

Our Lady Help of Christians' Parents Association – The Year that Was

President's Report

Another year has whizzed past, and much has been achieved by the Parents Association (PA) on both the connectedness and fund raising fronts.

The children arrived back from holidays in 2009 to commence the academic year using the new computer lab and senior play equipment which were both funded by the PA.

Early in the academic year a fund raising target of \$10k was set for 2009 in conjunction with the Principal, which we thought was a reasonable target given the financial climate.

The year started for the PA in February with the **2009 Welcome (Back) Picnic** which saw lots of families enjoy the novelty of the pelting rain, and the ensuing huddle in the foyer. The coin toss game was held indoors which kept the die hard fans happy; not so happy were the paper plane enthusiasts given that rain and paper do not mix well. February also saw the PA fund-raise for the **Bush Fire** victims by donating the month's icy pole proceeds towards that cause.

May was a busy, historic month which saw the inaugural **election** of PA office bearers for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The PA **Constitution** was also developed which set guidelines for the PA including the details about the composition of the PA; subsequent voting rights of members and re-instatement of **Classroom Representatives**. The Constitution also introduced transparency around processes and we also got a new name out of the process - from the Parents & Friends Association to the Parents Association. The month of May also saw us celebrating mums with the **Mother's Day Stall**. You will recall that the Mother's Day stall was reinstated at the school by the PA in 2008. This was not done to introduce another fund raiser but more so to empower the children to 'give back', to show appreciation and to have the responsibility of dealing with money and choice. The kids loved it, and there were many excited children around school trying to hide gifts from their mums at pick up time. This year the PA purchased presents for the Stall, which proved to be a winner on all fronts. Amongst other things this also allowed the PA to return unpurchased gifts for a full refund! The annual **Walkathon** was also held on Our Lady's Feast Day which was a great, well attended day. The kids loved it, and it was fabulous to have so many parents, grandparents and siblings enjoying a snag together after the event.

Term 2 saw the introduction of **Lunches To Grow** to our school, and the PA assisted with its initial integration into our School.

September held the school's major fund raising event of the year which was the hilarious **Sister Sal's Cabaret Show**. This evening was a huge success on so many levels – connectedness, fund raising, combining Parish, Community and School. The evening included a raffle and silent auction where donations were received from local businesses as a result of a door knocking exercise of these local businesses. Each one of these businesses received a certificate of Appreciation, a copy of the Program and letter thanking them for their contribution to the evening, all of which were very well received. The **Father's**

Day Stall was held where the PA tried something different by purchasing goods on consignment from an on-line stall. This service delivered many pre wrapped, cost effective items to the school, and we only had to pay for those we sold! Again more excited children.

The month of October saw the hugely popular **School Disco** happen with a Michael Jackson theme and we had many, many parents asking for a School Disco 'Adult' style next year as a fund raising event. The PA also conducted the school's inaugural **'Bunnings' BBQ** which was held at the Coburg store on a very hot day! This initiative enabled the PA to raise funds outside the School Community – which is something we committed to do at the beginning of our tenure this year. October also saw the PA host a fabulous lunch for our school's staff in appreciation of everything they do for our children to celebrate **International Teachers Day**.

In November the PA decided to produce copies of **'The Jungle Book'** for families who wished to purchase one. This will give children the living memory of how they all contributed to the book, and then enacted it during Book Week.

We are marking the end of the year, and Christmas, with a small gift and Christmas card for every child in the form of a **lolly bag**. These will be distributed by the class room teacher on the last day of the school.

In addition to all these events we also had the weekly tuckshop to organise. This year a roster was introduced for **Tuckshop Duties** which enabled parents who were willing and able to assist in this way. This has proven hugely popular with most dates booked months and months in advance. It has been no mean feat to ensure that freezers and cupboards were stocked with goodies each week. The work involved in organising this alone has been time consuming to say the least.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who have served on the PA Executive and Committee with me this year (and last year) for their dedication and commitment and to thank you, the parents, for supporting the PA initiatives where you have been able. It has been pleasing to see so many new faces assisting us with initiatives, and volunteering to assist with one activity or another. The PA cannot put on such events without the assistance of parents within the school community. I have tried my best to send out personalised thank you notes to each of you, after each initiative, to express my thanks on behalf of the PA. Thank you also to the teaching staff, office staff and leadership team for all your support and encouraging words.

Lastly on behalf of the PA Executive I wish you and your families a very merry and Holy Christmas and safe, healthy and happy new year!

I take great pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's Report which is a 'great news' story – as a school community we should all be very proud of our achievements this year.

Rosa Scroggie

President PA.

Treasurer's Overview – 2009

For a small school we have been very successful in our fund raising activities this year. We started the year with a reasonable surplus which was quickly committed to purchasing requests from the school. This was followed with a variety of projects which were undertaken not primarily to raise money but nonetheless produced funds. This year's individual major activities with their net income are listed below. Once the books have been closed off for this year the final figures will be made available for the AGM early next year. However in the meantime we can say in rough figures that the PA raised over \$26,700. and after allowing for expenses we cleared \$18,500.00 .

Icy Poles	2416
Welcome BBQ	1,222
Mothers Day Stall	407
Walkathon	6077
Fathers' Day Stall	305
Grad Comm BBQ	503
Trivia Cabaret Night	5,358
Disco	1036
Entertainment Books	190
Bunnings BBQ	1577

The PA's major expenditure (outflows) for the year were

New Junior Play Equipment and Installation	18000
Reading Equipment and Books	6420
Graduation Committee	900
Bush Fire Appeal	529
Teachers' Day Luncheon	450

Barring unforeseen problems we estimate closing off the year at \$1,000 higher in surplus than last year.

Ross Weber

Treasurer PA