

## **BPS P&C President's Report 2018**

2018 was another year where the Balmain Public School (BPS) parents worked with the school to enhance the community and level of education at the school. Our achievements and efforts were made possible by the school staff and our community working together to achieve a common goal. It's important we all reflect on the past year with a sense of accomplishment. We have a plethora of different people, goals and aspirations – and we all worked as a cohesive group for the betterment of the children and the facility.

I take this opportunity to thank the Principal and the staff for working in an open framework, happily involving the community, and working as a team to achieve established outcomes. We should also note the very high staff attendance at many of our activities throughout the year – this is greatly valued and appreciated.

We commenced the year by welcoming new staff; our aim was to make these educators feel comfortable, supported, as well as part of a positive culture. Much feedback came into the P&C, throughout the year, about the excellent work these individuals had done. We were delighted to see some members of the school staff be successful applicants for permanent positions at BPS.

The school and suburb continues to change and we deal with many significant issues. One challenge is that of our numbers, where we have grown from 200 students to 380 students. Another issue is the changing demographic, and the reality that many families now have both parents working. This transition has significant impacts on our community and the way we function.

During 2018 the licence agreement for before- and after-care was due for renewal; this was a difficult process, one that required significant input from the parents and the school. The Eaton Street Centre (ESC) Members elected to keep operating as a community-based organisation. It became apparent that ESC required more space under legislation to operate within new guidelines and provide the best care to the children. The Principal saw the need to prioritise before- and after-school care for the community and made a difficult decision to make the school hall available. 2019 will continue to see the school deal with various knock-on impacts from this change to meet regulation, and of the issues regarding limited space and rising numbers at the facility. Issues such as storage and shared-activity zones remain a focus.

The school band operated on more of an outsourced model for 2018, with parents being heavily integral and volunteering to keep the program operating smoothly. The band remains well-funded, and we will work through timetabling and locational options in early 2019.

The canteen has been a massive program for Van A, a great contributor to the P&C and school. With the changing times, the canteen is to be outsourced in 2019. We take this opportunity to thank Van for her tireless years of work and the massive amount of funding and food this activity delivered to BPS. It was a marathon effort.

The Belle Property Balmain Fun Run (BFR) was, again a wonderful success; a team of dedicated parents worked all year to once again deliver the suburb's premiere event, the Belle Property Balmain Fun Run. Thanks to Doug T and his great band of supporters. It's great to have such a successful healthy community event that also delivers back to the school.

The 2018 Art Show, under the guidance of Josie S, was a huge success. The kids had a year of art funded by this program; we also saw a significant contribution back to the school. The event on the Friday evening and Saturday, were highly enjoyable for parents and kids. Art, music, sport and other activities, all add to the diversity of our program of learning.

BBQs, welcome breakfasts and Kindergarten morning teas were all great. We need to acknowledge these can only go ahead on parent power. I'd like to thank Anne I, Melissa S and Cliff P, for always stepping up to the plate. Discos have been part of our historic fabric for the kids, and Cliff organised two in 2018; Halloween and the regular disco. It was a highlight for Cliff to see the highest ticket sales ever at a school event, and I also enjoyed seeing so many parents helping. The events focused on all the children having fun with friends.

The Year 6 area playground was completed by Scott F, and we are already locked in for 2019 to commence enhancements in front of the toilet block. We have pre-allocated \$40 000 to the 2019 playground program. Van's contributions here are also greatly valued in design and support for the areas.

During the 2017/2018 year, the school community elected to change the school uniform colours. This program will take place over the next few years; people are at leisure to change when suits them, from brown to navy. We have a group of parents doing an in-house clothing stall as a pilot, to see if this is a worthwhile revenue raiser for the school. To date, significant orders have been received. It is surprising to see how rapidly the community are embracing the new uniform. Finances and margin from the stall are being monitored and it is currently self-sustaining and has not utilised P&C funding. Mel W, Josie and Lyndal R are executing the initial high volume of orders for the one-off changeover.

We have contributed over \$125 000 into the school in 2018, and we leave the P&C finances in an incredibly strong position. Our culture sees people help in so many ways; it's impossible to call them all out and to thank everyone. I'd like to highlight Richard B, Lyndal, Sophie K and Jason O, for being such a great, dedicated and honest group on the executive. It's been a pleasure getting to know you all.

Thanks to everyone for their support in my 6 years on the P&C. The school is well-resourced and has a healthy focus by parents and staff on the education of the children. With my eldest son commencing high school next year, I feel nothing but gratitude toward Balmain Public School for the excellent education provided, as well as the many warm and close friends Susan and I have made in the community.

Rob Taubman – 2018 P&C President