

BPS P+C Association President's Annual Report for 2015

Hello to all BPS Parents and Guardians, BPS teachers and staff. My name is Robert Bennett and I am the BPS P+C President. Each year the President provides a report on the year past and looks forward to the year ahead.

In short, 2015 was a phenomenal year - as you will see.

As ever, the academic year simply flew past. We started the year in late Jan 2014 with BPS Principal Maria Lambos well and truly settled in and a record 312 students in 13 classes – an increase of almost 14% on 2014.

During 2015 the P+C was its normal active self, meeting every first Wednesday of the month during term time in the school staff room (great move from the former library – much bigger chairs!). We started the year with the Welcome drinks and swept through the terms with the Father's Day Breakfast, the Mother's Day gift, the Art Show, Band Concerts galore and ended the year with a School Year Book and, as always, the hugely successful Belle Property Balmain Fun Run. And throughout the year, there was always the canteen!

Many parents throw themselves in to school activities such as reading in class, volunteering for school social functions or helping out at canteen on a Friday. It is always great to see new faces coming along to help and to see the real kick our kids get from seeing parents getting actively involved in their school. I know that Maria and the teaching staff really appreciate all those who come along and help out at school and we at the P+C thrive and survive on the generosity of your time at specific events - even if it is just once over the school year.

In terms of finances, the P+C started the year with just over \$44K in the bank and we ended the year with a little over \$54K (after accounting for committed expenditure). During the year the P+C raised an absolutely phenomenal **c\$122,000** – from the following initiatives, activities and events:

- Approximately \$18K from the P+C levy;
- Approximately \$16K from the canteen;
- Approximately \$88K from community and school based activities, including:
 - A record \$52K from the 2014 Belle Property Balmain Fun Run;
 - Nearly \$8K from the inaugural Parents Welcome Night;
 - Over \$24K from the Art Show (and c\$18K net after deductions for art show based programs); and
 - Over \$4K from a range of activities including welcome, election and Father's Day BBQs, Mother's Day fundraising, sale of Entertainment Books, the Year Book and Calendars.

During 2015, the P+C approved expenditure of just over **\$111,000** on improving school facilities and on a wide variety of resources in support of the education of all of our children. The significant items included:

- \$25K on technology and computers (in support of the BPS IT Plan);

- Over \$14K on music and art programs;
- Over \$5K on funding for the new library;
- Approximately \$45K on various improvements to the school, including:
 - An emergency warning system; and
 - Commitment to the school playground upgrade Stages 1 and 2 (in a 50/50 share with the Eaton Street centre);
- Approximately \$20K for classroom resources for the daily teaching needs of our children.

Total expenditure (including commitments) equates to approximately **\$355 per child** adding to public funds from the NSW Department of Education (DoE), to further assist and support your child's education. That was only possible as a result of a lot of perseverance and donations of time, energy, goods, services and money.

But P+C is not all about raising and spending money. During 2015 we learned a few valuable lessons about the P+C activities we ran:

- We love to hear from volunteers as early as possible – especially for the fun run;
- Parents really enjoy and support an occasional “parent-only” events;
- The kids would like to see a few more “kids-only” events such as a movie night, Halloween event and school discos (all of which we hope will reappear in 2016); and
- Having a series of running sheets for “standard events” is really useful to help new parents transition into volunteering roles.

Indeed, the P+C only really happens because you, as parents, give your time and support. We end the year in a better place than where we started and with a series of initial funding priorities for 2016.

I would like to thank all parents who support the school and the P+C in every way and we look forward to your continued support through-out 2016 (and hopefully beyond). There are too many individuals to mention as all volunteers deserve a pat on the back. Having said that, those involved in the Belle Property Balmain Fun Run (so incredibly well run by “Team Foster”), the Band (Bidly & Vanesa), the Art Show (Sally, Karen & Emma A-G), the Calendar (Lyndal), the Year Book (Tiffany) and the canteen (Van) are worth special mention, as are the P+C Execs for 2015, namely: Rob Taubman (Vice President); Cliff Philipiah (Vice President); David Finlay (Treasurer); and Andrea Smith (Secretary). Lastly, we could not operate effectively as a P+C if it were not for the strong support of school Principal Maria Lambos and her dedicated staff. All P+C Members work tirelessly behind the scenes and make a major impact on the school. To all those involved in the P+C - a heartfelt thanks. You know who you are.

So far in 2016 we have already hit the ground running. Just last month, we heard the excellent news that the NSW State Government awarded the school almost \$31K for the proposed playground upgrade. This will result in all three stages of the proposed upgrade happening at once. This will be a year of Big Change for Balmain Public School!

Thank you for all your support of the P+C in 2015. We're looking forward to seeing you during 2016, so come along to the meetings, get involved, and why not bring a friend?

Rob Bennett
BPS P+C President