

JPPS P&C AGM Report 2019

The John Purchase Public School Parents and Citizens' Association is a not-for-profit organisation. The purpose of the John Purchase Public School Parents and Citizens' Association is the advancement of education at the John Purchase Public School.

Asking these questions (and trying to answer them) helps charities to stay true to their vision and mission:

Why are we here?

What are we doing?

How are we doing it?

Why are we here?

The John Purchase Public School Parents and Citizens' Association (JPPS P&C) seeks to assist the John Purchase School (JPPS) in the education of the students that attend JPPS.

We attempt to achieve this through:

- a) Promotion of the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation; and
- b) Assistance in providing facilities and equipment for the school and in promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school

The former requires the JPPS P&C to organize events for parents, citizens, students and teaching staff to attend. It is also facilitated by volunteering at the school, as part of the P&C or not. The latter requires the JPPS P&C to raise funds.

The JPPS P&C relies heavily on volunteer to build a community to assist parents.

The P&C exists on the backs of its volunteers. It would not exist without you, and I believe that the school and its students would be worse off without you.

I want to thank our crew of volunteers who every year rise up to the challenges facing our not for profit and the community it serves. Please accept the appreciation of the community for all those that have volunteered at discos, breakfasts, handy work on the grounds, uniforms and lunches, music, and general administration.

"Never underestimate your ability to make someone else's life better - even if you never know it." - Greg Louganis

Why volunteer?

As parents we are destined to pass on lessons in life, both good and bad. Our hope is that the former outweighs the latter. There are several life lessons that can be witnessed by children when their parents volunteer at the school:

1. Leading by example;

2. The importance of kindness;
3. To pursue your goals;
4. Being a better person than I was yesterday;
5. Doing more than I am asked;
6. Other people besides themselves are important;

Volunteering at the school also allows children and parents to better communicate. As a child relates a story of their school day, the parent is better able to put faces to names, recognize the teacher or have knowledge of the location.

The JPPS P&C were in the fortunate position to experiment with the organization of the Easter and Election events. The Easter event successfully partitioned the workload across a number of people and the Election ran smoothly without someone being present to oversee operations for the whole day.

So, there is no reason for the same people to organize and volunteer for every event.

- It is entirely feasible to distribute the effort across each of the 400+ families;
- You need only volunteer just once in the 7 years that your child is at John Purchase;
- You will be able to make a valuable contribution with little supervision required.

I for one share your belief in the future of our children
That said we can always use more volunteers and as children move on into high school it is essential that we call upon new families to the community. We are aware that time is precious to modern families and we only ask that you spare what time you can afford. I would also emphasise that your family benefits directly as your children witness your involvement in their community allowing you put names to faces, recognise places and generally strengthen the depth of communication between you and your child.

What are we doing?

The JPPS P&C donated almost \$25k for the purchase of equipment (Air Conditioners, Data Projectors and Outdoor Learning Area equipment) in 2019.

The JPPS P&C again contributed \$50k towards the Learning and Support teacher in 2019.

The volunteering efforts of the P&C raised in excess of \$10k profit in community events (discos, breakfast, stalls etc.) throughout 2019.

How are we doing it (2019 in review)?

We began 2019 with a new Uniform Shop manager and a range of changes to employment documentation to align with Fair Work requirements. In addition, we engaged with Department Education Asset Management to make progress towards the canteen Renovation.

As the year draws to a close having allocated funds and identified the contractor, it is now a real possibility that the Canteen Renovation can be completed before students return to school in 2020.

Term 1

As always, the volunteers of the JPPS P&C, were already hard at work in term 1 organizing community events such as the Welcome BBQ, Term 1 Disco, Easter Celebrations, Mother's Day and the Entertainment Book.

In February we began the process of hiring a band coordinator to assist in the organization of the band.

This year Bec and Jenny organized the Welcome BBQ, an event that is designed to welcome new families to the school. This is a wonderful idea and admirable that Bec and Jenny believed that it was a cause that was worth their time and effort. The night went smoothly despite the threatening weather. Families were able to enjoy the afternoon and their first impression of JPPS was most assuredly a positive one. The term 1 disco was organized by Frankie, Jaya and Anh with a theme of "Magic". The Discos are a favourite of the children and they had a wonderful time and behaved admirably throughout the night.

The P&C did not have the number of volunteer necessary to operate the disco and simultaneously organize the Election BBQ. So, we opted to run the disco, since this an event for the children, as opposed to the Election which are not fun for children at all.

Easter celebrations were partitioned into a number of smaller roles organized by different individuals. This proved a great success and alleviated the stress of everything falling on the shoulders of only one or two people.

Many Australians celebrate Mother's Day and Father's day as a display or appreciation for the achievements and efforts of mothers and fathers. The JPPS P&C believes that the organization of a Mother's day breakfast, Mother's day stalls, Father's day breakfast and Father's day stalls is the embodiment of its advocacy. The organization of the Mother's day and Father's day events represent the charity to the community and to its members and stakeholders.

This year Anh, again, organized Mothers day and encouraged parents to pay online rather than queue in the morning to pay. Numbers were down significantly this year, perhaps as a result of Ramadan or perhaps as a result of the online payment preference.

Mother's day is annually observed in Australia on the second Sunday of May. Mother's day coincided with Ramadan in 2019 and will again coincide with Ramadan in 2020 and 2021. The JPPS P&C recognizes that our community is strongly multicultural with about 70% of the students enrolled as English as a

Second Language. It was too late to alter the Mother's day plans for 2019, but the JPPS P&C did investigate the implications for the following years. Certainly, shifting Mothers Day Breakfast to week after in 2021 (Friday May 14th) gives P&C another week to organize. This is perhaps even beneficial to volunteers.

We would need to shift mother's Day 3 weeks (Fri May 29th) in 2020. We also have a responsibility for the welfare of our volunteers and the welfare of children, so we have decided to not start Breakfast before sunrise.

Mothers Day stall was managed by Cate Grace with the assistance of Kylie, Nikki, Fiona, Jo and Cherie. As usual they did a wonderful job of sourcing an array of Mother's day gifts for children to choose from. Cate Grace and crew source the array of gifts from several suppliers several weeks in advance. They then back up on the day by setting up the tables, arranging the gifts, making certain that prices are clearly labelled and coordinate with school staff to ensure that students experience a smooth and hazard free shopping expedition. They even arrange it so that all students can a broad selection of gifts. Truly marvelous.

Term 2

We welcomed Amy Kelman at the start of Term 2 who joined the JPPS P&C as our new Band coordinator.

We organized for the artificial turf, donated by Lorraine and John Samson, to be installed using the money raised for Outdoor Learning Areas, from the "2018 Run 4 Fun".

In June we applied to the "My Community Project" grant for artificial turf and resurfacing for the K-2 area, requesting \$120k. The new "My Community Project" initiative came to our attention as an avenue of obtaining government grants for the development of projects that will benefit the community. In consultation with the school the P&C has applied for a grant to install artificial grass in the K-2 playground area. This area is used by children from Kindergarten to Year 2 to play at recess, lunch and sport periods, and which is accessible for children from Kindergarten to Year 6 while they attend Vacation Care and Before and After School Care. Having artificial grass in the K - 2 playground also affords opportunities for additional outdoor learning activities, providing an attractive and usable space for outdoor lessons. The high volume of traffic (~300 students) prevents grass from successfully growing despite numerous attempts.

We updated our constitution to identify and name the JPPS Building Fund as advised by the ATO. We introduced a number of guidelines and handbooks to clearly outline the relationship between the P&C, its volunteers, employees and the wider school community. In particular the "handbooks" were introduced as a method of communicating the core information to volunteers and organisers.

- JPPS P&C Handbook
- Event Organisers Handbook

- Event Responsibilities 2019
- Dealing with Aggression Guidance
- Event Anti-Bullying Guidance
- Child Safe Policy (needed to apply for Band to be 'Creative Kids' provider)
- Child Safe Child Friendly Guidance

Bec operated the Election BBQ successfully run without a member of the executive in attendance for the full day. Thanks to Bec and volunteers on the day for organising this service again. If was not for Bec, the Election BBQ, would not have gone ahead, despite the polling booth being situated at JPPS.

Term 3

In August we attempted to organize the Education Week BBQ. The BBQ for education week has been difficult to organise in terms of volunteers for the last 2 years. This year proved no different and unfortunately the family members of teachers were needed to successfully complete the day. We do not plan to operate a BBQ for Education Week going forward.

In September Cate Grace along with volunteers were sourcing an array of Father's day gifts and then following up their efforts to set up and operate the stalls.

Cate and the volunteers that help organize the Mother's day and Father's day stalls are a great example of parents that have identified tasks that need to be done and just do them without fanfare. They perform an invaluable service, enabling the children to supply gifts to their Mothers and Fathers.

Anh, was again organizing the Father's day Breakfast. The event was again organized as a pre-ticketed online payment at \$7 and walk ins at \$10. Thanks to Anh for her hard work setting up and organising. For their \$7 to \$10 the attendees get bacon, eggs, bread and/or toast, fruit, cereal and barista coffee. This is great value, even at \$10.

As always it is wonderful to hear of new volunteers and new parents stepping in to lend a hand. As children and their families move on into High School it is nice to know that the next generation of parents are willing to play a part in the advancement of education.

At each event the P&C and the organisers were supported by a number of amazing volunteers.

We learned that the application to the "My Community Project" for artificial grass in the K - 2 playground was unsuccessful.

Another grant open to the JPPS P&C is the Community Building Partnership grant. The application for painting toilets for Community Building Partnership was submitted 23rd September.

On Friday 26th October we are organized the breakfast for the teachers and staff to coincide with teacher's day. Teachers and staff were extremely appreciative, and everything ran smoothly.

It came to the attention that the P&C operation of a Deductible Gift Fund (Approved Building Fund) was not within ATO guidelines. Hence the constitution was amended in August to identify the fund and a clause allowing for the creation of fund rules.

Periodically the P&C is required to pay for items with a credit card. This has traditionally required the use of a parent's credit card who is subsequently reimbursed. The P&C voted to authorize a JPPS P&C credit card that will be in the possession of the executive. As part of the process it will be necessary to organize a bank account with a single signatory. This account will have a limit of \$1000.

Term 4

In November we purchased two new BBQ's to replace the aging BBQ's. A small air conditioner was installed in the uniform shop for approximately \$1800. This was done to ensure the comfort of volunteers and staff when working in the Uniform Shop.

As we close out the year, I find that we are again conducting interviews as we replace our conductor Mr Felton, who has decided to reduce his work load.

Uniform

The Executive committee would also extend thanks Sarah for her leadership, management skills and business acumen that she brings to the Uniform Shop. Sarah launched the starting school essentials packs this year at the 2020 kindergarten orientation that proved a wonderful success.

Canteen

The Executive committee would also extend thanks Donna and Anna for the leadership they bring to the Canteen.

Our Canteen capably managed by Donna and Anna had achieved of score of 82% for our menu when assessed against the healthy options criteria and won the NSW Healthy choices award of \$3000. This money has been used to purchase a new drinks fridge to be installed at the start of 2020.

In September the Canteen introduced the Return and Earn buckets/bins have been set up for recycling bottles.

<p>The Uniform shop and Canteen will raise in excess of \$20k profit by the end of the year.</p>

Band

Amy Kelman joined the JPPS P&C as our new Band coordinator in April. Throughout the year, Amy was enthusiastic and has initiated a number of suggestions to improving the organization of the band and supporting musical educations within

the school. Amy organized Two Band Competitions, the Band Workshop, the November twilight Concert and the tryouts for 2020 training band. Band Camp was organized by school this year, but Amy has already organized next years band camp to be at vision valley.

We acknowledge that it is through the diligence and organization of Amy Kelman, and the JPPS Band subcommittee and passion of Mr. Felton that our fabulous Concert Band won gold and the JPPS Training Band Won Bronze at the NSW championships this year. A very special thanks is deserved to Jack and Jing who set up for the band every week and to Julie who is there to help pack up every week.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Felton as our Band Conductor. Mr Felton was adored by the students with band and revered amongst band parents.

Finances

Thanks to Sue Morris, our bookkeeper for her efforts to assist in the management of the accounts for the band, uniform shop and canteen and ensuring that all of our employees are paid on time and correctly.

Without a treasurer it has been the efforts of Sue that has allowed the executive to track the state of our finances and still deliver a financial report at meetings.

A very special thanks to Irene Bekris who voluntarily gives up considerable time to audit the JPPS P&C accounts as required by the Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission and P&C Federation.

JPPS Teachers and Staff

Once again, the P&C has benefited from the strong partnership with our talented and enthusiastic teachers and in particular our Principal, Mrs. Black, who has been so generous of her time and experience in helping the P&C to help the school. The P&C looks forward to expanding and strengthening the depth of collaboration with the school, its staff and teachers as we work hard to extend that closeness to the families of our community.

“The greatest use of a life is to spend it for something that will outlast it”.

— William James

A reminder, that in March of 2019 there will be nominations for the executive positions within the P&C executive and the teams that run the Band, Uniform Shop & Canteen. For the first time, due to changes in the Working With Children Check legislation the P&C we will have the roles of WWC Officer nominally filled with one male and one female representative.

Every position in the P&C is available so please consider contributing your time or your experience or both to the common goal of making these school years as beneficial and memorable for our children as possible by attending the meeting on the evening of Monday 12th March.

I will not be returning in 2020. All my children will have moved on to high school and it is time to hand over the operations to parents that have a real responsibility to the success of the P&C.

Executive

I would like to extend a personal and heartfelt thanks to Anh, Ruth, Andrew, Bec, Kate, Ivana, Neelam and Meeta for all that each of you have brought to the 2019 executive. You are all doing more than you have to. As parents we do whatever needs to be done to support our family. As volunteers, you do whatever needs to be done to support your community.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you and congratulations all on a great year,

Steve Byng
President