Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Parents & Friends

Annual Report

2012
Holy Family Parents & Friends Association
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Our Charter

The P & F recognises and values the role that parents and carers play in the education of their children and aims to strengthen the partnership between family, school, parish and the wider community for the benefit of their children’s overall development and learning.

President’s Report

Holy Family School can continue to be proud of the strength of its parent community. Through the hard work of so many, we have enjoyed another successful year and leave a great legacy for the future development of the school.

Community

The events held this year, as usual were many and varied, touching all our families and friends in the school community while having lots of fun on the way. These events included:

- Class cocktail parties at parents’ homes scattered around the local area.
- The Mid-Year dinner was a truly memorable “Olympic” themed night at Ramsay Hall Riverview. The fancy dress included the royal Family, Jamaican Rastafarians, Irish Priests and nuns, Zimbabwean hunters and prey, Cook Island cooks, Egyptian mummies and Australian cricketers (just to name a few).
- The barbecues, breakfasts and morning teas – these included the beginning of the year for new parents, for the Dads, for Mothers, for Grandparents.
- Year 6 ‘graduation’.
- Masses – for Mums in particular.
- The Christmas Market and Walkathon.
- The Art Festival opening night, with a wonderful cocktail party displaying, as always an impressive range of paintings and sculptures.
- The Art Festival itself was a great event (even if a bit wet again). The ‘Kids Biz’ and dunking machine were a hit supported by a large variety of other merchandise (and food of course).
- Social Justice initiatives.
- There were numerous other committees and groups, which include the uniform shop and the social committee. We enjoyed the performances of the school band and the recorder group at so many events.

Fundraising

Through the generosity of the families at the school, principally from the efforts at the Art Festival, the Mid-Year dinner, the Christmas Market and the Walkathon, we have been able to:
• Contribute significant funds to the school (two cheques of $25,000 each), which enabled the school to purchase a demountable stage and to provide books, IT and other learning resources for the library and classrooms. This level is consistent with previous years.
• Contribute to a number of Social Justice causes, including the School of St. Jude in Tanzania.
• Set aside surplus funds for school building purposes, for the longer term vision for amenities, school play area and land. Over the last 3 years we have been able to set aside a significant sum for that purpose.
• Coordinate further contributions to the Parish School Building Fund, which will provide funding for the building of additional classrooms under the School Hall. These we hope will be available early next year.

We would also like to give special thanks to our long-term sponsor mcconnell bourn, we thank them for their generosity.

In uncertain financial times this has been a great achievement. Full financial information will be available after the accounts for the 3 year have been settled.

Thanks you
Thank you to all who have contributed (some in very significant and time consuming ways) to the P & F through its various committees and events this year. The vibrancy of that contribution is a testament to the strength of the school community, and has enabled real benefits to be offered at the school for children here today and those in coming years. We have had some very enjoyable times in the process.

Thank you to the school staff, led by our Principal Mr Dogao. They are at the very centre of the life of the school for our children. Their efforts are enormously appreciated. This year after three years as Treasurer, Fran Grant steps down from the Committee, as do I, and after two years as Secretary, Amanda MacLean also steps down. Fran and Amanda have made a very valuable contribution over their time through the Executive Committee. Finally, thank you to all the families in the school community for making this year such a success. Best wishes to all of the children at the school, whether you will be graduating this year or you’ll be back in 2013.

Vincent Dwyer - P & F President

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**New in 2012 – Expert Guest Speakers**

A new format for the P&F General Meetings was introduced this year.

The objectives were to

- Use guest speakers to attract parents to the P&F Meetings who don’t usually attend
- Offer something of value/interest to the parent community by way of relevant, expert opinion on topics of interest.

The Term 2 guest speaker was Carmel Hewitt, Education Officer-Parent Liaison, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay, speaking on the topics of "Learning Better Together" and The Gonski Report.

The Term 3 guest speaker was a representative from the Australian Federal Police, speaking on the topic of Cyber Bullying and Online Safety.

Feedback from parents and attendees was very positive.
Principal’s Report

Our direction for 2012 has been driven by the five priority areas of our strategic plan:

Catholic Life and Mission
Teaching and Learning
Catholic Leadership
Community
Facilities and Resources

Our annual School Improvement Plan focused on key identified goals:

• learning about our Brigidine charism and engaging in different forms of prayer.
• Collecting relevant student data and using it to guide teaching and learning facilitating growth for all students and identifying where intervention programs may be needed. This involved renewing and updating our standardised tests and implementing a tracking system.
• To improve student engagement and enjoyment of science and deepen the understanding of scientific process and concepts.

With the help the P & F we have been able to purchase new English and mathematics standardised tests, resources for Godly Plays, the Primary Connections resource including kits that accompany units. We have also been able to provide professional learning for staff including attendance at conferences and release for teachers to meet to discuss, observe and share ideas.

Once again, we have had the wonderful ongoing support of our P & F who have continued to support all of our Social Justice initiatives and have provided financial resources to the SRC and Social Justice committees to help them meet their Social Justice targets. The SRC and Social Justice Committee have regularly provided feedback to our school community through their newsletter and have updated us on their progress.

Whilst raising the funds to support these initiatives is important, the purpose and our commitment to helping those in need is our expression of the meaning of the Beatitudes. I would particularly like to acknowledge Melissa Kotian and Andrea Stringer and Melissa Overton, who work with the SRC and the Social Justice Committee.

Our senior students have continued to take part in, and further develop the Ministries introduced in the second half of 2011.

As well as supporting our special projects arising from our SIP goals, financial support continues to be directed to other educational resources. We are able to add to the collection of teacher resources in the library as well as replacing and adding to the collection available to students. It is important that we continually look for new books catering for a range of interests and abilities which will engage our students and encourage reading and learning. We have also been able to replace those well-loved titles which are constantly being borrowed. Replacing and adding to take home readers has also been possible.

Our teachers appreciate your support in providing them with the curriculum resources to bring alive learning here at Holy Family. These resources are not always glamorous or glossy, like replacing bulbs in interactive whiteboard projectors, but are necessary tools to be able to work in a 21st century learning environment. The purchase of interactive whiteboard wands allowing smaller children to reach and use the boards - particularly K-2 is one example. This combination of a well-resourced school and highly trained professionals does put our children in the best position to take on educational challenges.

The P & F play a vital role in welcoming new families, planning and organising social events and offering assistance to families when needed. All of these activities grow a community.
This is a trademark of Holy Family and I appreciate greatly the work of the P & F in helping to build positive relationships. I would especially like to acknowledge and thank Maryanne Spring for coordinating our social teams.

Throughout the year we were again delighted with the many outstanding achievements of our students. Our students participated in various sporting and academic activities - Soccer, Basketball, Netball, Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Tournament of the Minds, University Maths, English and Science competitions, Maths Olympiads, Public Speaking, Chess, Band, Recorder Group, School Choir and many civic ceremonies. This year our senior students participated in the A3 concert for a second consecutive year, culminating in a wonderful concert involving all senior students from the North Shore cluster. It has been great to see so many of our children taking up a range of challenges and participating in a variety of activities.

An amazing amount of support and work made our school musical financially viable. The learning and enjoyment of students involved was something we are all extremely proud of. I thank Mr Haynes for generously sharing his talents in writing and scoring the musical and all the time he gave to rehearsals and production of a high quality, entertaining musical.

As we approach the end of the 2012 school year, there are a number of people I would like to thank beginning with the P&F Executive. Their generosity of spirit and time has been inspirational, as has their support for myself and the staff. The focus never wavers from the needs of our students and providing an environment for success. On behalf of the staff, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the parent community for their trust and ongoing support.

I would like to thank Ms Jo Sharpe for again walking the journey with me in her role as Assistant Principal. I have greatly appreciated Jo’s ongoing support throughout the year. Thank you also to Mrs Melissa Kotian for her work as REC.

In September we farewelled Father Vlad Echalas and Father Raul Balute and I thank them for their support and encouragement in leading our school and parish community during their time with us. In October we welcomed Father Colin Blaney and Father Stephen Hamilton and look forward working with them as they take on the pastoral leadership of the Lindfield Killara Parish.

I would also wish to acknowledge the support, enthusiasm and commitment by the staff of our school to Catholic Education i.e. Lee-Anne Green, Anthea Thomas and Vicki Fenech in the school office, the school leadership team of Jo Sharpe, Melissa Kotian, Vanessa Murray, Carmel Hogan and Dominique O’Sullivan, the classroom and executive release teachers, Brigid McNally (Music) and Liz Maund (Special Needs), Janine O’Keefe (Support Staff), Anita Ward (Tuckshop), Julie Mason (Library Support) and Stefanie Camden (PE).

It is with some sadness that I congratulate those staff who will be leaving us at the end of the year. The teachers leaving are Mrs Catherine Donohoe (retiring), Miss Dominique O’Sullivan, Mr Chris Haynes and Mrs Andrea Stringer. We have benefitted from their skills and generosity and we wish them well as they take on new adventures.

We have a very dedicated teaching staff who continue to develop curriculum and school policy, devoting much of their own time. I would like to thank them for their continued support and care for our students. We are very fortunate to have the calibre of staff we have here at Holy Family.

Lou Dogao - Principal
Treasurer’s Report

This year has once again been extremely successful in terms of our fundraising efforts and reflects the amazing contributions by the many people who have made these fundraising events possible.

Funds raised to date include:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Festival</td>
<td>$35,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Year Dinner</td>
<td>$17,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship (cash collected to date)</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
<td>$365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Breakfast</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walkathon (estimate)</td>
<td>$5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds raised for social justice initiatives</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas markets</td>
<td>Not yet determined</td>
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</tbody>
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In addition to the funds raised above, we have received interest income to date of $628.

A total of $50,000 has been given to the school to provide technology support, learning resources for the library and classrooms as well as funds for School memorabilia.

As in previous years, 10% of total P&F funds raised are set aside in support of various Social Justice initiatives. These initiatives are determined by the Social Justice committee. For the 2012 year we have made the following contributions/commitments:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Compassion</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesuit’s Indian Bazaar</td>
<td>$230</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of St Jude, Tanzania</td>
<td>$3,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student immersion programs</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarjum College, Redfern</td>
<td>Remaining funds</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other expenditure to date includes bank charges & merchant fees of $810 and gifts/other miscellaneous expenditure of $171.

A copy of the final audited accounts for the 2012 year will be available on request from the school office early in 2013.

I would like to thank Josephine Salvaris for her efforts in the role of Social Committee Treasurer, particularly in supporting the Mid Year Dinner committee. I would also like to add my thanks to all involved in organising and supporting the various P&F events.

Fran Grant - Treasurer

Social Committee Report

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of 2012 and we will soon be planning the 2013 festivities. What an amazing year we all have shared. The energy amongst the Holy Family community is incredible, as there are always so many people willing to help organise and attend the numerous functions. Thank you to all parents for your continual support at the P & F functions and the class gatherings. Thank you to all the students who assisted me in preparing the Hall for morning teas and serving food.
The year commenced with a beautiful Welcome Morning Tea for Kindy families. Starting school is an emotional day for children and parents, so the morning tea provided by Year 1 Families is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Darlene Baines for co-ordinating the Welcome BBQ on the first Friday of Week 1. This BBQ is a wonderful opportunity for Kindy and new families to mingle. Shortly following this, the entire school community came together for a beautiful Opening School Mass and morning tea.

The Holy Family tradition of Cocktail Parties for each year continues to thrive every year. These parties were all well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all, and play such an important role in developing friendships amongst the parent community.

Thank you to the following parents who kindly opened their homes to host a Cocktail Party for their year:

**Kindy** Cath and Charlie Perrignon  
**Year 1** Jacqui and James Hayes  
**Year 2** Nicola and George Moraitis  
**Year 3** Annabelle and Steve Gunns  
**Year 4** Louise and Peter McCallum  
**Year 5** Majelle and Ken Knox  
**Year 6** Maryanne and Mark Spring

The main social and fund raising event for all families was the Art Festival in March. Despite the wet weather, the children had a fabulous day on the rides, in the sports zone or creating kids craft. The weekend commenced with a spectacular Cocktail Party, followed by an entertaining weekend for all. Special thanks to Gabrielle Thackray for the huge task in co-ordinating such a wonderful weekend and for all members of the sub-committees who organised their activities. This weekend cannot occur without the support and help of all parents in the community.

In Term 2, mothers were spoilt to receive beautiful gifts from the Mother’s Day Stall. Thank you to Sam Lloyd, Kris Giffin, Clare Andronicus and Cath Perrignon for co-ordinating this stall. The children love perusing through the gifts to choose that special gift for their mum. The children shared a beautiful Mother’s Day Mass with their children and it was wonderful to have the Year 6 children share the morning tea with their mothers.

The largest morning tea on our calendar is definitely Grandparents Day. Many grandparents travel long distances to come together with their grandchildren for Mass, a visit to their classroom and a much wanted cup of tea and slice of cake. It is a wonderful day for all and the grandparents really enjoy seeing how much school has changed since their own time at school. Thank you to all who provided or served food for this morning tea.

Olympic fever hit Holy Family in Term 3. They say the British know how to organise a special event with class and style, well so do the parents of Holy Family. What a night we all had. Colourful and creative costumes representing so many countries, athletes galore, stunning decorations, food and beverages all night, buses at our door to transport everyone to Riverview and a fantastic band to encourage all people to kick up their heels and dance the night away. Thank you to Sophie Todhunter and Steve Thompsett and all members of their Mid Year Dinner Committee for co-ordinating a spectacular night. Thank you to Sally Berry, Annette Spencer and Louise Woods for co-ordinating the gorgeous kids art work.

One of the special days for all Fathers every year would have to be the Holy Family Dads Big Breakfast. Attendance is close to 100% and the smiles on the faces of the children whilst sharing breakfast with their Dads, Grandads and other special friends is priceless. The room is buzzing with energy. Thank you to Anita Wong for co-ordinating this breakfast for so many years and to all those who cooked and chopped food early in the morning and served on the day.
Not only are their athletes amongst our parent community, but also amongst our children as evident by their costumes and energy levels at the **School Disco** at the end of Term 3. Olympic fever continued to flourish at Holy Family. Thank you to Molita Khreich, Maria Scipioni, Elise Clifton, Nicola Hargreaves and Andrina Lum committee for organising a wonderful night.

One knows the year is quickly escaping us when we see new little faces coming to school for their **Kindy Orientation**. It is exciting to be welcoming new children and families into our community and I thank Kindy families for providing wonderful morning teas for these occasions and their hospitality.

In October, all children successfully completed a 3.5km **Walkathon** route. This walk was enjoyed by students, parents and teachers. Thank you to Emma Janssen for once again co-ordinating a very successful and enjoyable morning. Thank you to all children for raising funds for our learning support materials.

The School Hall was transformed into a scene of sparkle and lights on 22 November with the beautiful **Christmas Markets**. With a large variety of gifts to purchase and sweet treats and champagne provided, the scene was set for a perfect day of shopping. Thank you to Nicola Moraitis, Lana Huntley, Jude Morahan, Pip Friday, Kerrie O’Brien and Fiona Simpson for providing us all the opportunity to complete some Christmas shopping in a beautiful environment.

Special thanks to Rose Brown and Lana Huntley who have worked tirelessly throughout the year taking photos of our children at all school, sporting and cultural events and for producing a first class **School Yearbook**. The School Yearbook is a wonderful memory of a year’s activities and takes hours and hours to prepare.

Thank you to Lisa Fraser who has co-ordinated the **Family Masses** for 2012. It is lovely to see so many children and parents involved in the liturgy which play such an important part in building our Parish community. Thank you to Sally Schokman and Anita Ward who have co-ordinated the **Tuckshop** roster for 2012. This is not an easy task to find parents for two days every week to help feed our children and Sally and Anita have done a fantastic job at ensuring enough assistance was provided. Thank you to Anita Ward for co-ordinating the tuckshop so successfully.

Special thanks to Mrs Stringer, Mrs Kotian, Ms Sharpe and Mr Dogao, and the students who presented at the various **Principal's Morning Teas**. It was wonderful to hear about the school’s focus on science, understand the teachings of God’s play and understand the new school reports. Thank you to all the volunteers at the swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals in 2012. These events would not run so smoothly without your assistance and it is always wonderful to see so many parents cheering on the children in their events.

Thank you to the **Class Parents** for distributing numerous emails to keep their class informed, co-ordinating morning teas, answering my calls of help for that extra plate of food and co-ordinating class activities. You were a pleasure to work with and your ongoing support and willingness to help was greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all parents who willingly answered my emails of help to provide that cake, sandwiches, or assistance at a morning tea, without your help, the functions would not be as successful. I would like to thank Mr Dogao, Lee-Anne Green and Anthea Thomas for their continual support and assistance in all activities. Thank you to those who have emailed or called me throughout the year with suggestions on how social events can be improved or changed. It is always refreshing to hear new ideas and your input is greatly appreciated.
I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Social Committee Co-ordinator for the past two years. This role has provided me the opportunity to make new friendships, build on existing friendships and to witness the wonderful community we are so fortunate to experience at Holy Family. After two years in this role, I feel it is time for a fresh face to take over. I am very pleased to announce that Lorna O’Sullivan will be the Social Committee Co-ordinator for 2013. I know Lorna will do a fantastic role, as she is such an organised, hard working and lovely lady.

Lastly, the school community is only as good as the contributions made by the parents. At the end of 2012 there are several families leaving Holy Family who have contributed enormously throughout their time at the School. No task was too large, too small or too trivial for them to achieve. From organising stalls at the Art Festival, to hanging artworks and lights, to cleaning the kitchen, to holding positions on the P&F, to sorting out the cage, washing the floor in the Hall, washing tablecloths, reading with children in the classroom, covering books in the Library, co-ordinating Holy Helpers, acting as Class Parents, assisting at the sporting carnivals, working on tuckshop and serving at the numerous morning teas and social gatherings held within our school. On behalf of the parent community, thank you. Thank you very much for your amazing contribution. You have demonstrated the Christian value of giving of your time for the benefit of others. You have played an invaluable role in building the school community at Holy Family and we will miss you. I wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday with your families.

Maryanne Spring - Social Committee Co-ordinator

Uniform Shop Report

The transition from last year’s management to this year was easy. Susan, Sophie and Laetitia work well together and enjoy each other’s company which is always a good combination.

With new people comes new ideas, the material for the sports shirts has been changed to a better, longer lasting one, we are just awaiting our first delivery of these. We also sourced a new tunic manufacturer, same design, same material, same quality just made in Australia by an Australian owed company and a more competitive price. Next year sees the track pants under review and a singlet top used for competitions will be looked into.

The Kindy Orientation mornings ran smoothly with the shop very busy with many new faces and lots of familiar faces, it reminds us our own children are growing up with another year passing. The new kindies loved trying their new uniforms on, with many wearing them to the following orientation morning.

We will be conducting a stock-take on 4 December as our financial year-end is 31 December. We will be then able to prepare an accurate Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement.

The uniform shop will continue to open on Tuesdays from 8.30am in 2013

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Lou and Jo. Vince, Fran and Amanda you will be missed and have done a wonderful job supporting the uniform shop, thank you. A huge thank you to Lee-Anne and Anthea who have been of invaluable assistance to us and always do it with a massive smile.

Thank you also to all the families who support us and make our positions a pleasure to do each week. We look forward to seeing you next year after a happy, safe and well-earned holiday.

Sophie Todhunter, Susan Houston and Laetitia Seeto
School Board Report

The purpose of the School Board is to build, strengthen and nourish the school as part of the parish community. Unlike a corporate Board, our School Board has no formal role in the governance and operation of the School, but exists to provide advice and support to our Principal and his leadership team.

The Board does this by eliciting feedback from parents, both formally (for example through surveys) and informally, as well as from the Parish, the P & F and teaching staff. This process is referred to by the Diocese as “shared wisdom” and is the prescribed form of governance for all School Boards in Broken Bay.

In 2012 the School Board comprised the following parents and members of the teaching staff: David Baines, Sheridan Collins, Catherine Donohoe, McGregor Grant, David Lumb (Chair), Joanne Sharpe, Maggs Thompsett, Paul Tonkin and Alan Yeung as well of course our Principal Lou Dogao and Father Vlad, prior to his departure from the parish in October. During the year Madeline Dermatossian also stepped down from her role on the Board and I thank her for her contribution over a number of years.

I would also like to make special mention of Amanda MacLean, who attended meetings of the Board as representative of the P & F and served as a valuable connection between the Board and the P & F. I thank her in particular for the additional time she spent with the Board on top of her P & F commitments.

Membership of the Board during the year has been stable, however it is important from a Board renewal perspective that we continue to have new members join us. I would therefore encourage any parent who might be interested in serving on the Board to contact me or any of the members of the Board. In particular we would welcome any parents who are relatively new to the School to join us.

A key focus for the Board this year was the expansion of the school’s teaching facilities. This involved examining options for temporary and permanent facilities and the associated financial implications for the school. Consideration of these potentially difficult issues involved input and discussion with members of the Parish Council, the P & F, the Catholic Schools Office and others and I believe was a great example of the “shared wisdom” approach put into practice.

Also during the year, the Board considered the results of surveys conducted of the parent community, which will help form priorities for 2013 and future years. In relation to the School Board, it is clear from the surveys that we need to do more to lift the profile of the Board in the school community and to be more accessible.

We will be looking to improve in these areas in the year to come and in particular will seek to improve our communications with parents and the broader parish community. I would also welcome any suggestions at any time from parents about areas of focus for the Board and how you would like to hear from us during the course of the year.

The School Board meets at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of each month during term. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Board is welcome to attend one of our meetings or alternatively contact me at home on 9416 1438 or Lou Dogao.

David Lumb – Chairman, Holy Family School Board
Holy Family Band Report

Congratulations to all the children involved in band and recorder this year. 2012 has been a great year for band and recorder at Holy Family. The children’s musical talents continue to develop and their enthusiasm and diligence is wonderful to see. They make us very proud.

There has been much change this year in band and recorder. A large number of children left our Senior band last year. The children coming up to Senior Band and those already in Senior band had big shoes to fill in 2012 and they have more then met the challenge.

In addition to the continued musical development of our children, the most significant developments in 2012 are summarised as follows:

- Ms Sharpe and Mrs McNally have been appointed by Mr Dogao to assist the committee with running the band at school. The assistance of both teachers has been much appreciated and communicating with the school has become more efficient.
- Two new band conductors were employed this year and a new recorder conductor employed to conduct our four recorder ensembles. A special committee has also been established to run recorder at Holy Family working with the mums on the band committee. The recorder committee have provided a separate report this year.
- The school’s first Band Captain has been appointed this year by our conductor. Sophie Brennan was chosen for the role and she has been a wonderful representative of band at Holy Family. Thanks Sophie.
- Junior band parents, similar to class parents, have been formally appointed this year who have taken responsibility for the children in junior band. Huge thank you to Susanna Maher and Philippa Hardy.
- Regular band parent meetings have been introduced so that parents can hear the latest band news as well as provide suggestions or comments about how band is run at school.

A summary of the year follows:

We began the year with Hannah Reid as conductor. A professional singer and musician, Hannah instituted some important changes to our band program. Unfortunately after only a term, Hannah left Holy Family to take up a musical composition position in LA. Michael Jardine then joined Holy Family as conductor and will remain in that position in 2013. Michael is also a professional musician and has a wonderful rapport with the children. He is to be congratulated for coping so well with the role after joining at the beginning of Term 2. He is a valuable asset to the program. Thank you, Michael, for your wonderful work.

The achievements of both bands in external competitions, school performances and other performances throughout the year have continued to impress.

The Junior Band won Silver in the Yamaha Music Festival this year and our Senior Band won Bronze. This is a big achievement for both bands but special mention must be made of our Junior band. They did so well in their first competition under the lights. Congratulations. Next year we would like to add another external competition to the school calendar; possibly Ryde Eisteddfod.

Both bands also played at school assemblies and events throughout the year. These additional performances are a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their talents and build their confidence levels. Particular mention should be made of the performances at the Art Festival and the Dads Big Breakfast. The bands represented the school magnificently at these important community events to the delight of all.
The band camp was held in Term 2 at Naamaroo, Lane Cove. Over two days and a night the children were involved in extra rehearsals, special tutorials and lots of fun and games. It was a really fun time and incredibly beneficial to the children. A special sub committee was formed to run band camp this year and was very ably led (again) by Darlene Baines and Michelle Brown. Thank you. All the children take a huge leap at band camp in their musical ability and it is a joy to watch them at the conclusion of the camp when they put on a short performance. It was wonderful to have Mr Dogao watch his first post band camp concert.

The dates for Band camp 2013 are
Thursday and Friday 15 and 16 May

2013 Enrolments look strong; final figures will be advised next year. We have just concluded our band recruitment process, which included a school instrument assessment and band information morning. Thanks to the school for all the help with organising this.

Band continues to be fully funded by the band parents. Fees were set at $320 for senior band, $220 for junior band and $205 for recorder, and we expect a surplus of approx. $2000 to carry forward to next year, including $1090 raised from the Mother’s Day cake stall, a surplus due to the last minute increase in recorder student numbers, and less than expected expenditure on music, equipment and other major purchases. These monies will be held over for use in future years. Further information on the finances is available from Paula Sutton.

Organising band is quite labour intensive but this year the load has been made a lot lighter by many wonderful parent helpers. Special thanks to Darlene Baines and Michelle Brown for their help with band generally. Carolyn Meagher, Maree Sutton and Anne Nanayakarra for assistance with opening up and afternoon supervision. Susanna Maher and Philippa Hardy for taking on the role of Junior band parents and attending every junior band rehearsal this year. Maria Scipioni for her incredible organisational skills and witty emails. Sheridan Collins for the Senior band roster. Jeannine Goddard for agreeing to be our standby emergency contact. Sonia Brennan and Mary Meagher for helping out with the Yamaha Music Festival. And finally Fiona Douglas for doing an incredible job organising our amazingly successful Mother’s Day Cake stall.

We always need more helpers so if you would like to get involved please put your hand up. The position of band co-ordinator is still up for grabs in 2013, so if you would like to get involved please contact us. To ensure that band continues to go from strength to strength at Holy Family, it is important that new parents come on board to run band in 2013. Even if it is only a little job, it all helps.

Finally, a big thank you to our parent community. Special effort is made by all parents of band children to organise instruments for their child (at great expense), get children to rehearsals, organise and ensure attendance at lessons for all children in their chosen instrument and make sure they are at performances on time and in school uniform as well as encourage each child to practise at home. If we didn’t have such an enthusiastic group of parents in band, this wouldn’t happen. Overall, the attendance from the children has been excellent. All parents are to be congratulated on their commitment and enthusiasm.

HFBC wish all our wonderful band and recorder children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a restful holiday. Any queries please email holyfamilyband@gmail.com

Here’s to more beautiful music at Holy Family in 2013.

Patrice Lumb and Paula Sutton – Holy Family Band Committee
Holy Family Recorder Committee

2012 saw a flourish of interest in recorder playing. We had a record number of student participation, warm parent support, and we wowed our audience with our morning assembly performances in Terms 3 and 4.

In 2012, the recorder committee was set up, for the day-to-day running of the recorder classes. Our four committee members are Toni Farrow, Annette Spencer, Jessica Cao and Margaret Tang.

We had a chance to set up a system specific for recorder, fine tune the requirement and scheduling rosters, also to act as a liaison between the recorder tutor and the school. We had four recorder classes, with a total of 37 students in 2012. There was an Advanced class, and three Beginner classes. Throughout the year, there were some movement between classes to reflect changes. So classes are fluid, at the discretion of the recorder tutor.

Our recorder tutor, Jackie Brighton was brought in at the end of Term 1. She is an established flute tutor. She continues to challenge the children by introducing different styles of music, including blues, tango and lots of duet pieces. Jackie will stay on for 2013.

Our recorder group had two performances in 2012. One at the beginning of Term 3, and the other one will be on 10 December. The children have showcased their musical talent, their effort and dedication. In Term 4, Jackie and some of our advanced students from Year 2 performed a few songs in the kindergarten classes; the students had an opportunity to have a go themselves and loved it. Our enrolment process starts in Term 4 and confirmed class times in the first week of 2013. The fee for 2012 was $205 per student, but that was for lessons starting from end of Term 1. Fees for 2013 will be adjusted once enrolments are finalised and lessons will begin in February. Looking forward, we would like to see a more suitable and stable location for our lessons. We also call for new committee members to help plan and run future recorder classes.

Finally, we wish to give our thanks to the band committee, Patrice and Paula for their huge support, for the library staff, Mrs Godfrey and Mrs Mason for having us, to Mrs Green for helping us schedule and reschedule, to Jackie for her guidance and expertise. Most of all to our wonderful recorder parents for their involvement with morning rosters, support and encouragement to all the children. Please contact us at holyfamilyrecorder@gmail.com.

Toni Farrow, Annette Spencer, Jessica Cao, Margaret Tang – Recorder Committee

Social Justice Report

We have continued to ensure that social justice remains a priority for our Holy Family community in 2012.

We have been assisted by an enthusiastic group of children in the Social Justice Ministry, led by Andrea Stringer.

We have had an Indigenous theme this year and have identified Redfern Jarjum College as a focus for providing assistance. Redfern Jarjum College is a small Jesuit primary school that is being established for a group of Aboriginal children in the Redfern area who have “fallen through the cracks” of primary school education. We want to try to impress upon our children how lucky they are, and that we all have a social responsibility to help those in need.
We were fortunate to have Beatrice Sheen, founding Principal of Redfern Jarjum, come to our Art Festival in March and assist the children in painting Aboriginal message stones. In first term, we also held a Rice Day for the children to coincide with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

In second term, we continued our tradition of having a Winter Appeal, partnered with the St Vincent De Paul Society. In third term, we continued our tradition of assisting the Jesuits’ efforts in their missions in India and South East Asia by running the Holy Family fruit salad stall at the Indian Bazaar.

As I write this report, we have just had Beatrice Sheen visit the children at Monday morning assembly who spoke to them about Jarjum College and what it means to be Aboriginal. On 30 November the Social Justice Committee will hold a Pasta Day and the profits from this will go to support Jarjum.

Other activities in term four include packing Christmas hampers for St Vincent De Paul, and collecting school shoes that will be donated to Jarjum.

We remain committed to our sponsorships at the St Jude’s School in Tanzania and regularly hear from our students, Albeth and Zera.

Thank you kindly to our core group of helpers in the Holy Family Social Justice Committee. As you all know, it is a wonderful gift to educate our children about their social responsibility to help others in need.

Mary Meagher - Social Justice Co-ordinator

The P & F Executive wishes you and your family a happy, healthy and safe Christmas holiday.