

# Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia Inc.

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS IN WA SINCE 1954

- SERVICE • REPRESENTATION • ADVOCACY
- NETWORKING • LIAISON • COLLABORATION • CELEBRATION

PARTICIPATION ◦ CO-RESPONSIBILITY ◦ SUBSIDIARITY



## Council & Staff Members:

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| President          | Shelley Hill         |
| Vice Pres          | Joe Monterosso       |
| Spiritual Director | Fr John Jegorow      |
| Secretary          | Philippa Colgan      |
| Treasurer          | Helen Keogh          |
| Exec Officer       | Trish Somers         |
| Administration     | Mel Rom              |
| Affiliate Liaison  | Siobhan Allen        |
| Finance            | Anne-Marie McGinnity |
| Councillor         | Helen Anderson       |
| Councillor         | Robert Groves        |
| Councillor         | Kevin Emery          |
| Councillor         | Michelle Wells       |
| Councillor         | Agnes Weymouth       |

## Keep in touch.....

We are always keen to hear what you are all up to in your school and would love to feature some of your stories in our newsletters next year. So get the cameras out and drop us a paragraph on what you are up to. Your story could win you two tickets to the 2011 Conference!

We are currently putting together a calendar of events and directory of services for 2011. If you have any suggestions as to speakers that you would like to hear, or additional services we could offer you, please let us know.

Call Siobhan

(08) 9271 5909

[liaison@pff.wa.edu.au](mailto:liaison@pff.wa.edu.au)



## 2010 New Beginnings.....

2010 saw four new faces join the team in the PFFWA office. Trish Somers came to the role of Executive Officer after the retirement of Laurie Eastwood. Trish came to the role with a wealth of experience within the Catholic education domain. Trish's previous roles included Catholic school principal, leadership consultant at the Catholic Education Office and university lecturing.

Siobhan Allen took on the role of Affiliates Liaison Officer. Siobhan brings with her experience in Human Resources and recruitment. She has two primary school aged children and is an active member of the P&F Association at Sacred Heart School, Mundaring.

Mel Rom, took on the role of Admin Assistant and comes with experience working in non-profit organisations in addition to being a senior administration specialist. Mel is an active member of the P&F Association at St Peter's School, Bedford and has two children in the Catholic school system.

Anne-Marie McGinnity has recently commenced in the role of Finance Officer and has a strong background in book-keeping and administration. She has two teenage children in the Catholic school system.

The year has unfolded with many new and exciting initiatives being implemented and new directions unfolding rapidly. The new strategic plan incorporating 'representation', 'engagement' and 'community involvement' is central to the

direction the PFFWA is currently taking.

In September we hosted the first of our open forums where we invited parents to come along to discuss various topics of educational interest. The topics addressed on the night included; Naplan and the MySchool website, the role of the P&F Associations in schools and the Cost of Books, Uniforms and Levies. There was vibrant discussion around all three topics and it was fantastic to see parents so committed to being involved in their children's educational journey. We hope to continue with these open forums to formulate position papers and look forward to this really growing as part of our focus on meaningful representation.

The PFFWA conference in May was once again a great success and feedback from attendees was very positive. It was particularly great to see so many parents from outside the metro area and we are very grateful to Lotterywest for their financial support in helping these people

attend.

The planning for Conference 2011 is well underway and we are delighted to have Maggie Dent as our keynote speaker. Please find more details about the conference on page 3 in this newsletter. Don't forget the conference is at the end of Term 1 so get your registration in to us as soon as possible to avail of the early bird discount. Registration forms can be found on our website [www.pff.wa.edu.au](http://www.pff.wa.edu.au).

Finally it has been a truly wonderful experience for Trish and Siobhan getting out and about and meeting parents in a push for more reciprocal communication between PFFWA and P&F Associations /Parent Councils in schools. We have really enjoyed meeting you all and affirm you all for the magnificent work you do.

Thanks are extended to the Council members of PFFWA for their unstinting generosity of time, commitment and support for parents of children in Catholic schools.

You are all awesome!!

We at PFFWA would like to wish parents, children, principals and teachers a wonderful festive season and a happy and holy new year!



We very much look forward to working with you all again in 2011!



## St Joseph's Primary School—Northam

Here at Saint Joseph's Primary School in Northam we have a very generous P&F, who receive wish lists from all the teachers. On one of the wish lists was a request for some money to purchase cooking equipment for a cooking class for the Year 6's and 7's.

The cooking class is a wonderful way for the children to learn some invaluable life skills, cooking skills and also maths and literacy skills.

The children actually purchase all the ingredients for the recipes from the local shops and then make the recipe. This is followed by crosswords, words searches or general information about the food they have been baking. They then do all the washing up!!!

A big thank you to our generous P&F !!!



## International Teachers Day at Sacred Heart School Mundaring



International Teachers Day (Friday October 29) at Sacred Heart School, Mundaring was also Australian Teachers Day.

The parents of Sacred Heart School showed their appreciation by preparing a cooked breakfast for all staff - who graciously embraced the occasion by arriving at school early. The parents, who prepared a delicious breakfast, represented the school community's appreciation. The delicious breakfast went well and was enjoyed by all.

An original P&F Association idea for a talent contest became a whole school community organized event. The "Sacred Heart has Talent" show saw a large number of children opting to perform, putting much time and effort into perfecting their acts. Many parents joined in with the fantastic display of talents. After a short recess, the parents, students and our wonderful teachers joined forces again for tabloid sports. Everyone involved had a fantastic time and it was

great to see the children's faces as they spent fun-filled time racing around with both teachers and parents. After the games, everyone joined together on the oval for a shared lunch with families. This rounded off an enjoyable and positive school community day.

Education is a privilege but our teachers make it doubly so. Thank you!

**Congratulations to Trinity College students who won the Parents & Friends' Federation of WA Encouragement Team Award in the recent Western Australian Junior Maths Olympiad Competition held at UWA earlier this month.**

## Constructing School / Parent / Community Partnerships

### WHY?

When schools develop and implement strategies for promoting effective school-family-community partnerships, the result is improved learning for all students and strengthened schools, families and communities.  
(NCREL, Abstract)

Parent and family involvement in schools leads to:

- higher student test scores and grades
- better school attendance
- more completion of homework
- more positive attitudes and behaviour
- higher graduation rates
- greater enrolment in higher education
- more opportunities for meaningful, engaged learning.

It is argued that support for family and community involvement with schools begins with school administrators—in particular, with their willingness to recruit parents and community members for school tasks, to listen to other people's views, and to share decision making.

### WAIT....THERE'S MORE!

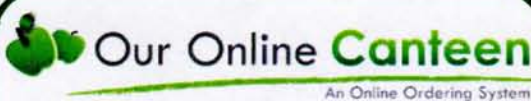
Parent involvement in schools increases student achievement (*Henderson & Berla, 1994; Ballen & Moles, 1994; Epstein, 1995*).

The benefits of parent and family involvement include higher test scores and grades, better attendance, more completion of homework, more positive attitudes and behaviour, higher graduation rates, and greater enrolment in higher education.

A literature review of school-family partnerships indicates that benefits are apparent not only for younger children but all students through high school.

Although parent involvement typically is strongest at the primary level, continued involvement through the middle grades and at the secondary school level is important in encouraging and guiding children's development and achievement.

*Mind Matters Resources*



Our Online Canteen provides canteens, schools and parents with an online ordering system which is easy and convenient to use.

[www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au](http://www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au)



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 25 & 26 March 2011

*"We are one, we are many"*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**Maggie Dent** is an author, publisher, professional speaker and consultant specialising in building personal and professional resilience and is the author of: "Saving Our Children From Our Chaotic World", "Nurturing Kids Hearts & Souls", Real Kids In An Unreal World", and "Black Duck Wisdom".

**Brendan Spillane** from Catholic Education Office will talk about "Quality Catholic Schools"

**OPENING DINNER:** 25 March at the **WACA** from 5pm

## CONFERENCE:

26 March 9am, **Trinity College Chapel** for Mass

followed by the Opening address and Conference at 10am

(Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided)

*Conference and early bird specials and other information to be released soon.*

*Please see registration forms and details online [www.pff.wa.edu.au](http://www.pff.wa.edu.au)*

## GUARDIAN WILLS & ESTATES / PFFWA INC. AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING POSITIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

### CRITERIA:

Winner must demonstrate positive outcomes for students and the school community

### PRINCIPAL:

- works collaboratively with the school community
- actively engages with and supports P&F initiatives
- promotes and affirms the work of P&F/Parent Council in their school
  - takes time to listen to parent issues
- supports the building of community and networking opportunities

### P&F:

- works collaboratively with Principal and staff
  - actively engages with social initiatives
- promotes and affirms the work of the school in education of the children
  - takes time to listen to and support school requests
- provides good networking opportunities in the school to build community

*Winners will receive -*

*Principal Award  
Framed Certificate,  
\$100 Myer voucher*

*P&F Award  
Framed Certificate plus a  
\$100 for morning tea and a  
book voucher*



POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR COUNTRY  
AFFILIATES—  
PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO

SIOBHAN ALLEN  
liaison@pff.wa.edu.au  
(08) 9271 5909

JOIN US ON  
**facebook**

We will be updating this page daily with our latest news, so please visit us regularly

# PARENTS' SCHOOL FEES TO INCREASE UNDER GREENS POLICY.

NSW Greens' spokesman John Kaye's Upper House speech has left NSW parents in no doubt that if the Greens are able to sway the Federal Government on education funding policy, parents of children at non government schools will see their children's education at risk.<sup>1</sup> Effective mid 2011, the Greens will hold the balance of power in the Senate and, despite any reassurances to the contrary, all bets are off concerning education funding.

Australia has one of the highest proportions of non government school students in the OECD, and any changes made to the current formula will affect the 34% of NSW school children attending non government schools. That equates to around 375,000 school children in NSW and 1.2 million nationally.<sup>2</sup>

The Greens, by advocating funding returning to that of the 2003-2004 level in 2013, would cut funding to NSW non government schools by more than 50% over the previous year.

The reason is that indexing funding to the CPI figure is completely misleading. As parents know education costs are rising at twice the CPI. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics September, 2010, over the last five years, education costs have increased by 37% whereas the overall CPI is up 18.7%. In other words, since 2003-2004, education costs have been rising at an average 7.4% per annum compared with an average CPI increase of 3.7%.<sup>3</sup> Although Federal funding has been rising at above CPI, it is still below the actual increase in education costs.

At present 95% of non government schools in NSW schools receive government support to the tune of at least 50% of AGSRC (Average Government School Recurrent Costs). This does not include capital expenditure on buildings or facilities but represents the average recurrent expenditure it takes to run a government school. This means at least half of the recurrent cost of educating non government school children is being funded by Federal and State governments, the other half by parents. Almost 100% of these schools are not for profit or non profit institutions.

Greens' policy would place all but one hundred or so non government schools under serious threat of closure should current government support be cut in half. Even those which may continue would be faced with a significant shortfall in income which parents would be forced to pay through increased fees.

For the full article please visit:  
<http://parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au/newsletters.htm>



*Hon. John Dawkins, MLC, Member for Agricultural Regions presents a certificate of achievement to the 2010 Department of Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Service Award as part of the annual Regional Achievement and Community Awards. PFFWA also received a certificate of achievement for the 2010 Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award.*



## PARENTS DAY

Part of the Positive Schools Mental Health & Wellbeing Conference

14 MAY 2011, The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

**PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS will range from effective communication, resilient children, cyber bullying to managing parent stress.**

Michael Carr-Gregg, Steve Biddulph, Dr John Irvine, Prof Toni Noble, A/Prof Helen Street, A/Prof Sue Byrne, Kate Hadwen, Debbie Bushell, Stephen MacDonald, Helen Bosisto, Bronwyn Harman and Lynne Cohen

[www.parentsdays.com.au](http://www.parentsdays.com.au)

Go to our website [www.pff.wa.edu.au](http://www.pff.wa.edu.au) for the new Constitution for P&F Associations/Parent Councils

and

for the ACARA MySchool Version 2 fact sheets and information.

We are now on

**facebook.**

**click here**

The PFFWA Inc provides an independent voice for parents of children in Catholic schools and assists them in working collaboratively with their schools to provide a Catholic education which will help all children to achieve their full potential. In living this vision, the Federation seeks to obtain funding to ensure the financial accessibility of Catholic schools and to promote positive home/school/community partnerships and ensure appropriate educational provision for all students by our work with a wide range of state and federal government and independent bodies and associations.

We hope you like our new logo which was chosen by the Council to reflect our new sense of celebration and community, whilst providing service, representation and advocacy on behalf of parents of children in Catholic schools.



**APAC** Asia Pacific  
**Autism Conference**  
**Perth Australia**  
8-10 September

The Web Hot Registration Special is now open for a limited time only!

Register before 1 February 2011 to take advantage of the large discounts offered with this pre-Early Bird Registration.

| PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER     | CONCESSION REGISTRATION                                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Full registration \$950)  | (Family Members, Pension Card holders, Full-time Students \$550) |
| - Gala dinner ticket       | - Welcome reception ticket                                       |
| - Welcome reception ticket | - Conference sessions                                            |
| - Conference sessions      | - Program handbook                                               |
| - Program handbook         | - Lunch and tea breaks                                           |
| - Lunch and tea breaks     | - Delegate bag                                                   |
| - Delegate bag             |                                                                  |

The Web Hot Special is available to online registrations only.

Please visit [www.apac11.org](http://www.apac11.org) and click on the 'Register' tab to book your place for the Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2011.



*Creating and inspiring the Future\**

Are you a high school student looking for work experience, or need to complete a workplace learning placement?

Contact the PFFWA on 9271 5909 or email [liaison@pff.wa.edu.au](mailto:liaison@pff.wa.edu.au)

November 2010 Term 4