

**Florey Primary School P&C incorporated**  
**President's report**  
**P&C meeting: Tuesday 18 November 2008**

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**1. Overview**

As you are all aware, members of this P&C and the parents/carers who joined us in the middle of this year have been active in allocating a considerable amount of their valuable time to help the school and the school community.

The fundraising committee, the uniform co-ordinator, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the sub-committee which was responsible for managing “the inappropriate behavior” in our school all produced tangible results which were commensurate with their initial targets. These members have continuously worked towards their goals. I am sure you will agree with me that they have done a great job in which the school community can be proud of.

Thank you all for this great job and please continue in this spirit next year and the years after that.

**2. Activities**

The P&C has undertaken plenty of activities during 2008 including uniform, walkathon, disco, entertainment books, calendars/cards to name just a few. At the same time, the P&C has given up several important functions since its inception. In this year alone, the P&C has outsourced the school canteen to a private catering company because it was making on-going losses due to lack of parent/carer volunteers to assist with its running. As a result of the loss of the canteen function, fund-raising is the only remaining main activity for the P&C. Still, we have problems to recruit new parent/carer volunteers to help in doing these activities. We will therefore need new volunteers as some of the current office bearers will leave us at the end of the year.

In order to attract new volunteer recruits, we will present our planned activities for 2009 which will show the time required to complete each activity. It will be then easier for volunteers to choose the activity that best suits their time. We hope to get enough volunteers through this new approach.

### **3. Issues**

#### **“Inappropriate behavior in our school”**

Apart from the difficulty in recruiting new parent/carer volunteers, the main issue that we faced as a committee during 2009 was to find a way to tackle and contain some “inappropriate behavior” of some children and the abuse of some innocent children for that matter. The sub-committee which was formed which included some affected parents has managed to raise this issue during the P&C’s regular meetings. Due to the good co-operation between the sub-committee, the P&C, the Principal and the school administration, it was possible to come up with measures and strategies not only to address the problem but also to contain it to a certain extent. I am sure that you will all agree with me that it was a serious matter which tested our ability to co-operate together so as to get rid off this problem in our school once and for all.

### **4. Achievements**

#### **Crossing: Kreft/Ratcliffe crescent**

We have tried to find solutions to few pressing issues concerning the safety of the school and its surroundings. One was the problem associated with crossing the junction of Kreft/Ratcliffe crescent during the morning and afternoon school peak hours. We have succeeded in convincing Roads ACT to appoint a consultant to look into our concern. The consultant did some research including discussions with us and observation of the crossing during the peak hours. I have spoken with the consultant today. He informed me that he has presented his report, findings and recommendations to Roads ACT and would expect further action to follow soon.

#### **Smooth handover and outsourcing of the school canteen**

The P&C committee in close collaboration with the Principal has managed to successfully handover and outsource the school canteen to a new private catering company in late April 2008.

#### **Solved “inappropriate behavior” in our school**

The sub-committee, which was formed to deal with this problem in conjunction with the rest of the P&C committee members and with the Principal and the school administration, has to some extent managed to solve some of the issue regarding the “inappropriate behavior” of some children in our school, particularly from a policy perspective.

#### **Created a new webpage for the P&C**

We have successfully created a webpage for the P&C under the school’s website in close collaboration with the Principal and Jennifer Mendick, the school’s web-administrator.

### **Completed all P&C activities for 2008**

We have successfully completed all our fund-raising and other activities for 2008 as well as the day-to-day management of the P&C activities.

### **5. The way forward**

Having talked about the activities of the P&C, issues facing it and its achievements, the big question we are all now asking ourselves is where do we go from here in terms of solving some of the pressing issues such as recruiting enough volunteers to replace the outgoing members, elect parent representatives for the school board as per the P&C's constitution and assist the P&C to smoothly and successfully carry out its main activities for the school community next year and beyond.

In my opinion, we will face similar challenges at least in the short term, especially when it comes to finding new volunteers. As mentioned earlier in this report, we are trying to overcome this problem by:

- **Allocating each activity a specific time-slot.** We hope this approach will enable willing parent/carer volunteers to do an activity that will suit their availability. I am expecting an input from the committee members regarding the time slots.
- Furthermore, **we will use the P&C webpage as a medium of communication** so that parents/carers who prefer to use the internet can access the P&C activities through this webpage. To encourage parents/carers to access the P&C webpage, we are kindly requesting the Principal to authorize Jennifer Mendick to issue a P&C username and password to each child in the school (in the same way as Jennifer did for the Preschool) so that parents/carers have a reason to access the P&C webpage and to appreciate its role and help the committee in undertaking the activities which benefit the school and the school community.

All in all, the P&C committee is convinced that with good co-operation, clear division of labour between the P&C and the school administration, recognition of the vital and independent role of the P&C committee for the school community, team work and hard work, we will overcome the challenges facing the P&C for the benefit and prosperity of the school community.

Thank you and may the Almighty God bless you all.

Dr Mohamed Haji Mohamud Noor, President, Florey Primary School P&C Association incorporated for 2008.