Treasurer)

She does everything including the numbers. She is an Excel Ninja.

She has made answering a question with a question okay! Any questions relating to finance can confidently be answered with – “Have you looked at the spreadsheet?”

You helped drive our school's social media into the mainstream and are always helping with events. You put your hand up for the year-long fundraisers and do no end of running around. Thanks especially for helping with this year's big fundraising Lapathon event. It was a huge success.

To Sue Griffin (outgoing Board Representative)

Project manager for re-imagined playgrounds, communications guru, website creator and social media content distributor. You take our numerous thought bubbles and turn them into meaningful messages. Thank you for helping us navigate, engage and inform the numerous stakeholders in our school community. We are all so very grateful for your contributions over the years.

To our remaining members who are the essence of the saying, “if you want something done give it to a busy person”

To Jean our Secretary

She bounced right back after having her fourth child this year and has put her hand up for more.

To Bec Watson , our committee member who also provides a voice for Sienna

A lynch-pin for Sienna, school and community – she has driven the inclusive swing for the School from concept to reality. Groundworks are due to commence very soon.

A highlight for us was to see her duly rewarded with an amazing \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes Grant which goes towards funding the swing. She is a fantastic force to be around. Nothing is impossible for Bec and her family.

To our Parent Representatives – For constantly staying on top of things and bringing parents and families together during the year. We also saw four different year groups take on events this year which we were so appreciative of.

The school leadership Team in Mark, Geordie and Aleana have been great to work with. They have been very generous with their time on evenings and weekends. As a committee we are driven largely by their requests for resourcing the school for must-haves (like readers etc). And also nice-to-haves - like the two brand-new table tennis tables which were funded as a result of a student survey they conducted.

I like to make a special mention in thanking Michele Rowland for whom nothing is ever a problem when it comes to helping out the Parent Community.

To each and every teacher, teacher's assistant and staff member. We see you come to work, and it is clear to see the welfare and education of our children is central to everything you do. We love how you get behind our initiatives., we love it when you engage the kids in events like the lapathon – because let's face it, they listen to you and they don't listen to us!

In concluding I would like to acknowledge everyone who's energy and time has gifted us this community to enjoy. Building a community takes time, sustaining a community involves making time – something the people of Holy Rosary are very good at.