

# KALBAR STATE SCHOOL

Excellence in a Supportive Environment

## P & C Newsletter 18 June, 2016

*We believe in our children*

**Next general meeting: Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 7:30pm in the Staff Room.** (Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

Everyone is welcome. Please just turn up or if you have any questions please contact me at [anton.lavin@usq.edu.au](mailto:anton.lavin@usq.edu.au) or Justine Cadena at [jj.cadena@bigpond.com](mailto:jj.cadena@bigpond.com)

### Major items of discussion at our last general meeting:

#### Oval upgrade

The oval grandstand project was again discussed in detail. It looks likely that we will go ahead with the option of building a permanent, shaded, built-in grandstand on the eastern side of the oval, about halfway along the embankment.

All options, including a grandstand built on the western side of the oval, have been considered in detail. Taking into account cost, safety, amenity and aesthetics, most members agree that the eastern option is probably the best. Some very useful input was received from members of the school community and that input is greatly appreciated. Please rest assured that the P & C has taken into account all opinions and options in developing this project.

#### Fundraising

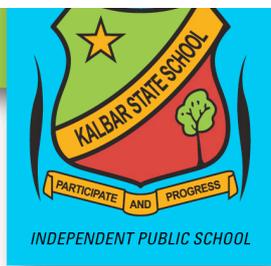
The P&C welcomed the news that Karen Lather has volunteered to join the fundraising team headed by Gaynor Tronc with a view of taking over that role in 2017. The P&C is very grateful to all of our hardworking volunteers and we thank Karen for making this contribution to the school in agreeing to take on this important role.

#### Tuckshop

Manager, Gayle Hermann briefed the meeting on the proposed changes to the food allowed to be sold in Queensland tuckshops. Some members felt that the changes went too far in denying our children a treat at school on Fridays. This is especially true when the tuckshop operates only on a Friday, as ours does, and is designed to give parents a break and children a change once a week only. Many parents are happy to allow a small treat for their child on a Friday after being careful to pack very healthy lunches on every other day.

Gayle has already made changes to the menu at our tuckshop before these most recent requirements were announced and we are already providing healthier alternatives for those who prefer to minimise such things as sugar and saturated fats. Gayle noted that some of the more healthy options had proven the least popular in the past and also that there were some anomalies in the grading system used by the authorities: e.g. a salad roll with chicken added is graded as equivalent to a meat pie as far as the health rating is concerned.

Gayle felt it would be quite easy for the tuck shop to comply with the new requirements, which come into full effect in 2017, however profitability will have to be monitored closely.



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### **School community**

During discussions of future fundraising options, one parent gave the meeting a very important insight into how these choices can affect individual students. We must be careful to include activities that will allow participation by all students, including those who may have some form of physical difference that most students do not have to deal with.

For example, if the skipping task was chosen, it is important to consider roles for students who may be unable to skip for extended periods of time. Such exclusion may make a child feel left out or even harm their self-esteem. Students unable to skip may be able to take on other, important roles in the fundraising activity. Or, an alternative fundraising activity could be offered for those who would prefer not to be involved in a physical task.

We spend a lot of time and effort measuring the schools success via such things as NAPLAN scores and even recognising sporting achievements. It is quite clear that the real measure of the school's value is more accurately obtained using these indicators in conjunction with some other, less quantifiable factors. For example, how we show that we value each and every child at this school. I believe that this is an area where Kalbar State School is doing extremely well. I am personally very grateful that his parent was able to talk to the P&C meeting about this issue as it reminded me that we must be very careful to ensure that each and every student at this school feels valued and cared for by the greater school community.

### **Blue cards and child protection policy**

The P&C discussed the legal requirements in respect of parents and volunteers interacting with children in school and P&C activities. After a robust discussion, the majority of the meeting decided that we should adopt a policy that goes a little further than the applicable minimum legal requirements.

It was decided that every parent and volunteer involved in P&C activities would be expected to obtain a Blue Card. It was noted that this could be done through the school office at no cost to the individual. We are thankful to school Principal, Chris Muir that he has agreed to have the school provide this service to the P&C (and to any parent who wants to obtain a Blue Card). Parents can still get involved in volunteer activities without a Blue Card, as long as they take steps to obtain one as soon as possible.

The safety of our children must be our first priority, so please take time to read the Fact Sheet that is attached to this newsletter.

Best wishes for a great term two,

Anton La Vin  
P&C President