

BPS P+C President's Report 2016

2016. How quick was that? Suddenly it's December and another school year draws to a close. The kindies have survived the transition into Big School. Year 6 students have completed their final days at Primary School and head towards High School next year. All our children are one year older and one year wiser.

As Maria closes the Balmain Public School gates at the end of another year, it's a good time for us to look back and remind ourselves of a few of the highlights. From the Welcome Drinks at the beginning of the year, to the Belle Property Balmain Fun Run at the end, 2016 was a feast of activity for Balmain Public School P&C. Then there was the Balmain Public School Art Show, 'Les Fleurs', the Halloween Disco, Fathers' Day Breakfast, as well as Mothers' Day chocolates. All of these were either P&C assisted or P&C run events for parents, children and teachers, to gather, celebrate their achievements and simply have fun. And whilst all of that was taking place, Stage One of the playground upgrade was also completed (in partnership with Eaton Street Centre, or ESC, our on-site before and after school care).

In 2016, the P&C raised over \$120K, (including c\$14K from the P&C Levy, c\$14K from the canteen, as well as over\$80K from various fundraising activities – over half of which came from the 2015 Belle Property Balmain Fun Run, which always gets banked at the beginning of the following year). During the same period, the P&C made donations of c\$110K to the school for a variety of educational facilities and services in support of your child's education.

The P&C also committed a further c\$30K to the next stage of school playground upgrade, (also in partnership with ESC), subject to a successful grant application.

That translates to a P&C expenditure of over \$400 per child at Balmain Public School.

What did that pay for, I hear you ask? The short answer is that it paid for a lot of educational resources. The longer answer is that it resulted in all of the following and more: a significant increase in books and class readers for all stages; an additional investigative learning classroom; class room supplies for all – twice a year; musical instruments and repairs; additional and replacement interactive whiteboards; contribution towards a Learning Support staff for Term 4; garden equipment; science and history curriculum teaching aids; voluminous art supplies; additional iPads, laptops, keyboards and IT support; AND Stage One of the playground upgrade.

Put simply, it resulted in more resources for Maria and the Balmain Public School staff and more educational options for all of our children.

Financially, we end the year pretty much as we started, with c\$90K in the bank. We are secure and ready for the year ahead.

And that's not yet counting the 2016 Belle Property Balmain Fun Run. Early indications are that this year's event may have been even more successful than last year's event, (which itself raised over \$42K net). A formal announcement on how much was raised by the 2016 Belle Property Balmain Fun Run for the P&C and for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Breast Cancer Clinic will be made by the BFR Committee at the P&C Welcome Evening in 2017 – come and hear how well they did!

As P&C President, tradition holds that I end with a few words of thanks.

To our Principal, Maria, to her Assistant Principals and to her dedicated staff: on behalf of the P&C and parents in general – 'thank you' for attending the P&C meetings and events and for taking such good care of our children and for continuing their education in all areas.

To the P&C Executive – the Vice Presidents Rob T & Cliff P, Treasurer David F and Secretary Kim J – a personal 'thankyou' for such a great year. Kim J – you will be sorely missed.

To the BFR Committee – Paul F, Brenton A, Trudy C, Mike F and Natasha F – on behalf of the whole school community, 'thank you'. Every year you just keep on getting better and better. Another incredible year, the result of many long hours and hard work. We are proud to bask in your glory. You will all be missed, but I thank you in advance for hanging around long enough to pass on the baton.

To all of those who donated their time and energy to the P&C – ie. the canteen coordinators, band coordinators, OOSH coordinators, etc. – we know who you are and you know who you are – a heartfelt 'thank you'. Our job is made easy because of you and all your kind help in words and deeds.

To all those who donate in kind and financially to the P&C – 'thank you' to one and all. Every donation goes towards the education and growth of all students at Balmain Public School.

The P&C exists primarily to help sustain and support the broader Balmain Public School community. It holds events to meet, greet and incidentally raise money. That money gets spent on items identified by the staff, parents and carers.

Congratulations to all parents/carers, teachers and children, on making it through 2016. Bring on Christmas and the summer holidays. It cannot come soon enough.

To those of you moving on – Farewell and best wishes.

To those of you returning in 2017 – See you in the New Year!

Rob Bennett ~ P&C President 2016