



**Parents &  
Citizens  
Association**

## **BPS P&C President's Report 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to our Balmain Public School community for another year in 2019, where we have collectively worked together as a community to build-on, enhance and grow our school. The fundraising and volunteer efforts by everyone, working closely with the amazing group of BPS teachers and staff, have enabled us to complete initiatives that improve and enhance the school experience for our children and into future generations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our principal, teachers and staff for their engagement and involvement with the P&C. It is only through a collective effort that we are able to achieve the aspirations and accomplishments that we have chosen to deliver for the school. We also grateful for the engagement that has flowed to attendance throughout our numerous P&C activities and events of 2019.

As an entirely new Executive for the 2019 year, we were excited to learn with an openness what our community wanted to shape for communication, fundraising, volunteers and development of the P&C itself. The learning curve, although steep, was support by you our members and that of the past executive for which we are also grateful.

Early in the year, we wanted to better understand the current community sentiment about the P&C, fundraising efforts and to identify areas for improvement. Alma led this task sharing a simple 5 question survey with all enrolled families. Our response rate was high when compared to typical industry surveys, with particular note to the time taken by respondents to provide commentary. This foundation has proved invaluable in building the foundation of how we shift the P&C to the growing needs of our school, this year and into the future.

As part of a renewed focus on transparency and to improve communication to our entire parent and carer community, a new fundraising platform was adopted. This was no small task and a huge thank you goes to Jen Hsieh, Gemma Puplett and Pasang Mitchell for their research, selection, and build of the Raisely fundraising site. The Raisely platform has allowed us to highlight contributions, costs and our achievements, for your children and the school. The platform has also provided parents and carers with monthly payment opportunities for your P&C contributions; we have maintained this in conjunction with the existing Flexischools payment portal.

It was with sadness and a heavy heart that our school said goodbye to Ms Pauline. She was a beloved member of our community, our garden expert and our environmental warrior. The P&C has committed to fund the redevelopment and help organise a working bee to rejuvenate the garden area and name this in her memory. With volunteers already on standby to assist, this is testament to our growing community participation.

I would like to acknowledge the huge effort for the smaller regular and weekly events that take place. Without the efforts of Cliff and our extended morning barbeque team Mother's Day, Father's Day or the Welcome Breakfast, amongst others, would simply not be the same. Similarly, the efforts of Josie, Lyndal and the team that make uniform store run like clockwork, week after week, is greatly appreciated by all, not to mention the 3 times that the store has had to relocate lock, stock and barrel, in the past year!

Once again, BPS and the P&C's major fundraiser for the year, the Belle Property Balmain Fun Run was a great success. We had fantastic engagement of the school with BPS children participation at its highest in several years. This year raising over \$39,000 towards our much-needed funding. A huge thank you to Jason Ockerby, Doug Talbot and the extensive team that make up the BFR committee; this is a big task that requires focus and attention which the team has delivered year after year.

With the lion share of the playground renovations completed by the previous executive, this year marked a reduction in spending. Our largest spend of the year targeted at the cooling of our children in every classroom and workspace with new fans that are designed for commercial conditions. I know first-hand from my own children the relief with which these have been gratefully received by the children and staff alike. Although our initial attempts to rush through the installation in the holidays between Terms 3 and 4 was thwarted by the required departmental assessments and approvals, we were pleased to be able to complete all installation work over the summer break ready for the start of Term 1 2020.

Our learning in this year for us all has been a steep one and one where our expectations of achieving goals within Page 3 of 20 Balmain Public School 7404 (2019) Printed on: 1 June, 2020 timeframes has been drawn out. However, the community that we enjoy in the school has been as strong as ever with everyone pulling together to help wherever possible in the cause of our school and children. I thank again the amazing work of my fellow executive in Alma Dayawon and Alvin Lau, for I would not have been able to do this without their incredible support.

Yours Sincerely, Justin Dunwoody – P&C President 2019