



ST JOHN'S PARENT & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Bowen Street
ROMA QLD 4455
secretarypf@outlook.com
www.stjohnsroma.com.au

St John's P & F Association General Meeting

Date: 18th October 2023

The White Bull Tavern

MEETING OPENED: 6.00pm

PRESENT: Caron Brindley, Megan Devlin, Kiara Williams, Olivia Murphy, Katrina Bardon, Brad and Leesa Murray, Jim Brennan, Cath Clark

APOLOGIES: Anita Crawford, Kristie Pym, Allison Watson, Katrina burns

Minutes from Previous August Meeting

August 2023 P&F Meeting minutes were tabled, read & accepted as true & correct.

Moved: Leesa Murray

Seconded: Caron Brindley

SECRETARY ADVISE OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE

nil

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Anita Crawford

As you all know I am a woman of few words so this will be very brief.

Over the last 8 years I have been president I have had the pleasure of working with three amazing principals and many wonderful parents. We, as a team, have successfully raised money to complete so many large projects at St Johns from Buses, to playground equipment, to computers for the library. This team of people is incredible, so selfless and kind and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all. The amount of time and effort you put in to such successful fundraisers like our moonlight fair and the race day is astounding. The Culture at this school is fantastic and as long as there are people like yourselves involved then the future of St Johns is certainly looking bright.

I would like to sincerely thank you all for this journey, I have made wonderful friends for life and learnt so much from you all and feel truly blessed to have been part of this team for so long.

Anita Crawford

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TREASURERS REPORT September 2023

All bills paid an up to date.

St John's School Parents and Friends

Tuckshop Outstanding Accounts (Paid 13/10/23)	
PFD	\$
Western Food Wholesalers Tuckshop	\$2711.80
GR and AV Webb- Lion Franchisee	\$1299.60
Western Bakeries	\$935.40
QLD Country Meats	\$
Anita Crawford	\$477.63

General Outstanding Accounts	
Xero	\$32

St John's P & F Westpac Accounts	Balances at 30/09/23
Working Account	\$143 501.64
Fundraising Account	\$111 598.60
Total	\$255 100.23

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 19th October

Dear P&F members

As communicated to families and staff at the end of last term, this year will be my last as Principal of St John's School. Commencing January 2024, I will take up a position as Principal of St Joseph's College in Toowoomba. Whilst I am looking forward to being closer to family and new opportunities, there is sadness in leaving the wonderful St John's and Roma community. A recruitment process as begun to appoint the next principal and I am confident that there will be significant interest in the position.

School Events

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The Religious Life of the School has been an enriching during the culmination of term three and the first two weeks of term four.

During week ten of term three, our Year 12 students engaged in their annual retreat program with staff at Perseverance Dam near Toowoomba. The intention of the three days with staff was to enhance student faith and spiritual formation and, in many ways, is one of a significant number of culminating experiences for students as their schooling experience at St Johns draws to an end. Students listened to staff share experiences around the themes of “masks that we wear,” “signposts that shaped our lives,” “storms in our lives” and “recognising God’s Face.” Students then reflected personally and shared their thoughts and experiences in a safe and supported environment. Staff were impressed with the maturity and engagement of our young men and women who demonstrated enormous personal growth which is a testament to the collective work of students, parents, and staff over the last thirteen years of their schooling. A special thanks to Trish Parker, Ryan Doig, Aaron Brown, Sam Valentine and Sarah Flesser for the outstanding preparation and presentation of the retreat.

During the last three weeks Year 8, 9 and 10 have participated in Faith Based Retreats. It was pleasing to see the full engagement of all students as they experienced the opportunity to reflect and develop their own faith- based spirituality. This week our Year 9 and 10 students will also participate in Love Bites which skills students in respectful relationships.

In week 10 of term 3 Year 8 and 9 students participated in the Queensland Mineral and Energy Academy Rockin Reaction Geology activities at school. Under the guidance of experienced STEM professionals from Senex energy, students discovered the intricacies of drilling for natural gas, simulating the process by using straws and irrigation tubing to bring hidden minerals to the surface of a conceptual exploration site. A big thank you to QMEA and Senex for this wonderful opportunity.

Congratulations to St John’s staff member Meg Lyons who has been selected as a finalist in the 2023 Queensland Tennis Awards. The selection is recognition of Meg’s outstanding contribution to tennis in Roma and the South- West Queensland Region. Meg is in the final of the **Most Outstanding Teacher Award** section and will attend the award ceremony at Queensland's Parliament House (Brisbane) on Saturday 4th November. As a school we are immensely proud of Meg’s contributions to tennis and sport which have benefited many students.

There have been numerous events occurring recently where students have achieved outstanding success.

Last week secondary students attended the **Queensland All Schools Touch Football Carnival** on the Gold Coast. Three teams attended this year – U15 Girls, U15 Boys and U18 Mixed teams. Staff reported that the students showed true determination and their hard work paid off over the week demonstrating the Spirit of St Johns. I extended my sincere thanks to Sam Valentine, Matt Creeley, Hayley Ownsworth, Leisha McNulty, and Jodie Duff who coached, managed, and supported the teams.

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Best wishes to our junior secondary male and female basketball teams that travelled to Brisbane this week (October 13-15) to participate in the Champion Basketball of Queensland tournament. The students will compete in eight games prior to finals. Thank you to Mr Justin Wheatley, Jess Morgan and Ms Bridget Bright who have accompanied the teams as coaches and managers.

Congratulations to our students, who travelled to Brisbane last weekend to compete in the state final of Optiminds. This year two teams have progressed to the finals after wonderful performances at the regional competition held at St John's during last term. Whilst the students did not place they had a wonderful experience at the UQ. Thank you to Mrs Yenda Emery and volunteer parents who are travelling with the team this weekend.

Congratulations to the students who participated in the **Roma and District Eisteddfod** this week. It was so pleasing to see so many students from St Johns involved again this year through choirs in Year 3-6 and is an affirmation of our Performing Arts Program at St Johns. Multiple classes and students received awards and placements. I consider the Performing Arts to be an integral and essential component of both the curriculum and co-curricular life of the school and look forward to sharing the results in the next newsletter. I thank all the teachers and Ms Carmel Treasure for their collective efforts in preparing the students.

Congratulations to Daniel McCoy (Year 9) on being awarded the South -West Athletics Age Champion for U/15 boys, last term. Dan has been selected to attend the Queensland Athletics Championships in Brisbane this weekend where he will compete in the 200m, 400m and relay events. We wish Dan the very best at this competition.

Amy Lorenz has been selected in the Queensland U/17 Ladies Rugby 7s Team. Amy travels to Sydney this weekend to compete against New South Wales. Well done Amy on this magnificent achievement.

Well done to Bella Witt who attended the Australian Equestrian Championships in Melbourne recently placing in multiple events.

The School Awards celebrations will be held during week seven of term four.

The following dates, times, and venues relevant to specific year levels for 2022 are:

Year 5- 12 and Perpetual Award Recipients – Tuesday 14th November commencing 6pm at the Cultural Centre

P-4 classes – Wednesday 15th November at 9am commencing at the school P&F Shed

School staff begin the process of constructing class lists for P-7 for 2024 in the coming weeks. The process involves existing teaching staff initially drafting class lists using their intimate knowledge of students. The construction of classes is based on ensuring there is a balance of gender, ability and need within each group. Each class grouping will be reviewed by our Learning Support Staff and

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finally by P-2 Coordinator, Natalie Beattie, Assistant Principal, Melissa Irwin, Deputy Principal, Ryan Doig, and myself. Parents will be informed of their children's respective classes and teacher by letter, which will be sent out with reports at the end of the school year. Parents wishing to provide any specific information to inform class construction should do so in writing **no later than Friday 11th November**. I request that all correspondence is emailed to my assistant Jenny Ford. It is important to emphasise that requests for specific teachers will not be a consideration in construction of class lists. Staffing of classes will not occur until after class lists have been completed.

Parents and carers are requested to contact the school if you child **will not** be returning to St John's in 2024. This can be done by emailing Jenny Ford (Assistant to the Principal) or informing office staff by phone. The provision of this information allows the school to plan class sizes and staffing efficiently.

This week we received feedback on the confirmation of all Year 12 assessment for General Subjects undertaken this year. The feedback has confirmed student results for internal assessments applied by the school across all subjects. This is wonderful news and I congratulate all students and teaching staff for their collaborative efforts. Year 12 students will commence their final assessments and external exams commencing week 4 (23rd October) and conclude week 7 (14th November). Year 12 students will only be required to attend school for their designated exams between week 4-7. Students are permitted to study at home between exams or alternatively supervised study facilities will be provided at school. All Year 12 students will return to school for the final three days Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th November.

A reminder that the St John's Moonlight Fair will be held on Friday 10th November. This event was rescheduled from the rain affected event in March. Plans by the Parents and Friends Group as well advanced. Most stalls will run again, and rides and entertainment are booked and ready to go. More extensive information will be provided to families in the coming weeks.

STAFFING

At the end of last term, we welcomed two new staff members to St John's School, Emma Williamson, and Melody Carrol. Emma joins the Administration Team in the front office whilst Melody commences the new role of Communications and Media Officer. Both ladies have strong connections to the St Johns and bring high level skills to their respective roles.

Mrs Jenny Schuss and Mr Aaron Brown will replace Ross Penrose (Mathematics) and Sam Valentine (Xaverian Pastoral Leader), respectively in 2024.

The school will be advertising for three School Officers to replace Ellen Regan and Shraddha Panchal who have tendered resignations for retirement and family moves respectively. We will appoint a third position to accommodate growth.

We have secured a replacement teacher for Phil Wheaton who is moving back to Victoria for family reasons.

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Mark Andrews (Mathematics) has been appointed to commence in 2024.

FACILITIES

Work has commenced on the replacement multipurpose court on the main oval – Belinda will brief you further in her report.

The tendering process for the new sports precinct closed on the 18/10/23. The successful tendered should be announced in another fortnight.

Work will also commence shortly on development of a yarning circle and prayer space between administration and the drama room.

The school will also look to install artificial turf outside the prep classrooms. New artificial turf will be installed in the bus pick up area.

God bless,

Jim Brennan

ITEMS OPEN FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION

Farewell to Anita – at presentation night Tuesday 15th November. CC to organise gift and Jim to present on the night.

- Function at Distillery? Possibly November 19th. Community event.

Shade sale quotes – one quote for \$43K for supply and installation

- Second quote \$75k – declined.
- Decision made to install 2 shade sails.
- Install padding onto the posts for safety (use local supplier preferably), PnF to pay for pads.
- Selected colour (same as other shades in the school) and no powder coating on the poles.
- Installation in 10-11weeks time, so should be installed prior to Term 1, 2024.
Moved; everyone Secoded; Cath Clark

Race Day – big success and good funds were raised. Monique recommended doing big ones alternate years and every second year be a casual picnic box style/more relaxed.

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Moonlight Fair – discuss after Meeting.

Walk around school to inspect facilities – Leesa and Jim and Belinda. Possible extensions to secondary (grade 7-9) area concrete, more shade and more seating. Possibility for future funds investment. Leesa to contact Belinda about getting a rough estimate of costs for improvements so PnF can make a decision.

Also paved area outside the science labs could be recovered with astroturf.

Emma Wilkes, hospitality replacement of equipment – still waiting to hear back from Emma.

Jim mentioned school should have a fund for durables, so no follow up needed.

MEETING CLOSED @ 6.57pm

Next Meeting Tuesday 15th November @ 6.00 pm upstairs at the Royal

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