P&F President’s Report

2013 has been a busy and productive year for the St. Augustine’s P&F.

We started the year with the annual family social twilight picnic and Mucky Duck Bush Band Concert. It turned out to be a stormy summers night but those who braved the weather had a great time.

In week 5 of term 1 we held our first ‘canteen special.’ Byron Trumper, chef and year 2 dad, volunteered his time to cook a special menu lunch. The canteen specials were also held in term 2 and 3 with the lasagne in term 2 being the standout favourite!

On Saturday the 13th April I attended the Parents and Friends Federation of Western Australia (PFFWA) annual conference and AGM. The federation represents and acts as an advocate on behalf of parents with children in catholic schools both at a state and federal level. Our affiliation with the PFFWA provides us with the opportunity to network, seek advice and receive support from other families involved in Catholic education.

The Eater Hat Parade is a well established tradition in our school and was eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by all. The P&F were lucky enough to secure a booking with the Easter Bunny and we welcomed him to our parade after which he showered the children with hugs and eggs. The students from St. Claire’s in Lathlain set up an Easter stall selling cupcakes and small gifts as part of their Home Economics studies.

We ran a Mother’s Day Raffle with prizes obtained through donations and a Father’s Day Raffle with a donated racing bake as the 1st prize. Both of these fundraisers were well supported by the school community.

With both a state and federal election this year we seized the opportunity to set up a cake stall and sausage sizzle on both polling days. The generosity and baking skills of the St. Augustine’s families and friends were amazing and led to both stalls being profitable. Thank you to all those families who donated baked goods and/or their time to man the stall.

In term 2 the P&F were looking for ways to engage Dad’s in a social activity with the students. The resulting idea was the Dad’s Campout which was picked up by a group of Dad’s and turned into a night filled with fun but not much sleep! We hope the St. A’s Dad’s will be keen to run a similar event next year. Thank you to all the Dad’s who organised and participated in the campout - the students loved it!

Early in term 3 the P&F Roller Skating Party was the place to be seen on a Friday afternoon. We had a great turnout from kindy to year 6 and it was fantastic and heart warming to see the older students help and look out for the younger ones. It highlighted the community spirit and regard the students have for one another.
TravelSmart to School at St. Augustine’s continues to promote healthy choices when commuting to school everyday. The P&F and the year 6 TravelSmart Team held events in every term this year - Cycle to School in term 1 with the best dressed bike and slow bike race being popular. Walk Safely to School and the Department of Transport (DOT) TravelSmart to School inter-school competition in term 2. Breakfast events in term 3 on two separate occasions and Walk Over October in term 4.

Earlier this term the year 6 class participated in a TravelSmart Transperth incursion aimed at educating them about public transport use in preparation for their transition into high school next year.

On the 6th November I accompanied the six year TravelSmart Team members to the City Farm in East Perth where they had the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other TravelSmart schools.

The year 5s participated in the WA Cycling Bike Education Program over the course of 4 consecutive days for 90 minutes each day. This was fully funded by the City of Belmont (COB) as a direct result of our involvement in the TravelSmart program. The DOT and the COB provide prizes, resources and money to support the TravelSmart events in our school and we are very thankful for this.

The highlight of 2013 and most successful fundraiser of the year was the Lap-a-thon held on a rainy day in August. The rain added to the excitement and air of craziness of the day but it was loads of fun and fantastic to see the students, teachers and parents helping each other and working together with a common goal. Thank you to Jonnine for giving us the day and a big thank you to Miya for masterminding the days proceedings. The funds raised as a result of the Lap-a-thon will allow the P&F to fully fund the purchase of a much needed air-conditioner for the upstairs resource room.

Over the course of the year the P&F have raised funds and/or obtained donations through Entertainment Book and bulb sales, the Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion, School Banking and most recently, the student artwork that was transformed into products like calendars, iPhone covers and card sets.

The P&F will finish off 2013 with a ‘Bop-til-you-drop’ disco this Friday. There will be two sessions with flashing lights, loud bass and karaoke fun to be had!

I would like to finish by thanking Jonnine, Christine and all the staff for their support in everything the P&F committee does. And I would also like to personally thank the committee members who work throughout the year to make all the events and fundraisers successful. Cathy, Tamara, Tania, Miya, Emma, Tracey, Sally, Alida and Justine, I know you have given countless hours and a great deal of effort to ensure that the fundraising and community building goals of the P&F are being met. Thank
you very much for the time you have given so generously and the support you give me. I hope we can continue to grow and improve in 2014.

Thank you
Maryann Taraborrelli