Welcome to the 2015 St Joseph’s School AGM.

The school motto “To love, to care, to give” and the 2015 theme of “Bright Sparks think differently” have underpinned not only the school life of the teachers and children but hopefully can be seen in the work of the P & F in 2015.

The years fundraising got off to a wonderful start with the P & F being given the opportunity to run a Bunning’s BBQ. These BBQ’s, while they do require some work, are well worth the fundraising that occurs from outside the school community. This was soon followed by the ‘Welcome BBQ’, a great opportunity for families to socialise in a relaxed setting. Throughout the year the parent body has also been involved in and supported the Swimming Carnival, Athletics Carnival and Cross-Country; Marathon Club, Gardening Club, Library donations, the Easter Raffle, the School Disco, the Arts Fiesta, the Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls, sports shirts and another major fundraiser in the Nundah Festival.

As in previous years the tuckshop continued to be a major fundraiser for the P & F. A special thank-you to Sharon Storer and her team. What an amazing job they do; loved by parents and children alike especially on Friday mornings. The parents who gave up their time on a Friday morning to prepare lunches for the children are commended for their volunteer spirit.

The first half of the year was marked for the current executive and for the school community with the tragic illness and consequential death of fellow Year Four mum and our friend Leesa McPherson. I was so very proud of the way the community rallied to support the McPherson family especially people who did not personally know Leesa or Dale. I believe that this is what makes a Catholic school special. While this was a focus of much of the P & F fundraising efforts, support of families in difficult times is one the most valuable things we can do and lives true to the spirit of Mary MacKillop in seeing a need and doing something about it. I am still being given meals to pass on to Dale and the kids and know that Dale is very appreciative of the support given by the school community to Leesa, himself & Zade but especially Camryn. The whole family were overwhelmed by the generosity of the St Joseph’s community in the donation of prizes for the accommodation raffle and the beautiful morning tea held in Nolan Hall. Leesa told me one day that the prayers, love and support really did provide some comfort and she knew her family was in good hands. The money really helped with the bills and relieved a lot of stress with neither her nor Dale able to work.
A major development for the school in 2015 and facilitated by the P & F was the development of the ‘Master Landscape Plan’. Part of this plan was the development of ‘MacKillop Green’. For those who have been here for awhile it was very exciting to finally see the development of part of the Church carpark as a wonderful play area for the children. As a P & F we greatly acknowledge the support of Fr Bernie and the Parish Finance Committee in the enabling of this development that is enjoyed so much by the children. While this is only one part of the ‘Master Landscape Plan’ I personally hope that the P & F can continue to support the development of the grounds into not only great learning spaces but wonderful play areas for the children.

Thank you to Kerry and the teaching staff, I know only too well that teaching is so much more than curriculum and what is happening in the classroom - something that is not taught as part of any teaching degree. Thank you also to the support staff both in the classroom and outside it, teachers cannot do their core job without you and the valuable work that you do. An organisation is only as good as its people and we have wonderful people looking after our children. They are all prepared to go above and beyond their job descriptions for the benefit of our children.

It is also essential to thank the St Joseph’s families - they are always willing to assist with the running of events and this is greatly appreciated by the executive. Not only does their generosity allow our functions to run smoothly their involvement builds relationships in the bringing of people together.

Thanks to the P & F Executive - Adrianne as Vice-President always willing to support and offer advice to us all. I wish Adrianne and Dave all the best as their little boy goes to St Patrick’s. Thank you to Tanya - as secretary she has moved us into the 21st century. Amazingly she has now scanned all agendas and minutes from 2009 to now; so they are now in electronic form. It is especially acknowledged the work she did on ensuring that we have met our obligations in recent years to the ACNC, this also included the development of the constitution. I wish Tanya and Mick all the best with their new adventure. Setting the boys up in their new schools is sure to keep Tanya busy. Thank you to Belinda, our Treasurer, efficient and always diligent. The current endorsement by the accountants audit is testament to the work she has done and we love that she has continued the graphs that Edwina started, Craig would be impressed. While Belinda will still be around the school I wish her and Ian all the best in guiding Jack through his new adventure.

Finally, while the P&F has an important role in aiding the school financially I believe building community is essentially the most important thing we can do. The P & F has a role to build on the Catholic values that unite us in our decision to send our children to this school. I wish the incoming executive all the best as they work to continue building on the work of those gone before but to also forge their own way.