



ST. EMILIE'S CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Growing in Grace*

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## PARENTS & FRIENDS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Annual Community Meeting

22nd February 2023

*for the 2022 school year*

Welcome and thank you to everyone for being here this evening. It is my pleasure to present the St. Emilie's P&F President's Report.

Reflecting on the start of last year, I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to continue the wonderful work of my predecessor, Rachel Davies, in the role of P&F President. It has been a rewarding experience and I am grateful to Rachel for her guidance and for having been a positive role model in our school. We also welcomed our new Treasurer, Pamela Lawrence who took over from Larissa Shaw. We sincerely thank Larissa for her tireless efforts and contribution to the P&F, her kindness and for being a pillar of support and knowledge.

Before I begin sharing highlights of last year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Leanne and Pam – my fellow executive members. In a few significant ways, last year was very much a transitional year. Thank you for embracing your roles with graciousness and for the time, energy and commitment you have humbly given.

Over the past year, the P&F has been able to support our school in many ways, from organising fundraising events to volunteering in the classroom, to advocating for important issues that affect our students and families.

Last year we busily saved for the new Year 3-6 playground equipment. Thanks to the generous donations of our community, we were also able to raise significant funds – over \$17,000, which will be allocated towards teaching and learning resources.

In light of recent COVID years, a main focus of the P&F was on strengthening our connections and building a sense of community within our school. Our aim is that families feel welcome, included, and engaged, and that every student has the support and resources they need to succeed. We endeavour to have the diversity of our beautiful families reflected in our team and with our event volunteers.

Last year, especially in Term One, we continued to be challenged by COVID restrictions in what we were able to provide and how it was provided, however, despite the hurdles, we worked hard to adapt and to offer as many opportunities and launch as many new initiatives as we could. Our meetings, held twice a term, were well attended by cheerful, constructive, and enthusiastic members.

So, to our highlights of Term One – we started out the year with a fun event for the children. We held an Icy Pole Day in celebration of Harmony Week and in support of Project Compassion. The children enjoyed a cool treat to beat the summer heat!

The Easter Bun Drive once again was well supported by the community. With the large volume of orders, and with most of the P&F team becoming ill and/or in isolation, we were very grateful to have one member standing – Maria Lim – who generously gave an entire morning to process all the orders. Lucky for us too, that she happens to be an accountant and simply loves her spreadsheets! Unique to this year, a special delivery service was extended to those families in isolation who were unable to pick up their order.

In Term Two, the P&F organised a Milo and Mini Muffin morning tea for the children.

In May, we held the Mother's Day Morning Tea. This was a successful morning recognising all those deserving Mums, grandmothers, and mother figures of our school. Beautiful Mother's Day gift bags were also prepared and distributed to every Mum in our school.

A major event held was our annual School Disco and what a turnout. The theme was "Colour My World" which opened the door for many imaginative costume designs. The hall was transformed into a sea of rainbow waves and the children had such a wonderful time dancing in a kaleidoscope of colours created by the stage lights. Thanks to the many volunteers for the behind the scenes planning that makes sure events like this are a success.

Term Two was busy but we were only just warming up! Ten weeks of excitement awaited with a full events calendar for Term Three.

To begin the term, we launched a new fundraising initiative - Peg Fundraiser - introducing an eco-friendly product which also was in line with the school's focus on sustainability. The fundraiser was very well supported by families and staff, raising over \$1500 for the school.

While many of us still could not travel overseas, we thought of a way to bring a taste of the world to us. A taste of Italia headed our way. We held a Pasta Day Lunch for the children – warm, hearty and molto delizioso penne pasta in a home-made, slow cooked, tomato based vegetarian sauce. It was made and served with lots of love by our belle mamme and nonno Frank. Many thanks to Catrina Schryver, Angela Anthony, Enzina Ierino and the team of Masterchef helpers. The joy was oozing from the children, not a sauce free face. Lucky too, St. Em's polos are navy.

In September, we held our Family Breakfast and a wonderful morning was had. The burgers must be even better at St. Em's with 500 delicious burgers pre-ordered and made. It was an amazing community event giving families a chance to catch up. At the Family Breakfast, we introduced the community to a VIP Experience. This was a raffle to win VIP Experience Package inclusive of a reserved seating area, parking, voucher for food and beverages, at the Interhouse Sports Carnival. What started out as a 'lets try it and see what happens' opportunity, quickly became a hot ticket item with the winners over the moon and those who didn't win, eager to have another chance this year. This idea proved to be a very popular low-cost fundraiser.

To celebrate Fathers' Day, gift bags were also assembled and distributed to all Dads in our school.

Shortly following the Family Breakfast, we sprinted onto our next event - the Interhouse Sports Carnival. The P&F ran a sausage sizzle, cake stall, raffle and "guess how many" stand, as well as served the VIP

Experience area. We thank the families who kindly donated homemade treats and baked goods for the cake stall and our wonderful team of enthusiastic parent volunteers.

Term Four highlights included the return of a Colour Run. What a colourful day that was! Kids ran, crawled, jumped, walked. There was an explosion of colours, bubbles, burst of smiles and laughter and even, a super cool bottle rocket. This major fundraising event received wonderful support from families. It was exciting for the children to have parents onsite as spectators and parent helpers from Kindy and Pre-Primary were much appreciated. The P&F also had a large team of 32 parent volunteers comprising of mums and dads with at least 3 parents from every year group represented. Undoubtedly, what also made the Colour Run a success was that parents too had a fun time.

Thanks to the organising team of Pam Lawrence, Leanne Wallis, Sheree Taylor and Liselle Long for their amazing planning and day long efforts, energy and enthusiasm. Also, to Angela Anthony and Shirley Tan for their help in setting up.

In Term 4, we also held a Jelly Cup Day with children eagerly yet patiently queueing to get one of 500 jelly cups made.

In addition to all the above highlights, the P&F also assisted with:

- Provision of morning teas following Year Level Assemblies
- Provision of Kindy morning teas
- Yearbook for Year 6 – thank you to Tanya Dellaca and Teena Wheat
- Catering for the Graduation evening for the Class of 2022 graduates and their families
- Welcoming new families on Kindy Orientation Day
- Organising Thank You and Farewell Morning Tea for Mrs. Tania Thuijs, Mrs. Kerrie Cogger and Mr. Dan Naden
- Promotion of other school events benefitting our parents and caregivers such as the Cyber Safety Special Information Session, Parent Wellbeing and Self Care sessions as well as Parish events, initiatives, and programmes

Over the past year, the P&F Executive have sought to continuously improve our operational performance. We reviewed and monitored itemised spending and revenue from our events/activities that will be beneficial for event budgeting this year. We looked to build stronger relationships with the local business community for event sponsorship opportunities. We implemented consistent and relevant marketing and communication in the Weekly Reminders and across the P&F and respective Year level Facebook groups.

Late last year, it was announced that as per CECWA directive, 2023 will see all P&Fs in CEWA schools operate under one single model and transition into a committee of the school. It was outlined that by following a single model of governance, the P&F is supported to ensure its activities continue to be delivered in a safe and supportive manner, and potential reputational and financial risk, are mitigated. At the P&F Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023, a motion was passed for St. Emilie's P&F Group to become a committee of the school and that the P&F will adopt the Catholic School Parents and Friends Group Terms of Reference. It is anticipated this will be a very smooth transition for St. Emilie's P&F with minimal impact on current operating and financial procedures because we were largely already following these guidelines. Any impact will be largely administrative in nature.

We near the end now with some thanks.

Always greeting us with a warm smile when we pop into the office, are our beautiful admin ladies – Janine, Amy, Gillian and Edwina. Thank you for all you do to help behind the scenes to make organising events go more smoothly. To our School Leadership Team – Tania, Stuart, Sara, Maria and Tracey, thank you for your encouragement and supporting the initiatives of the P&F and for making possible these opportunities to bring smiles to our children, to enrich their learning experience and to facilitate ways for us to connect.

Special thanks to our dedicated teachers and assistants. You all go above and beyond to support our children. We are truly grateful for the effort and extra time devoted to come early in the mornings, stay back late after an already long week, to help and support our events.

Thank you to Glenn Cogger and to everyone who works within our school, and to the School Advisory – your contributions make our community a great one.

There is always quite a lot of organising behind the scenes with P&F activities and I can't thank the team I've worked with enough. In 2022, we danced, laughed, splashed, coloured the school, and had endless cups of morning tea! We got in our steps walking to and from the hall, around the ovals and got plenty of workout we really don't need a gym membership anymore. Through rain and shine, we worked together with a sense of humour and a lot of heart, to create so many amazing events for the children and families. Thank you to our wonderful team – Leanne, Pam, Bec, Nicole, Bel, Angela, Rosa, Enzina, Tiff, Larissa and our Class Reps, Sheree, Emma, Tanya, Catrina, Mel, Tash, Maria and Liselle.

This year we sadly say farewell to Leanne who has held the P&F Secretary role for the past three years. Leanne has been a valuable part of the P&F Executive and it will be sad to see her step down. Thank you, Leanne for your selfless dedication to helping and caring for others.

There's a motto that says, "One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time," and this couldn't be truer especially with our busy and occasionally, conflicting schedules. I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our families who have given so generously of your time, energy, talents, and enthusiastic support to help throughout the past year. We've grown friendships, shown care and compassion to each other, and continued to build our wonderful St. Em's community.

In 2022, we held many successful fundraising, fun raising and friend raising events and activities. This couldn't be done without all of your support — you are amazing!

Thank you and we look forward to another wonderful year working together.

Sincerely

Jain Chow  
P&F President