



Holy Family Catholic
Primary School

Parents & Friends
Annual Report
2019

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

Another busy school year at Holy Family is at an end. It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming the new students and families at our welcome barbecue. Term one often feels long and slow but then term four commences and the year is over before we know it.



The children have had another fabulous year. So much effort goes into building and maintaining the culture of Holy Family, our children's lessons and all the extra curricula activities. On behalf of all the parents, the P&F thanks Mr Dogao and all the staff for their enormous contributions. The staff and the leadership provided by Mr Dogao are integral to the culture of Holy Family and the life of the school. Please know that we, as parents, are very grateful for the incredibly important role that you play in our children's lives.

An important function of the P&F is encouraging the strong sense of community that Holy Family is so well known for. A big part of that are the events and social gatherings held throughout the year. Thanks to all who have been involved in contributing, whether organising and volunteering or coming along and joining in the fun.

Our biggest event is of course the Lindfield Art Show and Fair which was another great success in 2019. To all the wonderful parents involved in this incredible weekend, we say thank you. The cocktail party at the art show is the social event of the year and I'd encourage everyone to get involved and come along. The children too love the art show and I know how much effort goes into making sure there is plenty to keep the children occupied. Thank you also to our special band children who perform (in school uniform!) at the art show every year. It's a very special part of the weekend, you represent Holy Family beautifully and make us all so proud.

There are many, many more to thank. To those parents who organised the welcome BBQ, thank you. To all the class parents and class cocktail party hosts, we say thank you. Thank you also to the organisers of the Mothers and Fathers' day events and those involved in our social justice initiatives. Every year our school sends money to sponsor students at St Jude's school in Tanzania. Gemma Sisia is an inspiration and it's wonderful that there is support in the community for the continuation of this arrangement.

The children's disco this year was another fabulous event. It's an exciting night for the children and our thanks to all the organisers. The Christmas markets is also a lovely event and we thank the organisers for providing such a convenient Christmas shopping opportunity. The ability to purchase a photo history of our children's time at Holy Family is another great initiative and we are thankful for all the work and effort that goes into this.

This year Holy Family held its first *Colour Run* which was a fabulous success. Well done all involved.

On the financial front, the P&F continues to make a significant contribution to the school. This year funds raised will be applied to upgrading technology and the purchase of new school furniture.

It's been a pleasure to be involved with the P&F this year. Our family is relocating to Melbourne next year and after a 15- year association with Holy Family, we are sad to say goodbye. It's been great to work with Elena Burnheim, Michael Willet and Min Garrott Dai. Your support, dedication and professionalism has been incredible. Thank you so much. Elena and her family are also relocating so we say thank you and good-bye to the Burnheim family. Holy Family will miss you. Michael and Min are staying on as joint treasurers and they will continue to do a wonderful job.

On a personal note and reflecting on our family's association with Holy Family, I can say that great things truly do happen here.

Our four children have been very fortunate to have experienced a first-class education in a wonderfully caring and supporting environment. Research shows that the most important school years are the primary years where the crucial foundations for learning are laid. The success that ex- Holy Family students enjoy in the high school years and beyond (in all areas of learning (not just in academics)) is testament to the effectiveness of Holy Family and the learning programs that are available to all our children.

It's a special community and our family will miss it very much. We have wonderful memories many of which are recorded in our school magazines. Thank you to all involved in the 2019 magazine. It will be a treasured memento in our house and another magazine to add to our much loved (and read) collection.

I wish all a very Merry Christmas, wonderful New Year and a restful holiday.

Patrice Lumb

President

Principal's Report

As with every year, 2019 has brought challenges and successes. Our Assistant Principal Ms Sharpe was selected to be Acting Principal in another school for 12 months so we began the year with Mrs Board as Acting Assistant Principal and Mrs Hogan as Acting Religious Education Coordinator (REC). The success of all 3 in their new roles is testament to our ability, and track record, of producing quality leaders!



Our focus throughout 2019 has, as it should be, been directed by our School Improvement Plan, SIP, annual goals and targets in the key dimensions of Catholic Mission, Learning and Teaching and Pastoral Care.

The focus in Catholic Mission this year has been directed by our 3-year goal which is to provide all our students authentic opportunities to engage meaningfully in Religious Education. The use of 'Godly Play' and routines promoting a 'Culture of Thinking' have been two key mediums for achieving this. P&F support has allowed us to purchase additional resources for 'Godly Play' and allowed teachers to undertake professional learning and share their learning with whole staff.

In Learning and Teaching, our 3-year goal is to create a challenging learning environment that supports every student to become a confident and creative thinker. During 2019 we continued to develop our joint professional learning and sharing with Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood. Our challenge this year has been to jointly construct ways of promoting and identifying student growth as thinkers by further unpacking elements of the Understanding Map. Together we created documents Teachers are able to use to help with assessment and be able to reflect and make change that promotes creative thinking. P&F support also allowed us to begin purchasing furniture that allows for flexibility in learning environment that better meets individual student learning needs, promotes collaborative as well as independent learning. The introduction and use of flexible learning furniture will continue in 2020.

Creative thinking has also been evident through the use of iPads, which we were able to lease, and teachers were supported with access to an Apple Education Specialist working with whole staff and individual teachers. These would not have been possible without a budget made available through financial support from the P&F.

Our Pastoral Care 3-year goal is to improve student social and emotional competencies. The Leader In Me remains a key pastoral care learning focus. This year has seen some changes to the leadership structure in name and in opportunity. There is a greater shared responsibility with focus areas or ministries across the school. Examples of this include a School Leadership Team which is not determined by gender or defined by captain and vice-captain and the introduction of Environment Leaders during the year. With staff support the Environment Group has established a worm farm, a compost project involving the whole school and established 2 vegetable gardens which has been wonderful in raising awareness and promoting a sense of purpose and achievement. Again, none of this would have been possible without financial support of the community and especially the P&F. Student voice has, and will continue, to be important in promoting student and school wellbeing.

I want to thank both the School Advisory Board and the P&F for their work and contributions this year. A special thanks to the School Advisory Board and the P&F Executive for the time, energy, leadership and important contributions to promoting a positive culture and sense of community in the face of numerous challenges such as financial stresses on families, the impending Coles development and changing demographics. Their ability to inform and engage our learning community continues to be a wonderful support for me.

My thanks to the P&F for the ongoing financial support that has allowed us to promote and improve learning through purchase of resources and engaging in opportunities already mentioned.

As we approach the end of the 2019 school year, there are a number of people I would like to thank beginning with the P&F Executive, particularly Patrice Lumb and Elena Burnheim who finish as President and Secretary. 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. Thanks also to the School Advisory Board who provide a valuable platform for both the parent body and the staff and an excellent sounding board for any proposed innovations and changes. I particularly wish to acknowledge Chris Blayney for his support and contributions over a number of years as member of the Advisory Board and President. 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 Joanne Sharpe for her support and professionalism and congratulate her on all she has accomplished as Acting Principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, West Pymble, in 2019. I cannot overstate the positive impact Ms Sharpe's work has on student, staff and parent learning and on making it possible for me to concentrate on my role. My thanks also to Mrs Board who has been Acting Assistant Principal for 5 terms and congratulate her in her appointment as permanent AP. We are blessed with the quality of staff and leadership potential at Holy Family!

Thank you also to Mrs Hogan for her work as Acting REC over 5 terms and her valuable contribution to the leadership team.

I would also wish to acknowledge the support, enthusiasm and commitment by all the staff of our school to Catholic Education. I particularly want to acknowledge and thank Ms Sharpe and Mr Perez who we will be farewelling at the end of this year.

We are blessed to have very dedicated and hardworking teachers who continues 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.

I wish you all a happy end to the 2019 school year and pray you may find the Prince of Peace this Christmas.

Lou Dogao
Principal

Treasurer's Report – Year ending December 2019

A big call out to thank the many parents who helped with the P&F's fundraising activities over the year. It's been a really solid year all round, with contributions from across a range of activities including the Art Show, Walkathon, Mother's and Father's Day breakfast and the Holy Family photographic history.

Consistent with prior years, the Art Show was the largest contributor to our fund raising activities, bringing in \$32K.

The funds will be put to great use to support the learning of the children at Holy Family. We have also been able to donate funds to assist students at St.Jude's in Tanzania. Our contributions over many years have helped to provide life changing opportunities to many young people.

Min Dai & Michael Willett

Co-Treasurers

Social Events

The P&F social calendar at Holy Family is always a busy one, and without a dedicated Social Co-ordinator in 2019 presented some challenges. Unsurprisingly though, the school community pulled together with the help of many amazing volunteers to hold many successful events!

- **Year Group Cocktail Parties**

The Holy Family tradition of holding Year Group Cocktail Parties continued to be very popular, with these evenings always highly anticipated and much enjoyed. Thank you to the parents who opened their homes to host a Cocktail Party.

- **Lindfield Art Show & Festival**

The Lindfield Art Show in 2019 was held from the 15th - 17th March and was great success. Many of the regular artists returned and we introduced many new artists who exhibited for the first time which ensured we continue to display a wonderful diverse range of art works. For the 2019 Art Show we introduced the "People's Choice" award which was voted for by the students who were able to view the gallery before the opening night. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to vote on the "People's Choice", this year the "People Choice" award went to Justin Caleo! Many thanks to the committee &

volunteers, who all helped to transform our hall into a spectacular gallery for weekend. And a big thank you to our talented artists who have inspired and supported the exhibition. None of this would have been possible without the enormous contribution of our fabulous Art Show Committee: Chantelle Moylan Kathrina Lambino, Shay Itzcovitz, Deanna Antcliff, Georgina Campbell, Audre Arnautovic and Jacinta Hennessey-Bowden, as well as all of the other parents who volunteered on the day.

- **Mother's Mass and Breakfast**

We would like to thank all of the staff and parents who organised a lovely morning tea following the Mother's day mass. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

- **Grandparents' Day**

A huge thanks to Anthea from the office for organising the volunteers for grandparent's day. Thank you to all of the parents who contributed their time, in the kitchen preparing food or on the day with serving, setting up and clearing away.

- **Father's Day Big Breakfast**

The traditional Father's Day Big Breakfast was a huge success and the paper plane contest fiercely contested once again.

- **School Disco**

The Halloween themed disco was highly anticipated and did not disappoint. Our sincere thanks to Bec Sammut, Jo Perkins and their team of volunteers for making this a night to remember for the kids.

- **Colour Run**

A huge thanks to Jo Perkins for a mammoth effort coordinating our very first Colour Run! The children loved every minute and it wouldn't have been possible with the contribution of so many volunteers. At last tally the colour run had raised over \$3000 for our school!

- **Christmas Markets**

A big thankyou to Abbey Moore and Alinta Farquhar for organising the Christmas markets. There was a great selection of Christmas stalls which drew many families and friends to the school to buy gifts in preparation for the Christmas celebrations.

Yearbook

Special thanks to Rose Brown, Georgie Jurcevic, Anthea Thomas and Deborah Pollock for coordinating the Holy Family Yearbook again and to all those parents who took on the coordination of their class page. The Yearbook is a fabulous keepsake which is thoroughly

enjoyed by parents and children, but it takes many hours to prepare so we are very grateful to all the parents who have contributed this year.

School Board Report

The role of the Holy Family School Advisory Board is to provide advice and support to our Principal and their leadership team. We are there to provide a parental perspective on matters of school policy and on "big picture" matters affecting the school's present life and its future.

This year the Holy Family Advisory Board and P&F sought your feedback, via an online survey, on the things that Holy Family does well and the things that we can improve. We were thrilled to hear from a large number of families and would like to thank those of you who took the time to share your thoughts.

The survey told us that our families are pleased with:

- A school environment where students are encouraged to be confident learners. Programs like Leader in Me have made a significant difference in this area and have resulted in strong academic results. This year's NAPLAN results are something to be very proud of.
- The safe and caring environment created at Holy Family where each student is valued and respected. 93% of respondents agreed with these statements. Students have a strong friendship groups and feel supported by the school.
- The strong sense of community, where the children all know one another and are known to all the staff. Parents are welcomed into the school and have an opportunity to get involved. Our size helps make this a strength for all of us. This is what makes Holy Family unique.

The survey also told us where we could improve. In response to this feedback, the Advisory Board will be focused on the following initiatives for 2020, in partnership with the school principal.

- Improving communication to parents and caregivers, whether it be about our success with academic results such as NAPLAN, or broader information regarding the operational management of the school.
- Driving enrolment numbers in collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office.
- Devising and communicating a school management plan for implementation during the Coles Redevelopment (likely to be 2021 based on current progress).

Thank you for your support of our school, our teaching staff and the broader Holy Family community. Your support is vital to the continuation of academic success and the strength of community in our wonderful school.

Chris Blayney – Chairperson, Holy Family School Board, 2019.

Holy Family String Ensemble Report

The String Ensemble was established in Term 4 of 2017 and has continued successfully throughout 2019. Previously the string ensemble was offered to students in Years 1-6 , but this year enrolments were opened to Kindy students after interest from new parents had been shown. String ensemble will continue in 2020. It will be offered to Year 1-6 students and any Kindy student who is already having instrumental string tuition outside of school and shows interest. (It is also noted that keyboard classes are also held on Wednesday mornings and has posed a problem for some students wishing to learn both instruments.)

Holy Family Band Report 2019

The Holy Family Bands have had a wonderful year of music in 2019.

This year, 28 students made up our Senior Band, and we had 21 students in Junior Band. In Term 4, the new Training band commenced with 20 new recruits. The Bands continued to rehearse every week in the school hall, with Training Band on Mondays before school from 7:30am -8:30am, Junior Band on Tuesdays before school from 7:30am – 8:30am, and Senior Band on Mondays after school and Thursdays before school from 7:30am – 8:30am.

Our annual Band Camp proved to be one of the most memorable activities for all of our Band students this year. It was held on 23 and 24 May at the Naamaroo Conference Centre in Lane Cove, the Band students had two days of intensive tutorials and rehearsals, and finished the event with a wonderful concert for parents, families and carers. As always, our young musicians made incredible progress during Band Camp, which helped them to prepare for some of their other events throughout the year.

Our Band program continued to be predominantly self-funded by the Band parents through annual fees. To supplement this income, we held a cake stall on 13 September. The Band students and their parents baked some wonderful items and we were able to raise just under

\$500 for the Band program. We would like to thank the school community for purchasing the cakes and cookies we sold.

Earlier in the year, the Senior Band performed at the Sydney Eisteddfod. Both Junior and Senior Band have also performed publicly at our school Art Festival, NSSWE (Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble) Winter Community Concert at Forest High School, and also at School assemblies each term. We were pleased to have been invited by Sacred Heart Catholic School in Pymble to perform at their Family Fun Fair on 17 November, and both the Junior and Senior Bands played beautifully and represented our School proudly. As part of the end of year festivities, the Senior and Junior Bands are looking forward to performing at the Holy Family School Christmas Carols and Concert. To conclude the year, our Bands will be having a Band breakfast, followed by an End-of-Year Concert where they will perform for the entire School and families in week 9 of Term 4.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our conductor, Michael Jardine, who has continued to guide our Band with talent, heart and professionalism. His support, guidance and advice is an invaluable part of the Band program. We would also would like give our heartfelt thanks Lou Dogao, Maree Board, Brigid McNally, Anthea Thomas and Vicki Fenech for their constant support of our Band program. As well as giving their support, they also enhance the program by being available to meet with us and to ensure that the Bands get plenty of opportunity to perform at school. We also extend our thanks to all of the Band parents for their continual support, dedication and assistance in our Band program. Thanks to our wonderful Band Leaders, Edmond Wong and Jemma Wong, for leading the Bands, inspiring their fellow Band members, and introducing the Bands at performances. Finally, we would like to give thanks to the wonderful musicians who comprise our Bands, and to acknowledge the dedication, support and involvement they give to the Band program and also to one another.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year in 2020.

Holy Family Band Committee

**The P & F Executive wishes you and your family all the best for a
happy and successful 2020.**